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– LOCAL GOVERNMENT –

Legislators, ALFA present $215K for Cullman ag center



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Pictured left to right are Rep. Corey Harbison, Cullman County Farmers Federation Ben Haynes, Commissioner Kerry Watson, Commission Chairman Jeff Clemons, Sen. Garlan Gudger, Commissioner Garry Marchman and Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry. *» PAGE 3*

– HEALTH –

Cullman Regional administers 1st COVID-19 vaccine



CULLMAN REGIONAL

Cullman Regional Employee Health Nurse Stacy Blackwood, RN administers the hospital's first COVID-19 vaccination to Critical Care Nurse Donna Snow, RN Dec. 15, 2020.

Mary Beth Sellers
Cullman Regional

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman Regional administered its first COVID-19 vaccine Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 8:43 a.m. to critical care nurse Donna Snow, RN.

"In following the federal and state-approved guidelines of vaccine administration, we are excited to report that one of our frontline critical care nurses was first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at our facility," Cullman Regional Chief Medical Officer William Smith, MD said.

Cullman Regional was one of 13 health systems in the State of Alabama selected to provide vaccinations to frontline health care workers in the first round of vaccination distributions and was one of the first three facilities to receive its allocation of vaccines Monday, Dec. 14.

"Our team has been working diligently to get ready to administer these vaccinations to our team members upon receiving our allocation," said Smith.

"This preparation allowed us to begin administering them almost immediately after they were received."

Donna Snow, RN has been a nurse for 42 years. Snow holds additional certifications in **» PAGE 7**

EDUCATION

Cullman City Schools names 2020 Teachers of the Year

» PAGE 8

'Come and enjoy a bit of Christmas spirit'

Holly Pond lights up Governors Park for Christmas



HEATHER MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Christmas tree in Governors Park in Holly Pond **» PAGE 7**

FEATURE

Christmas gifts with local flavor



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

A selection of unique gifts is available at Werner's Trading Company in Cullman. **» PAGE 6**

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EDUCATION

Good Hope's Bartlett named 'Hometown Hero' by students

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com



GOOD HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Good Hope Mayor Jerry Bartlett was selected "Hometown Hero" by Good Hope Elementary fifth graders. Shown with Bartlett are students Lola Phillips and Eli Drake.

GOOD HOPE, Ala. – Good Hope Elementary School fifth graders recently completed the Super Citizen Program. The program normally concludes with a celebration and assembly including recognition of a local citizen the students select as a Hometown Hero. Due to COVID-19, the usual assembly was not possible, but the students did find a way to get this year's honoree, Good Hope Mayor Jerry Bartlett, his special award by having the mayor drop by the school and speak to individual classrooms.

The Super Citizen Program was created by the Liberty Learning Foundation and aims to "create an exciting experience for students to learn lessons in civic responsibility, character building, financial liberty, career development and our Great American Story..."

The program consists of nine different units: The Statue of Liberty, Torch Teams, Money Matters, A Nation of Immigrants, American Figures, American Symbols and Monuments, Military, Veteran Tribute and Super Citizens.

The class participated in Torch Team projects, an activity in which students use the lessons to identify "historical and local heroes who exhibit the character traits of Super Citizens."

They are then tasked with selecting a Hometown Hero. This year, the students recognized the traits of generosity, honesty and integrity in their city's mayor.

Bartlett said of the honor, "I was very surprised and honored to hear that I had been nominated for this award and that I had been chosen as Hometown Hero.

This is a great program to have in our school system. I enjoyed having the opportunity to speak with the fifth graders about citizenship."

EDUCATION

Cullman County Schools going remote Jan. 6-15, limiting sports spectators Dec. 15-Jan. 15

Changes due to increased numbers of COVID-19 cases in the area

Ty Watwood
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman County is seeing an increased number of COVID-19 cases. As of Dec. 14, Cullman County continues to be in the "Very High" risk category as determined by the Alabama Department of Public Health. With the two-week holiday break approaching, there is concern of continued and increasing community spread. Due to this, the system anticipates a surge of cases if school resumes in a traditional environment.

Therefore, to help protect students, faculty and staff, Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette is announcing the following changes:

REMOTE LEARNING
All Cullman County School students will transition to remote learning beginning Jan. 6 and will continue through Jan. 15.

Cullman County Schools employees will work on campus during this time.

HYBRID LEARNING
Hybrid learning will resume Jan. 19 and will remain in effect until at least Jan. 29. This model, including affected grade levels and schools, will be identical to what is currently in place across the school system.

ATHLETIC EVENTS
Effective Tuesday, Dec. 15 and continuing through at least Friday, Jan. 15 all sporting events played in Cullman County School facilities will be limited to two spectators per participant.

Season ticket holders will be eligible for prorated refunds if unable to attend due to the new restrictions.

Attending spectators must wear a mask and must maintain social distancing during the duration of the game.

During the period of remote learning (Jan. 6-15), the only allowed games are those designated as varsity area games that must be played for seeding.

The above restrictions will continue to be in place during this period.

Barnette said he wanted to announce these instructional changes now, to give educators and parents as much time as possible to prepare for remote instruction.

He also understands the importance of athletics for a student athlete, that athlete's family and the community.

He said he hopes these changes will help to preserve the season while keeping everyone as safe as possible.

"The safety of our students and employees is always my top priority while we balance the importance of high-quality instruction and the social and emotional well-being of our students," said Barnette.

Further updates will be provided via local school administration, social media, www.ccboe.org and through School Messenger.

APARTMENT FOR RENT
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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. 19 Drive-thru food bank 9-11 a.m. Bring a picture ID.
• Dec. 23, 7 p.m. Candle Lighting & Communion Service by Pastor Bobby Dodd. Everyone welcome! We will social distance and celebrate JESUS.

Hanceville Tinsel Trail
Now through Christmas at Veterans Park in Hanceville. Free admission. Enjoy the lights and displays as you walk along the Tinsel Trail.

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. 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. 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.

LifeSouth Christmas Blood Drive
Thursday, Dec. 17 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at RE Garrison Trucking, 1103 County Road 1194, Cullman, AL 35179

Living Nativity
• Dec. 17-20, times vary, at West Point Baptist Church, 140 County Road 1242, Cullman, AL 35057
• This is a free, socially distanced, outdoor event with music, drama and live animals! Parents, there will also be a photo opportunity for your children with the nativity animals.
• We will offer two presentations each night: 6 and 7:30 p.m.
• Being mindful of others, we will limit each presentation to 50 people.
• Reserve your place online or call for your reservation today!
• https://bit.ly/LivingNativity2020 256-739-5849

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!

Holly Pond Civitan Club Cards in the Park and Luminaries
Friday, Dec. 18 at 5 p.m. at Governors Park in Holly Pond. Walk around the park and enjoy the giant "Christmas Cards" on display and the luminaries placed around the walkways.

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Dr. Jim Wright receives Childhaven, national awards

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – At the annual Christmas Banquet at Childhaven, Executive Director Emeritus Dr. Jim Wright was presented with two awards.

Each year Childhaven presents the Dot Causey Distinguished Service Award to honor an individual or organization that has distinguished themselves in serving the children of Childhaven. Past awards have been given to volunteers, staff members, board members, community leaders and organizations that have gone above and beyond in their service to Childhaven and her mission.

The award is named in honor of the late Dot Causey, who worked at Childhaven for 45 years. Executive Director Gary Hicks presented the award to Wright in appreciation of his 27 years of service as executive director.

Network 1:27 is a national association of Christian children's homes, foster and adoption agencies, and other Christian family service agencies. On behalf of the Network 1:27 Board of Directors, Vicki Rhodes, LICSW (Childhaven's director of social services and secretary of Network 1:27) presented Wright with the Lifetime Achievement Award, the association's highest honor.

This award normally would be presented at Network 1:27's National Conference, but the 2020 conference was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Network 1:27 Lifetime Achievement Award is a special award given from time to time to agency leaders to recognize their life's work.



CONTRIBUTED

Childhaven Executive Director Emeritus Dr. Jim Wright was recently presented with the Dot Causey Distinguished Service Award and the Network 1:27 Lifetime Achievement Award. Pictured with Dr. Wright is Vicki Rhodes, LICSW, Childhaven's director of social services and secretary of Network 1:27.

EDUCATION

Cullman City Schools giving all full-time employees $500 bonus

Cullman City Schools
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman City Schools will be rewarding every full-time employee with $500 in extraordinary compensation — effectively a "bonus" — next week, after an exceptionally challenging year due to the pandemic.

The school board, acting on the recommendation of Superintendent Dr. Susan Patterson, moved Tuesday evening to approve the one-time payment of extraordinary compensation for all full-time employees as a reward for the additional work and energy required to move forward with the 2020 school year.

"It's been such a unique and challenging year, and the board wanted to do something to show our employees how much they mean to us, and that they're valued," Patterson said.

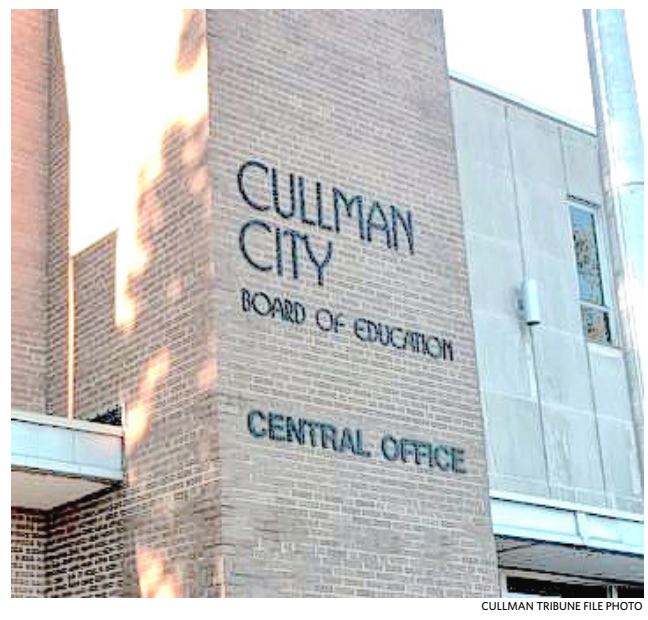
"From teachers, to lunchroom workers, to custodians and all the people who help make our schools so exceptional. There has been so much additional effort and time invested, balancing hybrid schedules and students working remotely, and we wanted to thank them for that."

Due to the extraordinary circumstances continuing to surround the COVID-19 pandemic, city school employees have been required to bear additional and unexpected burdens while engaging in continuous, tireless and exceptional efforts in providing education, food and support services to students and families.

The board desired to recognize and compensate its employees for the additional commitment of time, effort and service necessary to successfully meet the rigorous goals and obligations required to maintain services throughout the district during this unprecedented time in history.

Patterson explained the one-time payment for employees will come from local funds, with some local monies freed up thanks to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) passed earlier this year, which provided additional funding for schools and local governments to weather the pandemic.

The district was able to shift some expenses for things like cleaning supplies, technology and student health to the CARES funds, which made additional local funds available for the one-time payments.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Commission (from Front)

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman County's state legislative delegation delivered some holiday cheer to the Cullman County Commission Tuesday evening in the form of a $215,000 check from Montgomery. Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman and Rep. Corey Harbison, R-Good Hope were present at Tuesday's commission meeting to announce the good news.

Gudger explained how the money was obtained, saying, "During the session this year, there was a big construction project in south Alabama.

"We were able to kind of stop that and say, 'Listen, if you are going to be able to do an ag center and spend a lot of money in south Alabama, which we are for, we still could use money here in Cullman, Alabama, which (is) number one in agriculture pretty much every year."

Gudger, Harbison, Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview and Rep. Scott Stadthagen, R-Hartselle, along with the Alabama Farmers Federation, worked for a year to get the money through the various budgets.

"We were able to fight for it the whole time and it ended up being about $215,000," said Gudger.

"We are able to give it to the (Cullman County Agricultural Trade) Center and that doesn't cost the taxpayers here a penny.

"This is Montgomery money and something we all fought for. No one else got this in the state."

The hope is to be able to replace the leaky roof at the ag center, as well as make other needed improvements.

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry, whose office hosts the annual Jimmy Arrington Memorial Rodeo and Special Needs Rodeo at the ag center, was present at the meeting and reacted to the announcement, saying, "It means so much for them doing this for us, and you know how much the rodeo means for us.

"Special needs children, we have about 1,400 that always show up.

"Again, this year was different, and we did it virtual. That just means a lot for us to be able to have a great place for those kids to come and stay dry and safe.

"I want to thank y'all for that."

Also on-hand to present the check to the Cullman County commissioners was Ben Haynes, president of the Cullman County Farmers Federation.

Haynes expressed his gratitude for the ag center project in Clanton, Alabama but also the importance of the money coming to Cullman's ag center.

"The ag center is still a critical part of what goes on in Cullman and Cullman County," said Haynes.

"We are just thankful that we are able to get some improvements done here and also support our new farm center in Clanton, Chilton County, too."

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

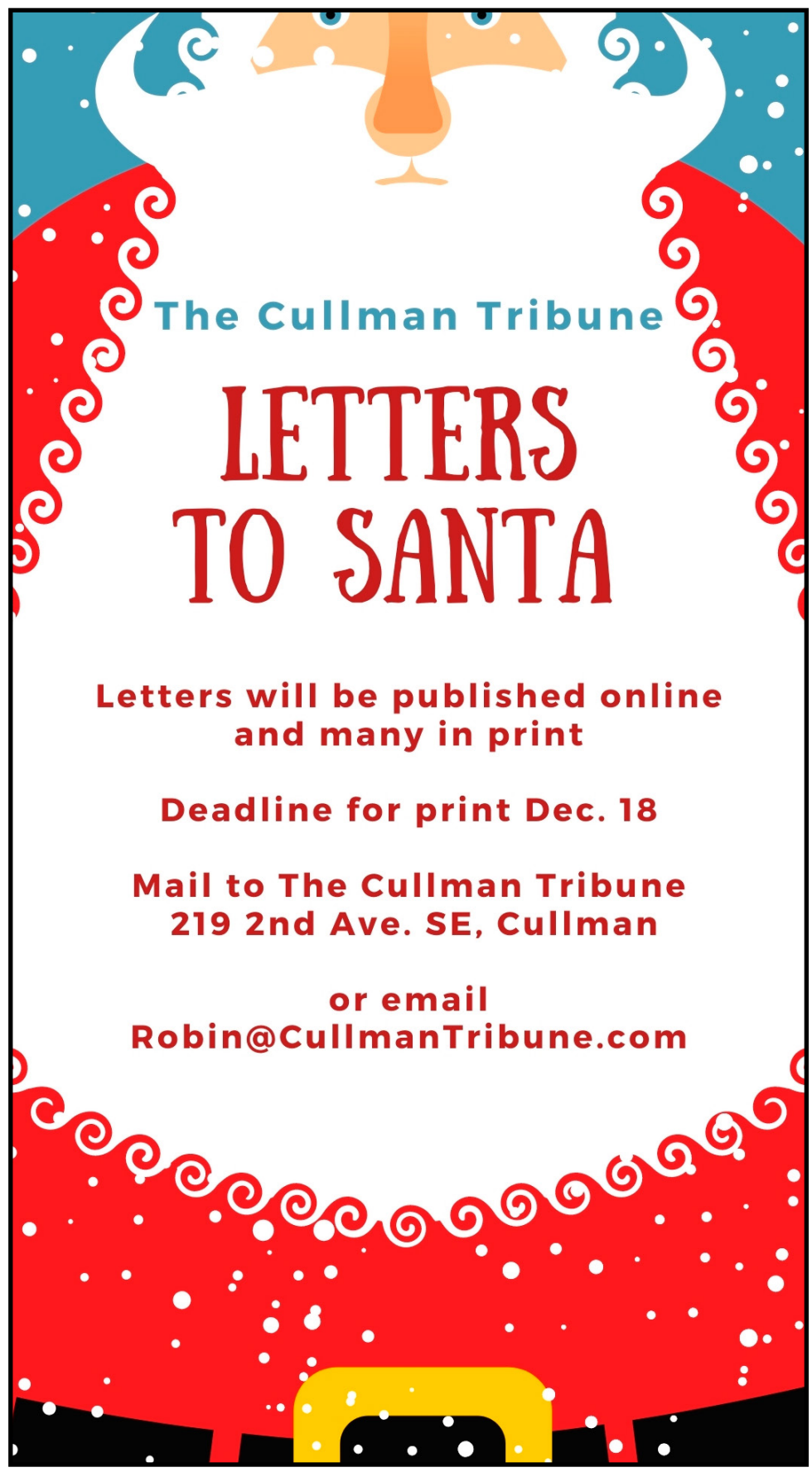
Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020 COVID-19 update from the Alabama Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Data and Surveillance Dashboard

- Total confirmed cases in AL: 247,003 (+2,241 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in AL: 54,530 (+1,397 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in AL: 3,642 (+18 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in AL: 482
- Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co.: 4,180 (+55 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in Cullman Co.: 1,651 (+42 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in Cullman Co.: 48 (+2 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in Cullman Co.: 13
- Total tested in Cullman Co.: 28,709
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 2,795
- Cases in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 1,214
- Total tested in Alabama: 1,732,185
- Cases in the last 14 days in Alabama: 49,244
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Alabama: 140,043
- Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 2,353
- Cumulative no. of hospitalizations in Alabama: 29,259
- Presumed recoveries in Alabama (reported weekly): 174,805

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

*** Important Notice (12/15/20):**
The Alabama Department of Public Health processed backlogs of 59 positive PCR and 479 antigen results from multiple facilities on December 14, 2020. Case numbers generated from these reports are classified as confirmed, if PCR, or probable, if antigen. Cases in these backlogs were from September 29 through December 12. Processing backlogs does not impact the ADPH COVID-19 Risk Indicator Dashboard. For information regarding daily numbers and the 7-day moving average of cases by infectious date, see TAB 7A. Information on TAB 7A visualizes cases by date of infection rather than date reported. All laboratories are required by law to report all results (including positive and negative tests) for SARS-CoV-2 to ADPH. Delays in reporting by required reporters is not within control of ADPH.

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020 update from Cullman Regional
In a virtual press conference Tuesday morning, Cullman Regional Chief Medical Officer Dr. William Smith said the hospital is currently treating 61 COVID-19 patients, with 15 on ventilators right now. The hospital's Critical Care Unit has 12 beds, so additional beds are in use. In all, the hospital has 145 beds, and 139 are occupied.



Auburn beats Mississippi State 24-10, earns 6th SEC win

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics

STARKVILLE, Miss. – Tank Bigsby rushed for a career-high 192 yards, Bo Nix threw and ran for fourth-quarter touchdowns and Anders Carlson kicked three field goals to lead Auburn to a 24-10 win Saturday at Davis Wade Stadium in the Tigers' regular-season finale. Auburn's defense intercepted two passes and made six sacks while allowing only one touchdown.

"Defensively, we played a big-time game," Auburn coach Gus Malzahn said. "Really proud of our team getting a victory in our last SEC game. Second half with the game on the line, our guys responded. They found a way."

Nix and Seth Williams teamed up twice on third downs on a 95-yard drive, gaining 25 yards on third-and-7 from Auburn's 8-yard line, then connecting on third-and-14 for a 32-yard touchdown pass to give Auburn a 16-3 lead with 10:03 left in the fourth quarter.

A long kickoff return led to Mississippi State's only touchdown, cutting Auburn's lead to 16-10 with 8:24 to play.

Bigsby rushed on four straight plays, gaining 57 yards, setting up Nix's 3-yard touchdown run. Nix then completed to Ze'Vian Capers for a 2-point conversion to put Auburn ahead 24-10 with 6:03 to play.

Bigsby's 192-yard performance on 26 carries is the third best by an Auburn freshman behind only Travis Tidwell's 222-yard game vs. Furman in 1946 and Tommie Agee's 219 yards vs. Maryland in 1983.

"He's done that all year," Malzahn said. "He runs violently. He breaks tackles, he's very explosive."

The Tigers' defense sealed the victory by sacking Mississippi State quarterback Will Rogers three times on the Bulldogs' final two possessions. Owen Pappoe, Derick Hall and Big Kat Bryant each sacked State's QB in the closing minutes. Pappoe led the Tigers with nine tackles.

"We were able to put constant pressure on him," Malzahn said. "Our guys covered. They contested a lot of throws, and we hit them. Really proud of those guys and the effort."

Carlson kicked a pair of field goals to give Auburn a 6-3 halftime lead. Carlson's first field goal, a 27-yarder, capped a 15-play drive to make it 3-0 with 6:37 left in the first quarter.

Dre Butler recorded his first sack on the next play. Hall made two sacks. Zion Puckett and Colby Wooden also tallied sacks. Auburn held MSU to 19 rushing yards on 16 attempts.

"I thought Coach Steele did a great job of mixing stuff up," Malzahn said. "I thought our guys played with unbelievable energy. We had a pass rush. That was a huge key. Our defensive backs, they were glued on them. They contested just about every ball."

After Puckett's tackle for loss early in the second quarter led to a third-and-12, Roger McCreary intercepted Rogers' pass and returned it 28 yards to MSU's 46, but the Tigers were unable to capitalize.

After Mississippi State kicked a field goal for a 3-3 tie, Eli Stove returned the kickoff 47 yards to midfield. The Tigers punted, but Auburn's defense forced a three-and-out. Bigsby's longest run of the night, 34 yards, set up Carlson's 37-yarder gave Auburn a 6-3 lead as the first half expired.

In the third quarter Smoke Monday returned an interception 31 yards to set up Carlson's third field goal, a 45-yarder, giving Auburn a 9-3 lead.



TODD VAN EMST/AU ATHLETICS

Auburn running back Tank Bigsby (4) racked up 192 yards on the ground at Mississippi State Saturday night.

Auburn rushed for more than 200 yards for the fifth time this season, gaining 218 yards on 36 carries.

Auburn (6-4) will await its postseason destination, in position to play in a bowl game for the eighth straight year.

"They had a very positive spirit in practices this week," Malzahn said. "They just kept answering the bell. It says a lot about their character. It says a lot about who they are as a team. We've had ups and down but they've been resilient. They just keep coming back. There's a lot of positive energy out there. It was good to win it the way we did."

UAB defeats Rice 21-16 to win 3rd straight C-USA West Title

Ted Feeley
UAB Athletics

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The UAB football team became the first program in Conference USA history to win three straight divisional titles on Saturday with a gritty 21-16 victory over Rice in Houston.

The Blazers (5-3, 3-1 C-USA) will now face Marshall (7-1, 4-1 C-USA) in the Conference USA Championship game next Friday, Dec. 18 on CBS Sports. UAB will look to win its second overall league title in the past three years.

Down 11 key contributors, traveling just over 40 scholarship players and playing its first game in 42 days, the Blazers withstood a last-second Hail Mary attempt as Grayson Cash intercepted the pass to secure the victory.

The Blazer defense turned in a monster performance with five sacks, 12 TFL, six pass breakups and an interception. Jordan Smith, Kristopher Moll, Tyler Taylor and Grayson Cash all had seven tackles to lead the team, while Smith added 2.5 sacks.

In his first start since Sept. 10, quarterback Tyler Johnston III completed 9-of-18 passes for 217 yards and two touchdowns. The Spanish Fort, Ala. native eclipsed 4,000 yards during the game and is fifth all-time on the UAB passing list with 4,177 yards.

UAB out-gained Rice (2-3, 2-3 C-USA) 354-254 overall and also added 141 rushing yards without allowing a sack.

The Owls used a 20-play drive that took up 12 minutes of the first quarter, but UAB stiffened in the red zone and limited the damage to a field goal, giving Rice a 3-0 lead after one.

After another Rice field goal early in the second, UAB took its first lead of the game on a Lucious Stanley 7-yard touchdown run with 6:55 left in the half. The score was set up by a career-long 54-yard reception by Trea Shropshire.

Rice took a 13-7 lead at halftime as the Owls' Jordan Myers hauled in a 26-yard touchdown reception with 38 seconds remaining in the half.

The Blazer defense forced a three-and-out to open the third quarter, and on UAB's first play of the following drive, Johnston III found Myron Mitchell for a 63-yard touchdown strike which gave the Blazers a 14-13 advantage.

The air-raid attack continued on UAB's next possession as Johnston III connected with Samario Rudolph on a spectacular 42-yard touchdown reception, increasing the Blazer lead to 21-13 at the 10:16 mark of the third.



UAB ATHLETICS

UAB toppled Rice 21-16 in Houston to win its third straight C-USA West championship.

With 11:14 remaining in the game, Rice converted on another field goal attempt, their third of the game, to cut the Blazer advantage to five, 21-16.

But that would be all the scoring for Rice as the defense stepped up big with the game on the line with numerous sacks, pass breakups and Cash's INT.

Troy rally falls short against no. 11 Coastal Carolina

Adam Prendergast
Troy Athletics

TROY, Ala. – Troy has a history of upsetting ranked teams. Saturday afternoon at Veterans Memorial Stadium, the latest chapter was almost written with a furious fourth quarter comeback before No. 11 Coastal Carolina escaped with a 42-38 victory.

The Trojans used a clutch interception from Carlton Martial and an epic late-game drive authored by backup quarterback Jacob Free to take a 38-35 lead with 1:20 to play in the game.

With their backs against the wall, Grayson McCall and the Chants authored a clutch 5-play, 75-yard drive that ended with a 23-yard slant to Jaivon Heiligh with 35 seconds to play.

On the final drive of the ball game, Free was sacked on third and 10 by Jeffrey Gunter, who knocked the ball out of the junior quarterback's hand.

Tarron Jackson fell on the ball, securing the victory for the highest-ranked opponent to visit Veterans Memorial Stadium in school history.

Trailing 35-23 with 5:03 to play, Free, who entered the game when Gunnar Watson was injured on the Trojans' (5-6, 3-4 Sun Belt Conference) opening drive of the final period, led Troy on an 11-play, 75-yard drive that ended in a 3-yard rushing touchdown by Jamontez Woods.

Down just 35-30, the Troy defense, led by Martial, held the Chanticleers (11-0, 6-0 Sun Belt) to just two yards rushing on back-to-back carries.

On Coastal's third down play, McCall was blown up by linebacker Richard Jibunor. The massive hit forced an underthrown ball that Martial was able to intercept at the Coastal 44-yardline.

After a 4-yard return set the Trojans up at the 40 with 2:31 to play, Free authored a seven-play 40-yard drive that culminated with a 6-yard strike to Tray Eafford that put Troy up, 36-35.

Looking to extend its lead, Troy called a screen pass to Khalil McClain, who darted into the endzone for a successful two-point conversion that gave Troy a 38-35 lead with 80 seconds to play.

On the afternoon, Watson completed 25-of-37 passes for 260 yards and a score. In relief, Free was 9-for-18 with 94 yards and a touchdown.

Seniors Kaylon Geiger and Reggie Todd led the way for Troy catching nine and eight passes respectively.

Geiger's 104 yards give him his ninth 100-yard receiving game, the second most 100-yard games in school history behind Jerrel Jernigan who recorded eight 100-yard games and two 200-yard games.

On the ground, Woods (9 carries, 49 yards) and freshman Kimani Vidal (12 carries, 47 yards) each rushed for a score.

The Trojans were led defensively by Martial (21 tackles, 2.5 TFL and an interception) and TJ Harris (10 tackles). Martial's 21 total tackles are the second-most in a game in school history. Anthony Rabb holds the all-time record (23) set back in 1999 against Middle Tennessee.

Quotable – Troy Head Coach Chip Lindsey

"Came up a little short obviously, just a few plays short. I want to say that I've never been more proud of a group of kids than I am of our team for what we've gone through this year.

"They never quit on us and they are going to stay here and keep fighting and I've never been more proud of a group of guys than I am right now. We didn't make enough plays at the end.

"That's the bottom line. Our guys fought their guts out. We know Coastal's got a good football team, but I thought we fought them tooth and nail and really had an opportunity to win the game there at the end."

Sound Smart with Your Friends

Carlton Martial has more tackles than any player in the country the last two seasons with 239 tackles; he is the first player in Troy history with back-to-back 100-tackle seasons since Naazir Yamini in 2001-02



TROY ATHLETICS

The Troy Trojans fell to no. 11 Coastal Carolina 42-38 at home Saturday night.

Notable

- Carlton Martial finished with a career-high 21 tackles for his 13th career game with double-digit tackles, his fifth this season and the fifth time in the last seven games. Martial is averaging 12.7 tackles per game over that seven-game stretch.
- Carlton Martial's 21 tackles are tied for the most in the country this season and the second most in school history (Anthony Rabb had 23 vs. Middle Tennessee in 1999). His tackle total pushed his season number to 113 ... he becomes the first Troy player since Naazir Yamini in 2001-02 to record more than 100 tackles in consecutive seasons.
- Carlton Martial moved into 11th place all-time in Troy history with 315 career tackles, 20th place with 156 solo tackles and fifth place with 159 career assisted tackles.
- Carlton Martial recorded 2.5 tackles for loss in the game to push his career total to 37, one away from ninth all-time in Sun Belt history and fourth in Troy history. He now has multiple tackle for losses in 11 career games.
- Kaylon Geiger caught nine passes for 103 yards; he was his ninth career 100-yard receiving game. He moved into sole possession of second place in Troy history with his nine career games (one off the school record held by Jerrel Jernigan). His total is the third most in the country.
- Kaylon Geiger moved into ninth place all-time in Troy history with 141 career receptions and 14th place with 1,625 career receiving yards.
- Troy ran 81 offensive plays in the game, which is tied for the second most this season. It was Troy's first loss on the year when running more than 80 plays in a game.
- Troy topped the 30-point mark for the 15th time in Chip Lindsey's 23 games as head coach; the total was the 15th most in the country entering the weekend.
- Troy's 36 points in the game were the most allowed by Coastal Carolina's defense ... the previous high was 27 by Louisiana.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Vinemont Town Council held its regularly scheduled December meeting Tuesday night.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Vinemont council seeking fill place 3

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. – The Vinemont Town Council met for its regularly scheduled December meeting Tuesday night, its first meeting since Councilman and former Mayor J.D. Marcum died in November at the age of 85.

Mayor Radginal Dodson said the Town will fill Marcum's seat, and asked anyone interested to contact the council.

"Due to the recent passing of J.D. Marcum, I'd like to take this time to announce that council place no. 3 seat is now vacant," Dodson said. "Anyone who would like to be considered for this position who lives inside the town limits may submit a letter to the council by mail, email or hand delivered to the town hall. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact the town hall."

Town Attorney Roy Williams addressed the council about town ordinances. Williams provided each of the council members with a procedural ordinance to aid with the administration of public meetings and answered questions from council members regarding the cost that comes with enforcing some town ordinances and different ways that different communities handle those situations.

Next, the council approved a pair of new resolutions: Resolution no. 2020-12-01 to adopt a new public records policy and Resolution no. 2020-12-02 to provide an amended tax abatement for RCHK Partners, LLC. and BBLU, Inc. The previously agreed upon abatement was $615,000 and the council agreed to increase the amount to $955,000 after seeing the company's early success.

The council also approved increased security measures on the town hall's front door and proclaimed January Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Near the end of the meeting, the council approved the digitizing of some of the Town's most pertinent ordinances and the town council's meeting minutes.

Before Tuesday night's meeting adjourned, the council got an update from Public Works Director Mike Graves, who was happy to report that the town's new disc golf course is now playable and "95% complete." Graves is also beginning to prepare for park and rec signups in January and said the Town is considering providing an online signup option to help give those who want it a socially-distant way to register.

The Vinemont Town Council will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 6 p.m. at Vinemont Town Hall.

EDUCATION

Cullman City School Board - Dec. 15 meeting notes

Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman City Board of Education met Tuesday evening for its last meeting of 2020. The meeting started with a recognition of Tricia Culpepper, principal of Cullman City Primary School, for being the 2021 National Distinguished Principal District 1 representative.

This recognition was followed by a presentation about the Child Internet Protection Act and Content Filtering (CIPA). Any school or library that receives discounts on internet access through the E-rate program is subject to CIPA requirements, and they must address an Internet safety policy addressing:

- restriction of minors' access to inappropriate material on the Internet
- the safety and security of minors when using e-mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications
- unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful online activities by minors
- unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of minors' personal information

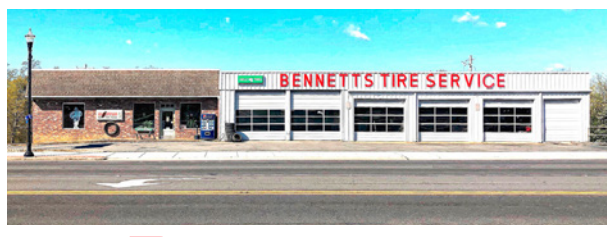
After the presentation, the board approved the consent agenda, including requests to salvage one computer from Head Start, three non-functioning art kilns from Cullman High School and miscellaneous items from the Child Nutrition Program. Under new business, the board approved a resolution regarding extraordinary compensation to all full-time Cullman City Schools employees and also granted CHS permission to change their report card date from Jan. 8 to Jan. 15.

They also proposed the approval of Board Policy 6.25 - Annalyn's Law. This policy states that local law enforcement must notify local school districts of any juvenile sex offenders who would be attending school with the general population and also outlines the supervision policy for superintendents. More information about Annalyn's Law can be found on the Alabama State Department of Education website under "Prevention and Support Services - Prevention/Intervention." After review, the board said it will bring this item back for consideration at the next regular meeting.

Other agenda items approved:

- minor word adjustments to human resources job description
- updated Career and Technical Education Programs Policy per ALSDE three-year policy update requirements
- resignations of two EDP teachers at East Elementary School effective 12/18/20
- employment of Lynn Danielle Hayes as Pre-K Special Education instructional assistant at CCPS, effective 1/05/21
- employment of Lacy Stancil as temporary eighth-grade math teacher at Cullman Middle School, effective 1/05/21

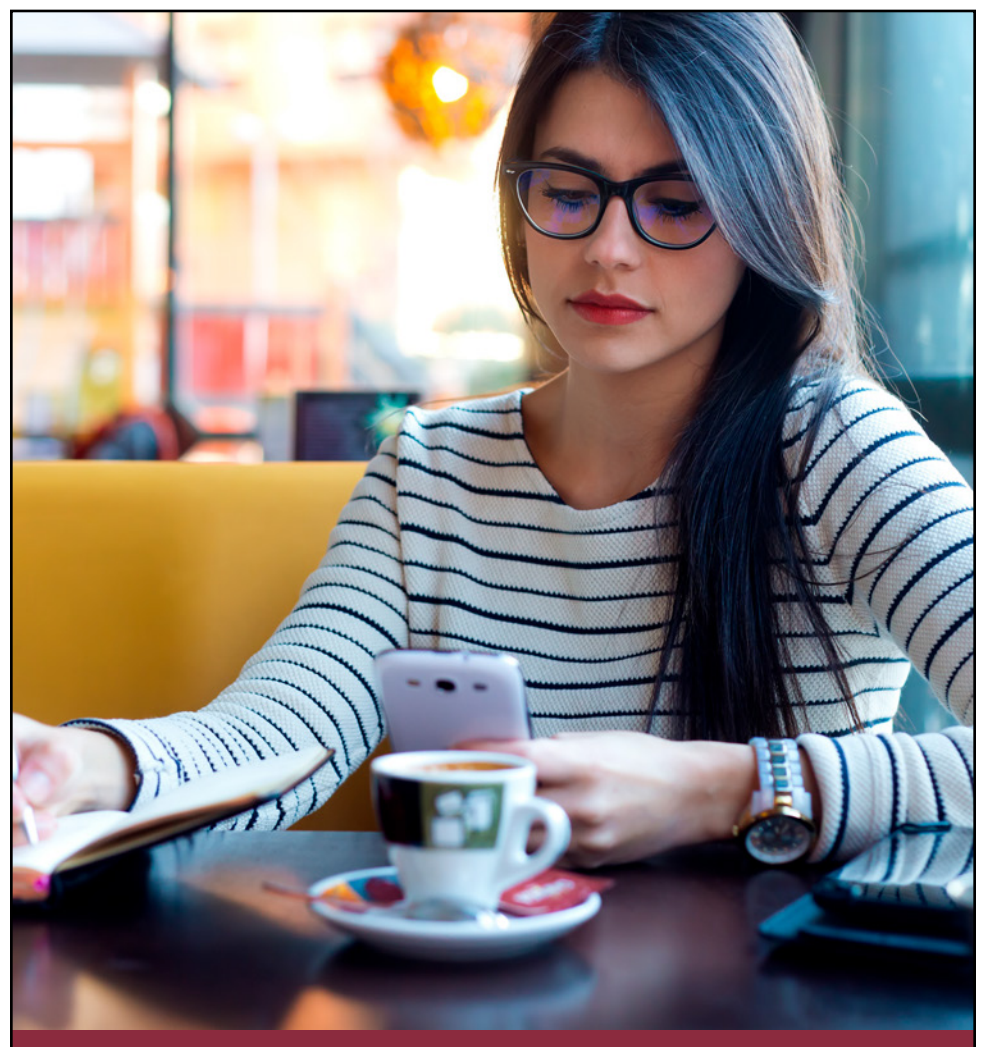
The next regular board meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021 at 5 p.m. in the central office board room.

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Gifts (from Front)

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Christmas is almost here and last-minute shoppers are out and about or online looking for the perfect gifts for family and friends. Luckily for Cullman shoppers, there are many unique local shops that can help you find the best gifts this holiday season. The Tribune set out to find what's hot this year and what unique finds are right here in Cullman.

First, a stop by Werner's Trading Company to see the must-haves for 2020. Owner Rob Werner pointed to the large selection of On Cloud shoes and TRUE knives as two of the most popular gifts this year. Also popular for outdoors are disc golf equipment and ENO hammocks.

"All the grilling supplies and spices are popular, and for stocking stuffers- crickets! They are high in protein and environmentally-friendly," said Werner, who said the dried crickets come in a variety of flavors. "Great stocking stuffers for kids."

Werner's also has a selection of toys including the Dreamcatcher Sky Swing and a hop-on swing.

Beer and wine have been popular gifts for the adults on your list. Werner's has kits and supplies for making your own beer, wine and cheese. Locally made items and goodies are hot item this year as well, including socks made in Fort Payne and Smith Lake T-shirts.

Over at the Mary Carter Store, several shoppers were perusing goods for the anglers on their lists. Fishing gear is a big seller there this year.

"The rods and combos are popular, especially the Zebco 33 combo," Mary Carter's Jeremy Young said. He said another great gift for the guys (or girls) on your list is a Case knife. "They are made in the U.S. and they are one of our more popular items for gifts."

If you like a bit of nostalgia when shopping, Mary Carter has the classic red Radio Flyer wagons, tricycles and bouncy horses. They also have the famous Red Ryder BB guns- but don't shoot your eye out!

In the houseware's department, infrared space heaters and pressure canners are popular.

Said Young, "We have a little bit of everything. We have hardware and paint, but we also have the fishing gear."

Framed photos and art are always great gifts, and Mary Carter can take care of your framing needs, too.

Down in Cullman's Warehouse District, the road remains closed, but the merchants are definitely open. They have some great one-of-a -kind gifts and stocking stuffers for everyone in the family.

Some of the most popular holiday gift items at Ashley Mercantile are the hot chocolate bombs.

"We've sold over 1,200 of them and can't keep them in stock," Owner Ryne Ashley shared. If you can't get your hands on one of those, don't worry, they have lots of great items.

Ashley said, "Our candles move all the time, especially around Christmas, and our mixes.

"You are going to be around family, and they are going to want to make things so those are popular."

Ashley Mercantile also has a large collection of Crow Canyon enamelware.

For a more localized gift, Ashley has etched glassware featuring Cullman County, Smith Lake or Alabama and Auburn, along with beautiful decanters and accessories for whiskey lovers. Puzzles featuring the many beautiful sights and stories of Alabama are another great gift idea.

Old-fashioned toys are a fun treat for the little ones. Paper dolls, puzzles, games and other toys are perfect for building special Christmas memories.

Across the street at O-Baby Children's Boutique is perhaps everything you will need for the babies and toddlers on your list. From fun holiday outfits to the very popular Bamboo baby clothes, these outfits are sure to please and are incredibly soft.

"PELLO (floor pillows), Bamboo and bows are hot right now and our big sellers. PELLOs are for babies to lounge in or for tummy time. It's for a quick nap, and they can use it all the way up until they are 5 or 6," Store Manager Sarah Muller said.

Sleek and stylish diaper bags have been a popular gift for new moms.

These diaper bags are designed to look more like a purse than a traditional bulky diaper bag. Books, hats, bows and soft plushies are great stocking stuffers for the little ones. If it has a sloth, giraffe, bison or llama on it, it's hot this year!

Next door at Kernel Kullman is a one-stop candy, popcorn and soda shop with several gift arrangements available. Gourmet popcorn buckets have been a hot seller.

So much so that the store is likely only taking orders for the next day or two. The vast assortment of candy, popcorn seasonings and craft sodas offer great last-minute ideas and treats to round out this year's stockings.

Kernel Kullman carries Jelly Bellies, Pocky, Pop Rocks, gumballs and countless gourmet and popular candies including vintage brands that you won't find in other stores. Check out the adorable gumball machine ornaments on the front counter for a whimsical and colorful addition to your tree.



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Christmas gift classics such as the Red Ryder BB gun can be found at Mary Carter Store.

Our last stop, If the Shoe Fits, is a great shop for the young girls on your list. Hot this year are the star-design tennis shoes.

"Any of the fashion tennis shoes, they are the most popular for teens and women. They are all different brands," Owner Shannon Witcher explained.

Also popular are fuzzy house slippers and SOREL boots. "That's what we sell vthe most of," said Witcher.

If the Shoe Fits sells items for boys and girls, but accessories such as leggings, jewelry, bows and socks are the more popular stocking stuffers and gifts. Animal and snake prints are hot in girls' and women's fashion.

Those are just a few of the unique shops and items that can easily be found right here in Cullman. Most local stores have gift certificates and gift cards available for purchase, too.

LEGALS

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT

CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE No.: PC2020-305

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF MARY S. HUGHES, an alleged incapacitated person.

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: DORIS BRISCOE AND ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Notice is hereby given that a Petition to Appoint a Guardian and Conservator of Mary S. Hughes has been filed in Probate Court of Cullman County. A hearing shall be held at 10:00a.m. on the 7th day of January, 2021, to consider said petition.

Doris Briscoe and all interested parties are hereby given notice of said hearing.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

TO: PUBLISHER OF *The Cullman Tribune*:

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

D. Todd McLeroy
McLeroy Law Firm, LLC
Attorney for Petitioner
1626 First Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 734-6994

PB MIN BK 192 PG 811 - 12/14/2020 09:38 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
BENNIE DALE STRONG * CASE NO PC 2020-282
An alleged incapacitated person. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR CONSERVATORSHIP AND PETITION FOR GUARDIANSHIP

TO: MARK ANTHONY STRONG AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES

Please take notice that a Hearing on the Petition for Letters of Conservatorship and Petition for Guardianship of Bennie Dale Strong has been set for the **21st day of January, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.,** before the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman, Alabama.

Cullman County Courthouse
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

DONE this the 14th day of December, 2020.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

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

Pamela E. Nail
Attorney for Petitioner
200 Second Avenue, Southwest
Cullman, AL 35055

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

Spirit (from Front)

Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. – As part of its annual Christmas celebration, the Town of Holly Pond lit up Governors Park the week after Thanksgiving. New Mayor Carla Hart expressed interest in increasing the number of decorations for the display each year, and this year's addition began what she hopes to be a new Christmas tradition - the lighting of a community Christmas tree.

The Town has never held a live tree lighting before this year, and despite the cold weather and pandemic restrictions, Hart was pleased at the number of people who turned out to watch the ceremony last week.

"The council approved the purchase of a 12-foot tree from a tree farm in the area, and we got some decorations to go on it," she said in a brief interview.

"But the biggest thing about this is that anyone in the community - or really anyone in general, not just Holly Pond residents - were allowed to bring their own decorations and add them to the tree. In fact, they can still do that! I've seen people come up during the week and add some decorations, so people are still welcome to do that."

Hart said one of her goals as mayor is not only expanding the number of decorations in the park each year, but also working on getting the decorations set up earlier.

Currently, the Town sets up the decorations the week after Thanksgiving. However, Hart said that this schedule has presented some issues, and she's looking to other towns' decoration schedules as examples.

Said Hart, "See, we haven't really had any problems or setbacks in regards to the virus. Really all the challenges we've had in getting this set up was the weather and the temperature. Rain and cold makes it hard to get out and set things up."

Hart emphasized that Holly Pond's Christmas decorations are for everyone to enjoy, not just the town's residents.

"We just want to welcome everyone in the community and everyone outside the community to come and enjoy a bit of Christmas spirit," she said. "We want to take people's minds off of all the bad that's happened this year and help them get in a festive mood."

The community is invited to the Holly Pond Civitan Club's annual Cards in the Park and Christmas Luminaries celebration this Friday, Dec. 18 at 5 p.m. at the park.

Vaccine (from Front)

cardiac medicine and acute/critical care.

Snow described the disease caused by this novel coronavirus as "scary."

Cullman Regional currently has more critically-ill patients than normal for this time of year.

"The care required for these patients is challenging," Snow said.

"Not only do the clinical staff have to take more time to dress in the protective gear, but the care of the patients takes more time as well."

She continued, "We have more patients on ventilators, and we are 'proning' patients – or putting patients face down rather than on their backs - which helps improve airflow. This process takes five to six nurses."

According to Snow, some people will not get sick, but those who do are fighting for their lives without their loved ones by their bedsides.

"I'm sick of hearing that it's just like the flu; it's not the flu," said Snow.

Snow said she is excited to be the first to receive the vaccine at Cullman Regional.

"I'm hopeful that more people are able to take the vaccine so we can begin to see a decline in the number of critically-ill patients and families impacted by this disease," she said.

According to the Alabama Department of Public Health, Alabama will receive an initial allocation of 40,950 Pfizer vaccines which will be distributed to 13 health systems and 15 different locations.

Of that total, Cullman Regional will receive 1,950 vaccinations which will be distributed to EMS staff (15% of allocation), physicians (15% of allocation), hospital staff (50% of allocation), and additional hospital staff and physicians in a 40-mile radius (20% of allocation).

Cullman Regional has set up a Vaccination Clinic for frontline health care workers which will begin this week. Vaccines will be given by appointment only in order to accommodate all parties in a timely manner.

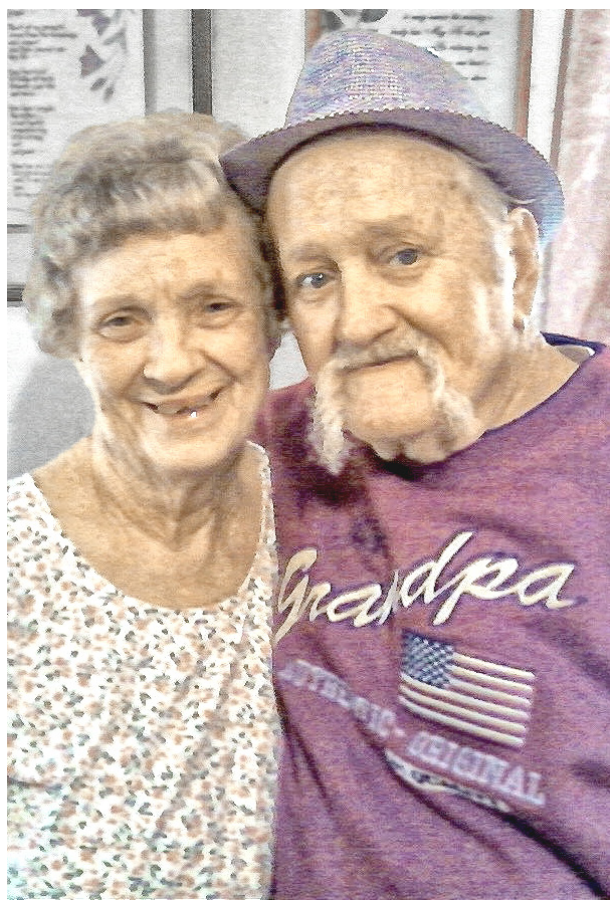
The vaccine requires each dose to be defrosted prior to use and must be used within a limited time frame; therefore, appointments will be required in order to ensure efficient use of all allocated vaccinations.

Any outside hospitals and physicians interested in receiving vaccination information should call 256-737-2754 for additional instructions.

Community members interested in getting more information about community vaccination clinics as more vaccine becomes available can sign up to receive updates from Cullman Regional by visiting www.CullmanRegional.com/covidvaccine.

For more information about Cullman Regional, call 256-737-2000 or visit www.CullmanRegional.com.

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 16



On Dec. 14, 2020, Dorothy ("Dot") Rickles, 89, of Baileyton passed away at her residence. Dot was born in Cullman County in 1933 to Stella and George Smith and graduated from Priceville High School. In addition to raising three children, Mrs. Rickles taught Sunday school, Vacation Bible School and was a Girl Scout leader for numerous years, was a substitute teacher, a skilled seamstress, and also a previous employee of The Cullman Tribune. She is predeceased by her parents; twin brother Thomas Earl Smith; five sisters Selma England, Reba DeForest, Martha Cox, Irene Handley, and Maxine Mayhall; and her first husband, Air Force Sergeant James Harold Winton. She is survived



by her husband Jerry Rickles; son Byron and wife Sherry Winton; two daughters Robin Winton and Tammy Earwood; three grandsons Tyler and wife Kathryne Earwood (and a great-granddaughter on the way), Trenton Earwood, and Adam Netherton; two granddaughters Samantha Vest and Trinity Earwood; and son-in-law Tim Earwood. The family will hold a private service for Mrs. Rickles.

Funeral services for Deborah Denise Dyer, 62, of Cullman will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Jim Abbott officiating; interment in Cullman Heritage Cemetery. Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m. prior to the service. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Dyer passed away Sunday, Dec. 13, 2020 at her residence. She was born July 24, 1958 in Winfield, Alabama to Clyde Bernard and Emma Jean Hallmark. Mrs. Dyer was a group home trainer for the Margaret Jean Jones Center, and she was a lover of animals. She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Charles Wade Hallmark and Benny Hallmark; sister Brenda Hallmark; and stepmother Florine Hallmark. Survivors include her husband William Dyer; daughter Misty Dawn Dyer; and sisters Connie Shiver and Linda Twilley.

Jamie Stoddard, 4/28/1971 – 12/13/2020; In grief and heartache, we are shaken to our core. Jamie Stoddard you are truly loved and deeply blessed, and we are the better because of it. Your forever love shown for your children Cara, Ryan, Jake, and Trevor. Your forever love shown for your brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, and cousins. Your forever love shown for your friends and co-workers. Your forever love shown for Halie, your truest love, and her children. Your forever love now shines upon us all eternally. No flowers please. In loving memory, you can send donations to Alabama Emergency Medical Services (AERO) or the American Heart Association. Spry Funeral Home assisted the family.

Funeral services for Sarah Frances Harbison, 88, of Cullman will be at 11 a.m., Friday, Dec. 18, 2020 at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Bethsadia Cemetery. Rev. Roger Hood will be officiating. Visitation will be Friday at the funeral home from 9-11 a.m. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mrs. Harbison passed away Tuesday, Dec. 15 at her residence. She was born May 31, 1932 to Sherman Robert and Maggie Myrtle Robinson Netherton. She was a member of Brickyard Baptist Church. She loved to sew and make flower arrangements. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband John Hill Harbison; grandchild Alexis Leigh Harbison; and her brothers and sisters. Survivors include her son Michael L. (Rosemary) Harbison; daughter Mary Delane (John) Milligan; brother Roy Dean (Irene) Netherton; grandchildren Brandon Wade (Lindsey) Harbison, Anthony Stephen (Sarah) Harbison, Nicholas Blake Harbison, Katie Leigh (Josh) Blight, and Connor Milligan; great-grandchildren Riley Smith, Aaliyah Smith, Lex Harbison, Noah Graham, Corbin Harbison, Emmett Harbison, and Abbie Kate Blight; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Cecil Coy Smith, 77, of Arley entered into rest Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020 at UAB Hospital. Coy was born March 29, 1943 in Arley, Alabama. He was a graduate of Meek High School and a longtime member of Meek Baptist Church in Arley. For several years, Coy worked in the coal industry in both Winston and Walker counties. In the early 90s, he went to work for General Motors, where he worked until his retirement in 2006. Coy was a member of the Masons and received his 50-year pin in December 2018. For years, Coy's hobby was woodworking. He was exceptional at his craft and loved building things for his family and friends. He started a lawncare service in 2010 and he kept that going until he got sick in 2016. Coy was a huge Alabama football fan. He loved talking football and going to the games. A graveside service will be held Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020 at 10 a.m. at Meek Cemetery. Brother Thomas Hyche will officiate. Coy is survived by his wife of 46 years, Dianne Smith; son Brandon Smith; daughters Kim Williams, and Sonya Adams and her husband Chuck; grandsons Brad Aaron and Daiton and Dawson Rivers; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents George W. and Ora Diane Smith; beloved granddaughter Brannigan Williams; twin brothers Hershell and Haskle Smith; brother Lecil Smith; and sisters Eloise Carter, Margie Bennett, Jackie Dyer, Jewel White and Marie Coggin.

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Year (from Front)

Cullman City Schools
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – It's been a different type of year for educators, but through all the challenges 2020 had on tap, teachers have persevered and found ways to thrive. In honor of all that hard work, Cullman City Schools has selected Teachers of the Year for 2020, honoring educators at Cullman City Primary School, East Elementary School, West Elementary School, Cullman Middle School and Cullman High School.

Kindergarten teacher Cortney Peed was named Teacher of the Year at Cullman Primary School; second-grade teacher Blakeley Burns was named Teacher of the Year at East Elementary School; sixth-grade teacher Kristy White was named Teacher of the Year at West Elementary School; band director Linda Bean was named Teacher of the Year at Cullman Middle School; and language arts teacher Danna Putman was named Teacher of the Year at Cullman High School.

"We are so proud of our Teachers of the Year. They've innovated, connected with students in unique ways, and found ways to excel in what has been a challenging year for everyone," Superintendent Dr. Susan Patterson said. "We want to honor their accomplishments, along with the hard work of all our teachers in Cullman City Schools this year."

Peed said she was honored to be named the primary school's Teacher of the Year, but noted pulling off school in 2020 was a team effort that took everyone working together.

"I think every teacher is worthy of this award when trying to plan and teach during a pandemic. In my 14 years of teaching, I never thought I would have to consider social distancing, masks, virtual lessons or students being quarantined," she said.

"I knew when we had to close the school doors in March that my summer would be full of researching new ideas for the 2020-2021 school year so that I could reach all of my students on various levels but still make kindergarten exciting and educational. While this year has definitely challenged every superintendent, school board member, administrator, teacher, assistant, substitute, janitor, parent and student across the state, we still know our students deserve love and the very best educational experience we can offer even if we are wearing a mask."

Burns noted it was "an esteemed honor" to be recognized by her peers and the East Elementary School administration, crediting the entire faculty for striving to make a positive impact in the success of their students.

"Leadership, teamwork, motivation and determination make all the difference in being successful in your job," Burns said.

"I work with a wonderful group of teachers and administrators that are the epitome of these traits. I am proud to be a part of Cullman City Schools and East Elementary School."

White, who has taught at West Elementary School for almost 30 years, said she has been honored to work with the amazing staff and faculty for the majority of her career. She also attended West Elementary as a child, and her own children attended the school, so the campus holds a special place in her heart.

"I am so thankful to be part of a staff that encourages one another daily and provides an amazing support system. Each staff member works so hard to help our students emotionally, academically and physically," she said. "We are blessed with amazing students that make me look forward to coming to school and spending time with them. I have taught sixth grade for the past 12 years, and I love getting to hear their thoughts and insights. I have loved all my students over the years, and it brings me so much joy to watch my students leave West and see what all they do academically, athletically and in their future careers."

She added that, despite the challenges of the year, social distancing and virtual learning have also been opportunities for teachers to learn new and innovative ways to reach students.

"We are trying new lessons, technology and materials," White said. "I personally think all teachers should be Teacher of the Year."

After being named the middle school's teacher of the year, Bean said she was "thankful and humbled to be selected for this highlight in a teacher's career."

Putman, celebrating her 21st year at Cullman High School, said it was a privilege and an honor to represent the school as Teacher of the Year. Her reaction when she learned the news? "Best. Day. Ever."

"I thank my maker every day for opening up this wonderful door for me 21 years ago. It's a joy to work alongside such talented, hard-working, caring and funny co-workers and staff every day," she said. "Mrs. (Kim) Hall and the administrative team also work tirelessly to ensure this is a positive and safe learning environment, which is a blessing. My mantra is 'Bloom where you are planted,' and the students have done just that during this pandemic. They are the best."



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Band director Linda Bean was named Teacher of the Year at Cullman Middle School



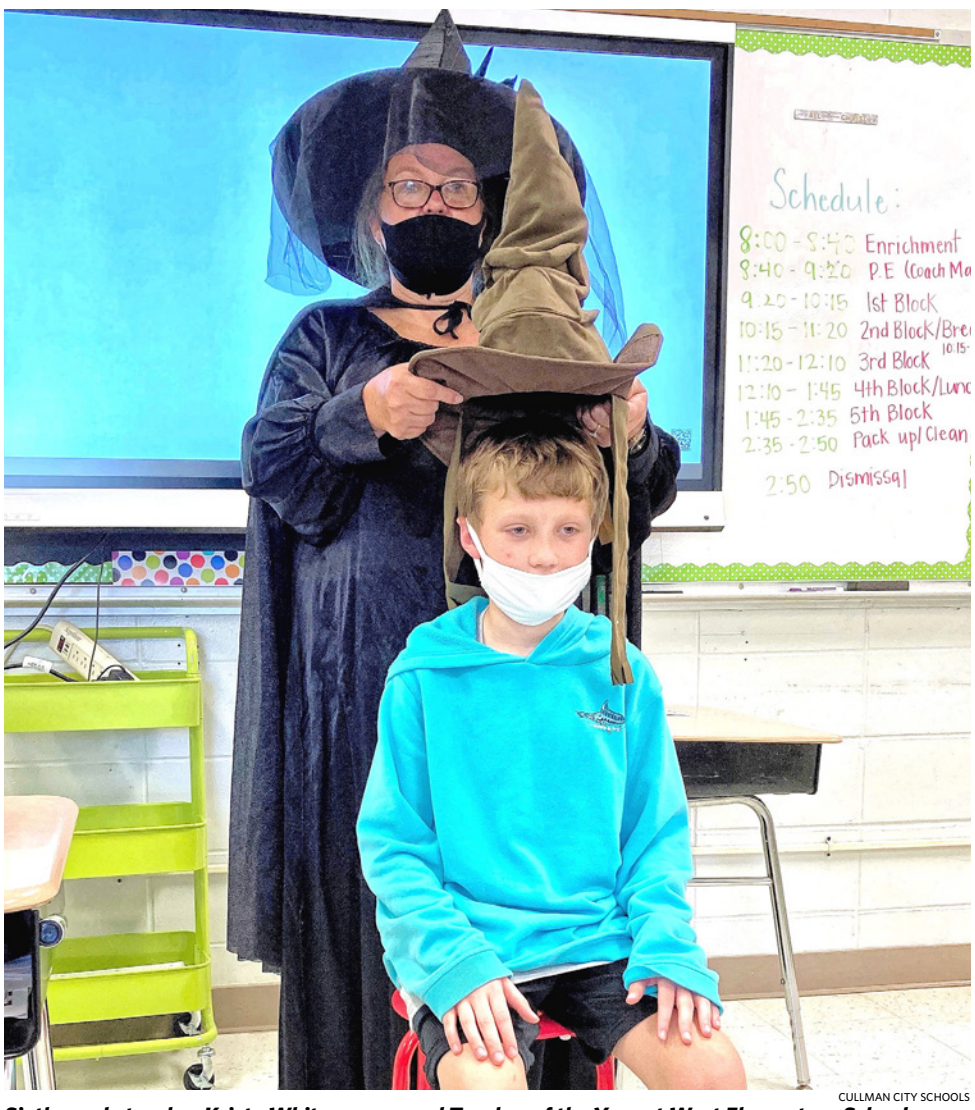
CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Second-grade teacher Blakeley Burns was named Teacher of the Year at East Elementary School.



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Kindergarten teacher Cortney Peed was named Teacher of the Year at Cullman Primary School.



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Sixth-grade teacher Kristy White was named Teacher of the Year at West Elementary School.



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Language arts teacher Danna Putman was named Teacher of the Year at Cullman High School.