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The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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Merry and bright

Many folks throughout Cullman County are practicing the art of, to quote Clark W. Griswold, "exterior illumination" this year for Christmas. Here is just one shot taken Wednesday evening in Holly Pond. Have you or your neighbors gone all out this season? Send your best photos to heather@cullmantribune.com! Happy Holidays!



HEATHER MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– FAITH –

Make the season brighter



BARBARA RAGSDALE

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church parishioners Brooklyn, Maria and Anna Agnello select cards from the church's Angel Tree to help provide gifts for families in need.

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church's annual Angel Tree gift-giving project this year benefits 63 families in need and 137 children.

Church members pick a card or cards and purchase gifts, wrap them and return them so they can be given to youngsters at Christmas. With only a few more days to go, church staff members are getting gifts for 15 children whose cards were not selected.

If you are looking to share a little more love this season and would like to help make Christmas brighter for these children, feel free to drop a financial donation by the parish office at 205 Third Ave. SE across from Carlton's and Dixie Duds.

POLITICS

Merrill, 16 other secretaries of state support 'robust funding of Election Assistance Commission'



2018 CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Alabama Sec. of State John Merrill

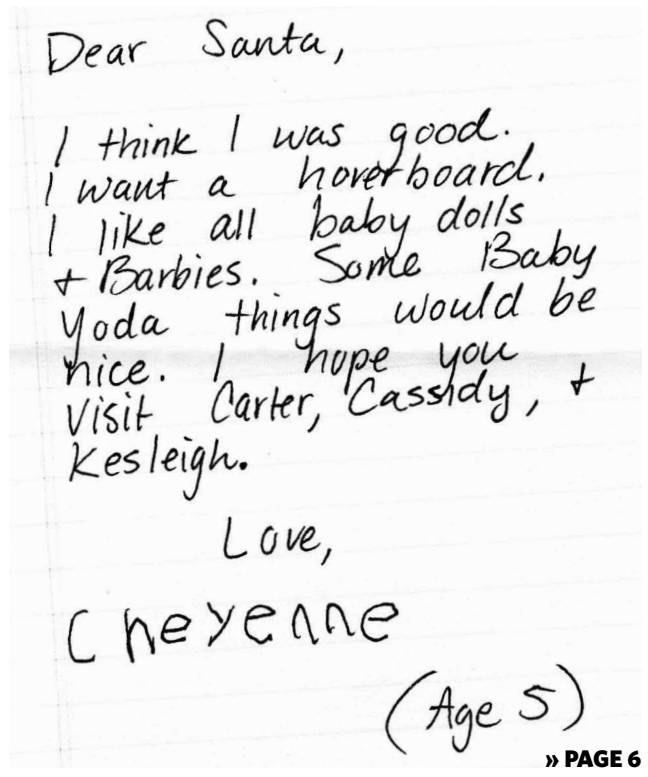
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EDUCATION

Judson College needs $500K by Dec. 31 to avoid closing

President W. Mark Tew appeals for financial support for state's only women's college » PAGE 3

Santa Letters Inside


Dear Santa,

I think I was good.
I want a hoverboard.
I like all baby dolls
+ Barbies. Some Baby
Yoda things would be
nice. I hope you
visit Carter, Cassidy, +
Kesleigh.

Love,

Cheyenne

(Age 5)

» PAGE 6

HAPPY HOLIDAYS BEGIN WITH BELOW GM EMPLOYEE PRICING FOR EVERYONE!!

Bill Smith
BUICK GMC

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Cullman EC: New Ryan Creek substation now online

Brian Lacy
Contributor



CULLMAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Cullman Electric Cooperative's new Ryan Creek substation is located north of County Road 222, just west of Exit 305 on Interstate 65.

CULLMAN, Ala. – Construction is complete and Cullman Electric Cooperative's 17th substation is now providing electricity to co-op members. The new Ryan Creek substation is located north of County Road 222, just west of Exit 305 on Interstate 65.

Cullman EC Senior Systems Engineer Justin Lee said discussions about the need for a new substation started in 2015, and the co-op began working with TVA on a project plan in 2016.

In 2016, a new four-year work plan was being developed that outlined the need for more capacity in the areas currently served by 24th Street substation," Lee said.

"We knew with the new interstate interchange coming, combined with the growing industrial and residential load that a load center would likely develop in this area, and the 24th Street substation would not be able to carry that load at its current capacity."

Construction started in August 2018. In addition to the substation, which can serve 50-plus megawatts of load if needed, a new 161-kilovolt transmission line and four new 25-kilovolt distribution circuits were constructed to serve future load.

Areas that will be served from the new substation are the industrial loads west of the County Road 222/Interstate 65 interchange and also residential load in the Good Hope and Trimble areas as well as various areas along the I-65 corridor including County Road 469, County Road 436 and County Road 222.

Lee said tremendous teamwork made this a successful project. Companies that assisted Cullman EC include St. John and Associates (Cullman); Manning Construction (Cullman); Patterson & Dewar (Norcross, GA); TVA; Aubrey Silvey Enterprises (Carrolton, GA); Lee Electrical Construction (Aberdeen, NC); L.E. Myers Co. (Chattanooga, TN); Siemens, Modular Connections (Bessemer, AL); Howard Industries (Laurel, MS); Keystone Electrical Manufacturing (Des Moines, IA); and Substation Enterprises (Alabaster, AL).

CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 17

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 17, 2020. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Dec. 14
- harassment; CR 1515
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 157
- burglary; CR 1289
- harassment; CR 1387
- harassment; CR 821

Dec. 15
- domestic violence; CR 1589
- domestic violence; CR 329
- receiving stolen property; CR 396
- theft of property; CR 623
- unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle; CR 1598
- unlawful possession of marijuana; CR 998
- domestic violence; CR 1819
- burglary; CR 1242

Dec. 16
- harassment; CR 1763
- domestic violence; CR 1030
- violation of a domestic violence protection order, harassment; CR 1711
- theft of property; Hwy. 69 S
- possession of burglary tools, attempting to elude; CR 747

ARRESTS

Dec. 14

Grimes, Jeffery Tyler, 34
- third-degree criminal trespassing

Miller, Sarah Leann, 32
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Watkins, Casey Lee, 32
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Dec. 15

Amer, Tressia Ann, 53
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Fout, Sabrina Marie, 23
- drug court sanction- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Garcia-Carrera, Yanquiel Laza, 31
- firstdegree theft of property (3 counts)

Goudeau, Stephanie Dawn, 47
- fourth-degree receiving stolen property

Hill, Donald Eugene, 35
- FTA- driving while suspended

Judkins, Shannon Robertson, 47
- drug court sanction- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Lowery Jr., Douglas Edward, 25
- third-degree burglary
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Ponder, Trevor Lindley, 29
- FTA- driving while revoked

Risner, Keith Brandon, 34
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Walker, Kimberly Brown, 57
- third-degree domestic violence- menacing

Dec. 16

Anders, Jeremy Keith, 28
- FTA- unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle (with theft)

Barnett, Richard Shane, 21
- attempting to elude
- probation violation-third-degree burglary
- possession of burglar's tools

Bartlett, Troy Lee, 47
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Beckwith, Courtney Lashay, 30
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Bull, Derek Allen, 37
- FTA- driving while suspended

Chumley, Eric Reese, 21
- FTA- third-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument
- possession of burglar's tools

Hall, Jason Wade, 41
- FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Hudson, Cindy Diane, 45
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Ponder, Trevor Lindley, 29
- FTA- driving while revoked

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

No incidents or arrests reported.

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No incidents or arrests reported.

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



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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. 18-23 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. 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.

Living Nativity
- Dec. 18-20, 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.

EDUCATION

Wallace State distributes holiday meals to students, Cullman Caring for Kids

Russell Moore
WSCC

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – Wallace State Community College recently distributed more than 100 holiday meals to students in partnership with the Wallace State Future Foundation and the Caring Campus initiative.

Students were invited to drive through for the holiday meal, consisting of chicken, green beans, rice and a holiday treat.

As was fitting for such a challenging year, "this was the first time, at least in recent memory, that Wallace State has provided students with food baskets for the holidays," said Wallace State Vice President for Students Dr. Ryan Smith.

"It was a partnership to help students who needed it, especially during a pandemic."

"We also hope students will utilize our Lions' Kitchen food pantry on campus when they need to."

Remaining holiday meals from Wallace State were donated to Cullman Caring for Kids.

Earlier this year, Wallace State was one of 10 community colleges selected as a "Caring Campus" as supported by the Institute for Evidence Based-Change (IEBC), seeking to increase student retention and success in community colleges by creating and cultivating Caring Campus environments through the inclusion of all staff in student success efforts.

Among Wallace State's Caring Campus projects is the Lions' Kitchen food pantry.

It's located in Room 102 of the Student Center and available to all Wallace State students.

The WSCC Rotaract Club and Cullman Rotary have contributed significantly towards stocking the Lions' Kitchen.

Other student resources across campus include the Tutoring Lab, Career Services, the Mother's Lounge, a Veterans' Corner, Success Advising, Program Services and Mental Health Counseling.

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



WSCC

Wallace State Vice President for Students Dr. Ryan Smith greets students with a holiday meal as Wally looks on.

Judson (from Front)

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

MARION, Ala. – Citing financial difficulties resulting from declining enrollment, the recession of 2008 and this year's COVID-19 pandemic, Judson College President W. Mark Tew made an appeal to the college's community of supporters this week, saying the state's only women's college needs $500,000 by Dec. 31 to remain open.

In a letter to friends of the College, Tew outlined the college's financial condition, saying, "In order to begin the spring semester, the college must, by December 31, receive unrestricted cash donations of $500,000 and unrestricted commitments for an additional $1,000,000 in cash donations to be contributed to the college between January 1 and May 31, 2021.

"Without these extraordinary gifts, the college will not have sufficient cash to meet its operational responsibilities and will be unable to begin the spring semester. If this happens, all students will be informed of transfer options to complete their degrees."

On its website, the college posted: The Judson College Board of Trustees met in early December to discuss the college's financial position and to form an ad hoc committee to determine the path forward for the college. On Dec. 14 the Board determined to proceed with securing the necessary funding, as well as engaging the services of Fuller Higher Ed Solutions to research the college's changing markets and to explore potential avenues forward.

"With her 182-year history, Judson has weathered many storms and become stronger and more determined to provide a quality Christian education, said Joan Newman '73, chair of the Judson College Board of Trustees. "We welcome the financial and prayerful support of all concerned as we navigate through these challenges."

Judson has, and will always be, committed to her students, who have been a large part of Judson's "weathering" of so many past storms.

Tew said that this process will be no different: "Should the college be unable to secure sufficient resources by Dec. 31, we are making plans to assist our students with teach-out and transfer options.

"However, should the generosity of the college's dedicated family of donors reach specified goals by Dec. 31, your College will proceed with the spring semester and look forward to celebrating commencement on April 30, 2021."

In an email to current students, Tew commended their perseverance throughout 2020 "under exceedingly strenuous and ever-changing circumstances." "We thank you for exemplifying the steadfast Judson Spirit," Tew said, "which has kept this institution afloat through multiple wars, two fires, the Great Depression, several recessions and now, a pandemic."

"Please know," said Tew, "that the Trustees and the administration of Judson College are seeking God's leadership for Judson's future in order to ensure that all things are done 'decently and in order' (1 Corinthians 14:40)."

Tew said that both unrestricted gifts before Dec. 31 and pledges for January–May 2021 are needed. Donors may contribute one-time gifts by Dec. 31 here (http://bit.ly/38ilul3) or make a pledge to give from January-May of 2021 here (http://bit.ly/2WmMoT4).

Since 1838, Judson College has been committed to preparing young women for lives of purpose through the transmission of knowledge, the refinement of intellect, the nurturing of faith, the promotion of service, and the development of character. A private, four-year, Christian college with degree programs in liberal arts and the sciences, Judson College helps each student reach her full potential by providing her with opportunities to engage her mind, practice her faith, and live her purpose. www.judson.edu.



JUDSON COLLEGE

Judson College, a private school and the state's only women's college, is located in Marion, Alabama in Perry County.

Merrill (from Front)

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – A bipartisan group of 17 secretaries of state, led by Alabama Secretary of State John H. Merrill, on Thursday sent a letter to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, U.S. Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and U.S. Minority Leader of the House Kevin McCarthy to issue its support for "adequately funding the Election Assistance Commission during fiscal year 2021."

The text of the letter is below:

Thank you for your generous financial support during the 2020 Federal Election Cycle. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds used to assist in the administration of the election ensured a safe and sanitary election was observed on November 3.

As we move forward, it is of utmost importance that election officials are equipped with the necessary resources to continue providing open, fair and secure elections, while also maintaining public confidence in the process.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), which was established by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), provides support, guidance and assistance to state and local election officials for voter registration, voter participation, election equipment certification, cyber security, voter file maintenance and much more. Between 2010 and 2019, the EAC's budget was cut significantly by almost 50%, severely limiting their ability to assist states and localities with the administration of the election.

While we are most appreciative of the funds appropriated to prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a great deal of work to be accomplished to address the issues witnessed during this election cycle.

Therefore, as the chief election officials of our respective states, we encourage robust funds be allocated to the EAC for fiscal year 2021 for various initiatives including, but not limited to:

a) *Conducting a comprehensive post-election review with a special focus on procedures implemented due to COVID-19;*

b) *Improving the security and auditing of election systems;*

c) *Implementing a robust training program available to all election officials nationwide;*

d) *Assembling a team of experts to research and establish non-voting technology best practices and resources to better secure voter registration systems and other election related systems that are not a part of the current testing and certification program;*

e) *Implementing procedures and a process to certify electronic poll books;*

f) *Establishing a team dedicated to recommending improvements to the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines and maintaining modern and agile certification requirements;*

g) *Recruiting election personnel to assist with the clearinghouse function of the EAC to disseminate election administration information to election officials and educate the public;*

h) *Developing web tools for voters and election officials to provide information such as deadlines, registration, legislation, voter options, education, etc.;*

i) *Implementing a voter helpdesk team to assist voters;*

j) *Increasing grant related resources to assist states with technical guidance and oversight of grant funds, including CARES Act and other HAVA grants; and*

k) *Establishing a new Federal Advisory Committee Act Board consisting of local election officials who will serve to increase the EAC's ability to communicate with and reach local officials with relevant information related to the elections process.*

We are committed to protecting the integrity and credibility of the electoral process, and with your assistance, the EAC will be able to continue to support election officials in this pursuit.

Asked by The Tribune to explain to what specific issues Merrill was referring when he wrote, "the issues witnessed during this election cycle," Merrill's office responded:

"No irregularities were observed in Alabama on November 3.

"However, alleged instances of voter fraud, inconsistent vote counting (whether by machine or away from public view), varying methods of signature verification, and more have circulated through the media and have led to various lawsuits.

"While we (in Alabama) cannot comment on the merit of any lawsuit or the scope of any of these potential irregularities, election officials are committed to advancing efforts to promote a more secure and efficient elections process.

"Elections should be open, fair, and transparent. Anything less is a disservice to our democracy and the American people."

According to Merrill's office, in addition to Merrill, R-Alabama, the letter was signed by Kevin Meyer, R-Alaska; Katie Hobbs, D-Arizona; John Thurston, R-Arkansas; Paul Pate, R-Iowa; Scott Schwab, R-Kansas; Kyle Ardoin, R-Louisiana; Jocelyn Benson, D-Michigan; Steve Simon, D-Minnesota; Maggie Toulouse Oliver, D-New Mexico; Frank LaRose, R-Ohio; Shemia Fagan, D-Oregon; Nellie Gorbea, D-Rhode Island; Steve Barnett, R-South Dakota; Jim Condos, D-Vermont; Mac Warner, R-West Virginia; and Ed Buchanan, R-Wyoming.

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$650.00 month, $650 deposit

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COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020 COVID-19 update from the Alabama Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Data and Surveillance Dashboard

- Total confirmed cases in AL: 253,364 (+3,515 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in AL: 56,971 (+1,180 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in AL: 3,745 (+41 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in AL: 509
- Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co.: 4,345 (+87 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in Cullman Co.: 1,719 (+42 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in Cullman Co.: 50 (+0 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in Cullman Co.: 14
- Total tested in Cullman Co.: 29,107
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 2,757
- Cases in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 1,267
- Total tested in Alabama: 1,752,713
- Cases in the last 14 days in Alabama: 50,687
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Alabama: 139,909
- Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 2,425
- Cumulative no. of hospitalizations in Alabama: 29,559 (not updated as of press time)
- Presumed recoveries in Alabama (reported weekly): 183,625

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

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
DECEMBER 18, 2020

PREP FOOTBALL

2020 Class 2A, All-Region 5 Team announced

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

This year's Class 2A, Region 5 All-Region Team has been voted on by the region coaches and released this afternoon. Several players from both the Cold Springs Eagles and Addison Bulldogs earned spots on this year's team.

Cold Springs' Brodi Williams, Ayden Alexander and Roberto Ayala each earned spots after their 2020 campaigns. Several Addison standouts made the roster after the Bulldogs' playoff run including Nelson Martin, Christian Roberts, Tommy Lee Daniel, Justin Mather, Quentin Barley, Weston Smith and Bailey Wilson.

Cold Springs
Brodi Williams, senior
Ayden Alexander, senior
Roberto Ayala, senior

Addison
Quentin Barley, senior
Tommy Lee Daniel, junior
Nelson Martin, senior
Justin Mather, junior
Christian Roberts, junior
Weston Smith, senior
Bailey Wilson, senior



MARTHA NEEDHAM/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Both Cold Springs' Ayden Alexander (5) and Roberto Ayala (11) earned spots on this year's 2A, All-Region 5 Team.

UAB and Marshall battle for Conference USA Title Friday night

Ted Feeley
UAB Athletics

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Playing in its third straight Conference USA Championship Game, the UAB football team travels to Marshall on Friday night in hopes of capturing its second league title in program history. Kickoff in Huntington is scheduled for 6 p.m. CST on CBS Sports Network.

THREE THINGS TO KNOW:
With a 21-16 victory at Rice last Saturday, UAB became the first team in Conference USA history to win the divisional title three years in a row. Both schools will be playing in the C-USA Championship Game for the third time, with each owning one title. Marshall won in 2014 and UAB took the crown in 2018. All three of UAB's championship game appearances have come on the road, and the Blazers were the first away team in C-USA history to win the league title back in 2018.

Friday's matchup pairs two of the top defenses in the nation. The Blazers, who have finished Top 10 nationally each of the last two years, enter the contest ranked 15th nationally in total defense (316.5). Marshall currently ranks second nationally in total defense (253.9) and is the No. 1 scoring defense in the country, allowing just 11.4 points per game.

The 2020 Ryan Conference USA Football Championship also features the two winningest teams in the league since UAB's return in 2017. The Blazers have a C-USA best 33 victories since the start of 2017, while Marshall is one game behind with 32 total victories.

Tickets to the game are $40 and Blazer fans traveling to Huntington will be sitting in section 103. Click here for tickets to the game and enter the promo code UAB to secure seats in the allotted Blazer section.

Head Coach Bill Clark Opening Statement:
"What a whirlwind it has been since the game on Saturday. We were all together on the conference call last week talking about what all we were going through and what all had happened. The big thing for us was with the guys that we put on the plane to go and the mindset that they had. It did not matter what happened. We were going to be positive. We were going to fight. We were going to be together. It is easy to say some of those things, but when you are really faced with true adversity, what do you do? That is what I am so proud of this group for. I think of this whole year all the things that they have fought through. I could not be more proud of them. I said this this morning, just the pure joy that I got to see out of those guys and the coaches when that game was over. We had one goal and that was to win the West. Now we have our ultimate goal to win the conference championship against a really, really good Marshall team. Coming off a tough loss like they had, we know that feeling. They got beat at home by Rice, so they are going to have something to prove.

"They have been great all year. They are talented all around. They are super well-coached. They are tough. We know we are playing a great team at their place. One of the hard things to do is to go on the road and win a championship. We were able to do that two years ago at Middle Tennessee.

"We have a bad taste in our mouth from last year's championship game at Florida Atlantic. Even though that was last year's team, that is something that has stuck with us all year. I am really looking forward to the challenge on a short week."

On preparing for the title game . . .
"I think the things that have happened to us this year, we have had some losses. We had a heartbreaking loss at Louisiana Tech that we thought we should have won and the Louisiana game where we led. I can't see anybody ever getting cocky or overconfident. I really can't. I promise you we are not. We know how games go sometimes. They have everything to prove now. They were bragged on and now everybody is talking about you after you lose. They are going to have a chip on their shoulder. We should have one on our shoulder with plenty to prove. As we get a big group of guys back today, let's see how we respond. Hopefully, we can keep that mindset of us against the world."



UAB ATHLETICS

The UAB Blazers will face Marshall in this year's C-USA Championship Game in Huntington Friday night at 6 p.m.

On having a championship expectation . . .
"I started that years ago. When you talk about championships, you can set yourself up for falling short. I do not believe that you can achieve those things if that is not your mindset. That has been our mindset since the day we walked in. I like the fact that that is what we expect. You can, sometimes, as a fan, have some unrealistic expectations. I don't want people to not be appreciative because of the amount of work that goes into doing what we do. That is the only thing that I can ask for is to be appreciative of what we have done. That is how we have tried to build it. I am a history guy, so three in a row has not been done. That is a big deal. This is the ultimate goal: to get this championship against a great team. You have to go on the road. They are great. They are coming off a loss. They had an extra few days to prepare for us. Backs are against the wall, so let's see what we do."

Heroes abound as Trojans roll past Samford for 3rd straight victory

Andrew Stern
Troy Athletics

TROY, Ala. – Toughness. Competitiveness. Selflessness. Communication. Ownership.

Those are the five core values that the Troy men's basketball program strives to embody. All of five were on display Wednesday night in Troy's big, 79-71, victory at Trojan Arena.

Led by career performances from Khalyl Waters (21 points, 13-14 FT) and Nick Stampley (17 points, 12 rebounds and 5 blocks) the Troy men's basketball team won its third consecutive game and notched its second consecutive wire-to-wire victory.

In a game that featured 45 fouls, three technical and a flagrant-one foul, it was the young scrappy Trojans who showed the most poise when it mattered most.

Wednesday's contest got off to a wild start as the opening tip was won by the Bulldogs (2-3) and thrown up for grabs.

The loose ball was immediately stolen by Kieffer Punter who, while on the ground, was body slammed by Samford freshman Marcellus Vail just eight seconds into the game.

The excessive contact was ruled a flagrant-one foul, and Punter was awarded a pair of free throws.

After a quick steal by Jacob Tryon tied the ballgame at two, the Trojans, behind a triple from Punter and a pair of free throws from Waters, opened up an early 7-2 advantage.

After a Samford field goal cut the Troy lead to just 7-4, the Trojans would score nine of the next 11 to go up 18-6 with 16:07 to play.

Over the next 11 minutes or so, the Trojans and Bulldogs continued to battle, but Troy led consistently stayed around double-figures.

Needing a run, Samford scored nine of the next 12 to cut the 12-point Troy advantage to just six (42-36) with 3:53 to play.

A clutch Zay Williams triple with 3:02 to play in the period gave Troy a 45-36 lead, but Samford held the Trojans to just two points the final 182 second to cut their large deficit to just seven (47-42) at the break.

In the opening period, Waters scored 11 of his game-high 21, as the senior hit all nine of his free throw attempts.

Stampley also added 11 in the first half including a pair of shots from distance.

Following the halftime break, Samford struck first using a Christian Guess bucket to cut the Troy advantage to just 47-42, a minute and eight seconds into the final stanza.

Troy would score eight of the next 12, as a mini 4-0 run from Zay Williams gave the Trojans a 55-46 advantage with 16:24 to play.

Just six minutes and 23 seconds later, and after a short Troy cold spell, the nine-point advantage was down to just threewith 10:01 to play.

A key offensive rebound from Stampley sparked another 4-0 run, as Troy increased its lead to seven (62-55) with 8:27 left.

At the under eight media timeout (6:43), the Trojan advantage stood at just four (64-60) after Myron Gordon's triple.

After scoring 29 points at Georgia Saturday, Gordon was held to just 16 points, the fewest he's scored in a game this season.

Following the media break, Zay Williams knocked in a pair of free throw attempts to extend the Troy advantage to two possessions (66-60).

Back-to-back layups from Christian Guess cut the Troy advantage to just 66-64 with 5:34 left, but Troy promptly answered with a 5-0 span over the next 62 seconds to go up, 71-64.

The two teams would trade baskets over the next two minutes of game time, as Troy led 73-66 with 2:32 to play.

With the ball possessed by the Bulldogs, Stampley forced a key steal, and later executed a textbook cut that resulted in an and-one that put Troy up 76-66 with exactly two minutes to play.

Samford tried to mount a furious comeback, when Guess used a pair of layups and a free throw to cut the Troy lead to just 76-71 with 1:13 to play, but Troy held the Bulldogs scoreless and used three clutch free throws from Stampley to hold on for a wire-to-wire 79-71 victory that pushed the Trojans over the .500 mark for the first time under Scott Cross.





Christmas at Cullman Primary



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Cullman City Primary School celebrated the holidays in a big way this year. Primary students made lots of homemade ornaments, visited with the Gingerbread Man, and checked out the Polar Express display at the school. Teachers organized different activities each day, including ugly sweater day, Polar Express days and Grinch Day. Students even had a chance to have a cotton snowball fight with the lunchroom staff and Principal Tricia Culpepper.

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Letters (from Front)

Welti Elementary
Kindergarten
Miss Reilly Hood and Mrs. Kayla Drake's Class

Dear Santa,
My name is Jasper Akers. I want a bouncy ball for Christmas because I don't have one.
Love, Jasper

Dear Santa,
My name is Hunter Baker. I want a remote-control car. I love you! I have been good this year.
Love, Hunter

Dear Santa,
My name is Paetyn Brown. I want a doll for Christmas. I also want a new bike and helmet. I love you Santa! I've been good!
Love, Paetyn

Dear Santa,
My name is Tuff Cofield. I have been good this year. I want to say thank you for letting the elf come. I would like to ask for a dirt bike for Christmas and arm pads, knee pads, and a helmet. I love you!
Love, Tuff

Dear Santa,
My name is Eternity Silguero. I want a unicorn for Christmas. I like you. I want an ornament to go on the top shelf of the Christmas tree. I want a new mask for Christmas. I love you!
Love, Eternity

Dear Santa,
My name is Roman Dilworth. I want a Hot Wheels for Christmas.
Love, Roman

Dear Santa,
My name is Cedric Gambrill. I want a Hot Wheels for Christmas. Merry Christmas!
Love, Cedric

Dear Santa,
My name is Brylee Haynes. I want a math book. I want a big friend like you.
Love, Brylee

Dear Santa,
My name is Koda Jarrett. I want a Nascar game and a Hot Wheels game.
Love, Koda

Dear Santa,
My name is Wyatt Jones. I want a monster truck dump truck. I love you!
Love, Wyatt

Dear Santa,
My name is Jayde Lindsey. I love you. How do the reindeer fly? I want a Hot Wheels track. You are the best ever.
Love, Jayde

Dear Santa,
My name is Izora Maddux. I want some Elsa stuff like a bike. What kind of cookies do you like? I love you! I like your house!
Love, Izora

Dear Santa,
My name is Koga Maddux. What is your favorite cookies? I want a Wheeljack the autoboot and a choo choo train, Legos, Blue the dinosaur. That's from Jurassic Park. I've watch that movie a bunch of times.
Love, Koga

Dear Santa,
My name is Kayden Orgeron. I love how our elf came to school! I want a monster truck. I also want a train. I do love dirt bike though ad hot wheels.
Love, Kayden

Dear Santa,
My name is Penelope Parker. I love you! I want a Cinderella doll and a doll stroller. What is it like to be Santa? How do you work? I also want a doll crib for my baby dolls and a Hot Wheels truck.
Love, Penelope

Dear Santa,
My name is Luca Pelle. I love your reindeer. I want a remote-control car and a Hot Wheels track. I love it when the elf came here! I love you!
Love, Luca

Dear Santa,
My name is Alan Schnittker. I want a remote-control car. I love you! I love it when the elf came here!
Love, Alan

Dear Santa,
My name is Luke Simmons. I want a Play Station 2. I also want a Duramax where you drive in it.
Love, Luke.

Dear Santa,
My name is Lansen Tanner. I like your elves. I love you! I want a go cart for Christmas. I also want a Play Station.
Love, Lansen

Dear Santa,
My name is Jaden Taylor. What did you get Mrs. Claus for Christmas? I love you! I like your elves. I want a beautiful sky on Christmas night and I want a Mrs. Claus doll for Christmas. I want a monster truck as well.
Love, Jaden

Dear Santa,
My name is Jax Turner. I like that the elf came to school. I love you! I want some motorcycle gloves, boots, and pants for Christmas. I also want some motorcycle goggles.
Love, Jax

Dear Santa,
My name is Maycie Turner. I have been good this year! I want a coloring book for Christmas. Can I also get some colors with it? What is your job? I also want a unicorn and my little ponies. How do your reindeer fly?
Love, Maycie

LEGALS

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF LOUIS E. PRICE, DECEASED
* IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
* CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA.
* CASE NO.: PC2020-205

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to SCOTT CARPENTER, as Personal Representative of the Estate of LOUIS E. PRICE, on the 17th day of December, 2020, by the Honorable Tammy Brown.

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

Scott Carpenter
SCOTT CARPENTER, Personal Representative of the Estate of LOUIS E. PRICE, deceased

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

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

Prepared by:
Law Firm of Nail & Sparks, LLC
Pamela E. Nail
Attorney for Petitioner
200 Second Avenue, Southwest
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Telephone: (256) 734-3342

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

PB WIL BK 99 PG 245 - 12/17/2020 09:26 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA
* IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY
* CASE NO.: PC2020-274

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF TRAVIS ODELL DINGLER, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Peggy Jean Coggins on the 17th day of December, 2020, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Peggy Jean Coggins
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Personal Representative
Smith & Smith, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

DISTRICT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY
500 2ND Ave SW
Room 303
Cullman, AL 35055

Walker Brothers, LTD
(Plaintiff)
v. Case No: SM-2017-900182
Shallowmist Burge
(Defendant)

NOTICE OF FILING OF LAW SUIT

Defendant, Shallowmist Burge, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the complaint brought against him her by the Plaintiff, Walker Brothers, LTD, for $2,561.90 plus court cost, cause of action being: Open Account

ANSWER TO THE COMPLAINT MUST BE MADE BY THE SAID DEFENDANT on or before the 22nd day of January, 2021, or a default may be rendered against him her in the above styled cause

Dated this the 16th day of December, 2020.

LISA MCSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

DISTRICT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY
500 2ND Ave SW
Room 303
Cullman, AL 35055

Walker Brothers, LTD
(Plaintiff)
v. Case No: SM-2017-900349
Angela Hooper
(Defendant)

NOTICE OF FILING OF LAW SUIT

Defendant, Angela Hooper, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the complaint brought against him her by the Plaintiff, Walker Brothers, LTD, for $1,529.53 plus court cost, cause of action being: Open Account.

ANSWER TO THE COMPLAINT MUST BE MADE BY THE SAID DEFENDANT on or before the 22nd day of January, 2021, or a default may be rendered against him her in the above styled cause.

Dated this the 16th day of December, 2020

LISA MCSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

DISTRICT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY
500 2ND Ave SW
Room 303
Cullman, AL 35055

Walker Brothers, LTD
(Plaintiff)
v. Case No: SM-2016-900558
Delana Dingler
(Defendant)

NOTICE OF FILING OF LAW SUIT

Defendant, Delana Dingler, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the complaint brought against him her by the Plaintiff, Walker Brothers, LTD, for $1,607.92 plus court cost cause of action being: Open Account.

ANSWER TO THE COMPLAINT MUST BE MADE BY THE SAID DEFENDANT on or before the 22nd day of January, 2021, or a default may be rendered against him her in the above styled cause.

Dated this the 16th day of December, 2020

LISA MCSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

DISTRICT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY
500 2ND Ave SW
Room 303
Cullman, AL 35055

Walker Brothers, LTD
(Plaintiff)
v. Case No: SM-2017-900943
Kenneth Woods
(Defendant)

NOTICE OF FILING OF LAW SUIT

Defendant, Kenneth Woods, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the complaint brought against him her by the Plaintiff, Walker Brothers, LTD, for $717.22 plus court cost, cause of action being: Open Account

ANSWER TO THE COMPLAINT MUST BE MADE BY THE SAID DEFENDANT on or before the 22nd day of January, 2021, or a default may be rendered against him her in the above styled cause.

Dated this the 16th day of December, 2020.

LISA MCSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

DISTRICT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY
500 2ND Ave SW
Room 303
Cullman, AL 35055

Walker Brothers, LTD
(Plaintiff)
v. Case No: SM-2015-900441
Brad Grady
(Defendant)

NOTICE OF FILING OF LAW SUIT

Defendant, Brad Grady, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the complaint brought against him her by the Plaintiff, Walker Brothers, LTD, for $2,163.85 plus court cost, cause of action being: Open Account.

ANSWER TO THE COMPLAINT MUST BE MADE BY THE SAID DEFENDANT on or before the 22nd day of January, 2021, or a default may be rendered against him her in the above styled cause.

Dated this the 16th day of December, 2020.

LISA MCSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

DISTRICT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY
500 2ND Ave SW
Room 303
Cullman, AL 35055

Walker Brothers, LTD
(Plaintiff)
v. Case No: SM-2016-900176
Christopher Bailey
(Defendant)

NOTICE OF FILING OF LAW SUIT

Defendant, Christopher Bailey, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the complaint brought against him her by the Plaintiff, Walker Brothers, LTD, for $379.24 plus court cost, cause of action being: Open Account.

ANSWER TO THE COMPLAINT MUST BE MADE BY THE SAID DEFENDANT on or before the 22nd day of January, 2021, or a default may be rendered against him her in the above styled cause.

Dated this the 16th day of December, 2020.

LISA MCSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

DISTRICT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY
500 2ND Ave SW
Room 303
Cullman, AL 35055

Walker Brothers, LTD
(Plaintiff)
v. Case No: SM-2015-900289
Pond View Farms
(Defendant)

NOTICE OF FILING OF LAW SUIT

Defendant, Pond View Farms, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the complaint brought against him her by the Plaintiff, Walker Brothers, LTD, for $979.42 plus court cost, cause of action being: Open Account.

ANSWER TO THE COMPLAINT MUST BE MADE BY THE SAID DEFENDANT on or before the 22nd day of January, 2021, or a default may be rendered against him her in the above styled cause.

Dated this the 16th day of December, 2020.

LISA MCSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

DISTRICT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY
500 2ND Ave SW
Room 303
Cullman, AL 35055

Walker Brothers, LTD
(Plaintiff)
v. Case No: SM-2015-900545
Robin Canaday
(Defendant)

NOTICE OF FILING OF LAW SUIT

Defendant, Robin Canaday, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the complaint brought against him her by the Plaintiff, Walker Brothers, LTD, for $3,223.40 plus court cost, cause of action being: Open Account.

ANSWER TO THE COMPLAINT MUST BE MADE BY THE SAID DEFENDANT on or before the 22nd day of January, 2021, or a default may be rendered against him her in the above styled cause.

Dated this the 16th day of December, 2020.

LISA MCSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

DISTRICT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY
500 2ND Ave SW
Room 303
Cullman, AL 35055

Walker Brothers, LTD
(Plaintiff)
v. Case No: SM-2015-900549
Tyler Freeman
(Defendant)

NOTICE OF FILING OF LAW SUIT

Defendant, Tyler Freeman, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the complaint brought against him her by the Plaintiff, Walker Brothers, LTD, for $640.68 plus court cost, cause of action being: Open Account.

ANSWER TO THE COMPLAINT MUST BE MADE BY THE SAID DEFENDANT on or before the 22nd day of January, 2021, or a default may be rendered against him her in the above styled cause.

Dated this the 16th day of December, 2020

LISA MCSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

HEALTH

ADPH: Avoid gatherings during the holiday season; home is safer

Karen Landers, M.D.
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – Alabama continues to have significant community spread of COVID-19 that is not adequately mitigated, and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) strongly urges caution during the holiday season. Any gathering with family and friends who live outside one's own household can increase the chances of developing or transmitting the deadly virus. Postponing travel and staying home will protect yourself and others.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), high or increasing levels of COVID-19 cases in the gathering location, as well as in the areas where attendees are coming from, increase the risk of infection and spread among attendees. Alabama is currently experiencing high numbers of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris said, "While we are pleased vaccine products have been authorized for emergency use, not nearly enough vaccine will be available initially, and it will be months before the public at large can be vaccinated. It is important that everyone continue practicing the measures that are effective in preventing transmission of COVID-19 including social distancing, mask wearing, hand hygiene, avoiding people who are sick, avoiding crowded, poorly ventilated indoor spaces and monitoring their own health."

Holiday travel may increase your chance of spreading and getting COVID-19.

While the best way to protect yourself and others this year is to stay at home, the CDC asks you to consider the following questions before making plans for yourself and your family:

- Are you, someone in your household, or someone you will be visiting at increased risk for getting very sick from COVID-19?
- Are cases high or increasing in your community or at your destination? The more cases in your community or at your destination, the more likely you are to get and spread COVID-19 as a result of your door-to-door travel. Check CDC's COVID Data Tracker for the latest number of cases in each area. Alabama data can be viewed at alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19/index.html.
- Are hospitals in your community or at your destination overwhelmed with patients who have COVID-19? To find out, check state and local public health department websites.
- Does your home or destination have requirements or restrictions for travelers? Check state and local requirements before you travel.
- During the 14 days before your travel, have you or those you are visiting had close contact with people they don't live with?
- Do your plans include traveling by bus, train or airplane, which might make staying 6 feet apart difficult?
- Are you traveling with people who don't live with you?

If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," you should consider making other plans, such as hosting a virtual gathering or delaying your travel. If the answer is "no," and you decide to travel, the CDC advises you to take these steps:

- Check travel restrictions before you go.
- Check CDC's Domestic Travel Guidance and consider testing before and after you travel.
- Get your flu shot before you travel.
- Always wear a mask in public settings, when using public transportation, and when around people who you don't live with.
- Wear your mask correctly over your nose and mouth, secure it under your chin, and make sure it fits snugly against the sides of your face.
- Stay at least 6 feet apart from anyone who does not live with you.
- Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Avoid touching your mask, eyes, nose and mouth.
- Bring extra supplies, such as masks and hand sanitizer.
- If driving, pack your food and limit stops.
- Know when to delay your travel.

CDC recommendations include the following for people over age 65, people with significant health conditions, or people who live or work with someone at increased risk of severe illness:

- Do not to enter any indoor public spaces where anyone is unmasked.
- Have groceries and medications delivered.
- It's safe to assume anyone who has gathered with people outside their immediate household is infected with COVID-19, regardless of their lack of symptoms. These individuals should isolate themselves from anyone at increased risk for severe disease and get tested immediately.

The CDC states that people with or exposed to COVID-19 should not host or participate in any in-person gatherings if they or anyone in their household:

- Has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and has not met the criteria for when it is safe to be around others
- Has symptoms of COVID-19
- Is waiting for COVID-19 viral test results
- May have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- Is at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19

If you gather with people who do not live with you, activities held outdoors are safer than indoor gatherings. The CDC recommends:

- Have conversations with the host ahead of time to understand expectations for celebrating together.
- Bring your own food, drinks, plates, cups, utensils and condiment packets.
- Wear a mask indoors and outdoors.
- Avoid shouting or singing.
- Stay home if you are sick or have been near someone who thinks they may have or have been exposed to COVID-19.
- It's okay if you decide to stay home and remain apart from others. Do what's best for you.

Follow food safety practices at holiday celebrations. There is no evidence that handling or eating food spreads COVID-19, but it is always important to follow food safety practices. Also make sure to:

- Bring your own food, drinks, plates, cups and utensils.
- Avoid going in and out of the areas where food is being prepared or handled, such as in the kitchen.
- Use single-use options, like salad dressing and condiment packets, and disposable items like food containers, plates, and utensils.
- Use a touchless garbage can, if available.

The CDC offers important guidance and suggestions to the public about holiday celebrations at cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html

EDUCATION

Crane Hill's Kylie Wright named to Ole Miss fall 2020 Dean's Honor Roll

Rod Guajardo
Contributor

OXFORD, Miss. – Kylie Brooke Wright, of Crane Hill, AL was recently named to the University of Mississippi's Fall 2020 Honor Roll lists.

Wright was named to the Dean's Honor Roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.50-3.74.

In order to be eligible for honor roll designation, a student must have completed at least 12 graded hours for the semester and may not be on academic probation during the semester.

The University of Mississippi, affectionately known as Ole Miss, is the state's flagship university.

Included in the elite group of R1: Doctoral Universities - Highest Research Activity by the Carnegie Classification, it has a long history of producing leaders in public service, academics and business.

With more than 23,000 students, Ole Miss is the state's largest university and is ranked among the nation's fastest-growing institutions.

Its 16 academic divisions include a major medical school, nationally recognized schools of accountancy, law and pharmacy, and an Honors College acclaimed for a blend of academic rigor, experiential learning and opportunities for community action.

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 18

Funeral services for Harlan Keith Stricklin of Tuscaloosa, Alabama will be 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020 at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow at Addington Chapel Cemetery in Bremen. The family will welcome guests for a visitation on Saturday prior to the service beginning at noon at the funeral home. Mr. Stricklin was born April 5, 1967 in Cullman County and died Dec. 14, 2020 at the age of 53 in Tuscaloosa County. Harlan worked 24 years with DCH Health System where he was a Respiratory Care Team Leader at DCH Northport Hospital and will be missed as a key member of the RPT Programs Advisory Committee where he served as a dedicated Clinical Preceptor for RT students. He also worked in the sleep lab at Northport DCH and traveled to do home health care. He was a hero who gave his life to serve others and he brought joy and laughter to every person he came in contact with. He will be truly missed by every family member, friend, co-worker, and patient whose life he touched. He is survived by his mother Sherry Stricklin; brother Tom Stricklin; three sisters Cindy Stricklin, Jennifer (John) Vincent, and Janna (Terry) Fendley; nieces Meg Danish, Kristen Denney, Brittany Couey, Paige Fendley, Jordan Hogeland, and Jerrica Vincent; nephews Jared Vincent, Seth Fendley, and Noah Fendley; and best friends Mandy Thomas and Denny Blankenship. Mr. Stricklin is preceded in death by his father Tom Stricklin. In lieu of flowers please make donations to Metro Animal Shelter in Tuscaloosa.

Funeral services for Mary O. Hughes, 89, of Hanceville will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020 at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Reverend Paul Campbell will be officiating. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until service time at the funeral home. Mrs. Hughes is survived by her sister Doris Briscoe and a host of nephews. She is preceded in death by her first husband Angues South; second husband Tom Hughes; sisters Cleo Herndon, Vivian Graham, and Velma Jacobs; two brothers Dewey Hutson and Lenard Hutson; and her parents Lecil and Florence (Camp) Hutson.

Edmund Holland, 86, of Cullman, Alabama passed away Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020. Edmund was born March 8, 1934 to James F. and Margaret McNamee Holland, who preceded him in death. Edmund is survived by his wife Dorothy Gadbois Holland and daughter Ann M. Holland. A rosary for Edmund will be held Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with a funeral mass to occur Monday, Dec. 21, 2020 at 10 a.m. Father Patrick Egan OSB will officiate and interment will follow at the Catholic Cemetery. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.mossservicefh.com for the Holland family. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020 at 10 a.m. for William Charles Roberson, Sr., who passed away Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020. The visitation will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the church with a Rosary Service beginning at 7:30 p.m. The Mass and Rosary will be available via Facebook live stream on Sacred Heart Church's Facebook page. Moss Service Funeral Home directing. Mr. Roberson will be remembered as a man of great faith; he was a member and Deacon of Sacred Heart Catholic Church. He ministered by visiting the shut-ins and elderly. He loved his family and enjoyed spending time with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mr. Roberson was an English teacher at Cullman Middle School until retirement. He was preceded in death by his parents Robert Carlos and Sophia Catherine Stauch Roberson; brothers Bobby Roberson and Jimmy Roberson; sister Mary Camp; and great-grandson Tucker Evans. Survivors include his wife Sybil Juanita Jordan Roberson; daughters Penny Evans, Cynthia (Kenny) Tubbs and Claudia Frye; sons William (Kim) Roberson, Jr. and Brian (Felicia) Roberson, Sr.; 18 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Condolences and special memories may be shared with the family at www.mossservicefh.com.

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FEATURE

Christmas gifts with local flavor, part 2

Christy Perry
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CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman's local merchants are full of popular and unique Christmas gift ideas. Thursday, The Tribune stopped by a few more of the city's local businesses in an effort to find out what's hot this year and to give the last-minute shoppers some great gift ideas.

In Cullman's Warehouse District, you will find Leldon's. Owned by craftsman Leldon Maxcy, the shop features mostly items handcrafted by Maxcy and other local artists. Some of the most popular items for Christmas 2020 are hot chocolate bombs. Thursday afternoon, Maxcy was planning to later in the evening pick up a large order of these delectable goodies. So if hot chocolate bombs are on your list, run down to Leldon's Friday before they are all gone!

While there, be sure to check out the wall of unique wood and blown glass Christmas ornaments. Many of the ornaments are Cullman County- or Alabama-themed, including replicas of the German Christmas Pyramid in Cullman. For the art lovers, there are one-of-a-kind art pieces from talented local artists, including Laura Walker.

Leldon's also has homemade soaps, children's gifts, shirts, fun socks and jewelry.

Next door, Riderz has everything for the skateboarder in the family. Whether you are looking for the long boards, which are really hot right now, or traditional boards, Riderz has a large selection of boards, wheels, stickers and gear.

"The skateboard scene is a lot bigger than we had expected," Owner Scott Keller said. Keller's wife Jacqueline said she thinks COVID-19 might have played a role in the resurgence of skateboarding around town.

Riderz has a wide selection of shirts and sweatshirts. One line, created by the Kellers, is called "Front Porch Sittin'" and features many of the murals around Cullman and Cullman County created by local artists.

Portions of the sales of these shirts are given back to the community through charitable organizations. Riderz also has the popular "Grunt Style" line of clothing as well as classic Thrasher tees.

When you check out Riderz, make sure to say hello to Larry, the store's zebra mascot.

Further down the street is A Touch of German, which currently has extended hours for the holidays. This local favorite has one of the hottest gifts of the season- German Christmas pyramids, perhaps made more popular by the addition of the City of Cullman's Christmas pyramid.



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Many different hand-crafted wooden ornaments are available at Leldon's in Cullman.

Owner Judy Caples said, "The display was full just recently and I had them in all different sizes. I have some more coming in. I have some whimsical ones coming in that's a horse carousel."

Caples said she is expecting pyramids with different levels, traditional nativity and the whimsical types. A Touch of German is also where you can find the candles to complete your Christmas pyramid.

Also popular are the German smokers and nutcrackers. Chocolates, teas and spices are big sellers, too. Caples smiled, "You can't go wrong with food!"

A Touch of German also has Russian nesting dolls, German ornaments, cuckoo clocks, vintage toys and hinge boxes, heirloom gifts that could be passed down.

Find part one at www.cullmantribune.com/2020/12/16/christmas-gifts-with-local-flavor.

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