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– LOCAL GOVERNMENT –

West Point council amends budget; Town employees get bonus

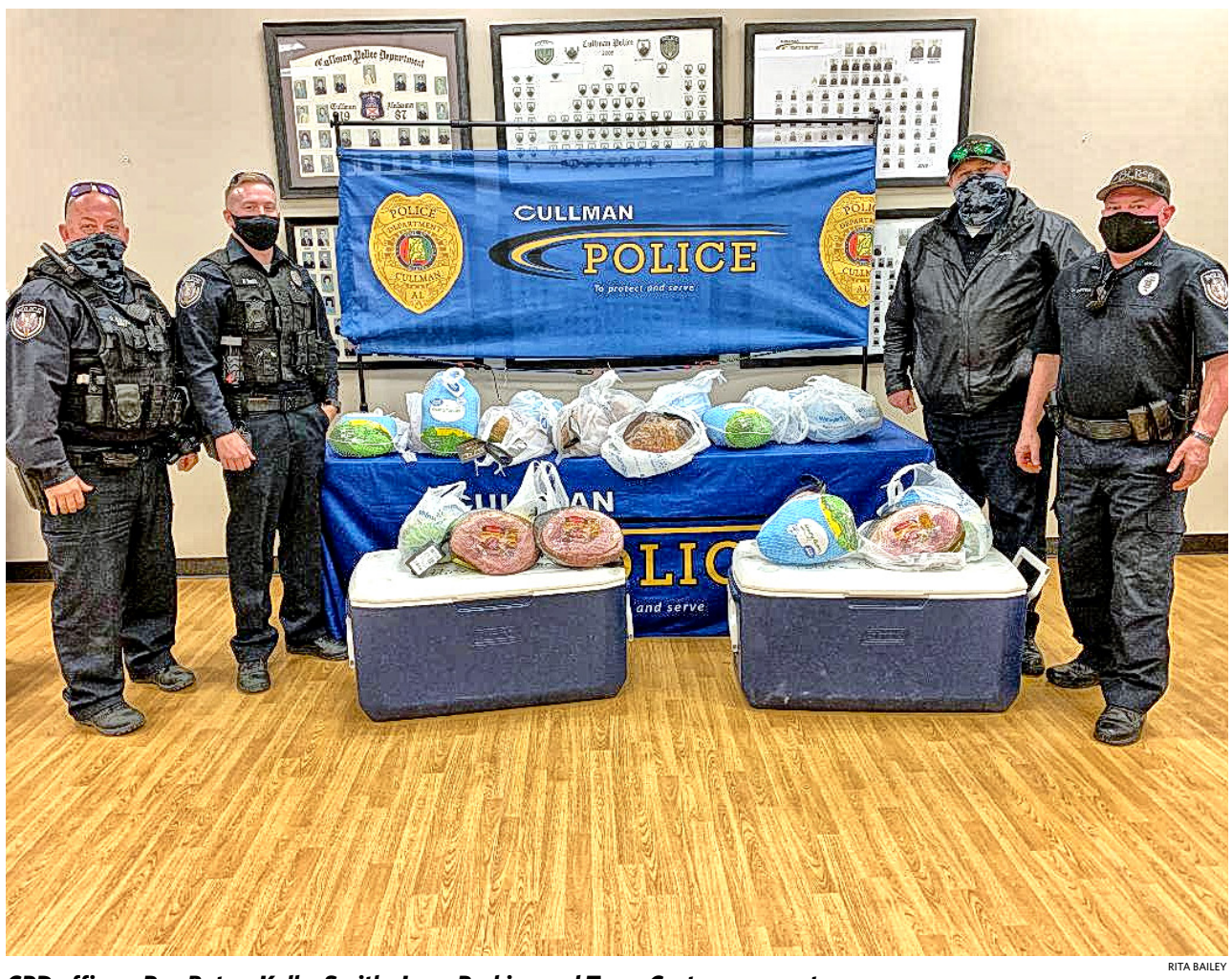
West Point Mayor Gerald Schafer speaks during the town council's meeting Monday night.

» PAGE 5



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Police surprise safe drivers with Christmas goodies



RITA BAILEY

CPD officers Roy Bates, Kolby Smith, Jerry Perkins and Tracy Carter prepare to hit the road with coolers full of hams and turkeys Tuesday morning.

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman Police Department (CPD) spent some time Tuesday prowling the city streets in search of . . . good drivers!

Armed with ice chests full of hams and turkeys, officers looked for drivers exhibiting safe driving habits, and rewarded them for their good behavior.

As officers were preparing for the hunt Tuesday morning, Police Chief Kenny Culpepper told The Tribune, "We did that during Thanksgiving, too, and it was very successful, so we're going to do that.

"If the officers see somebody driving in a good, safe manner, we'll reward them instead of penalize with a ticket."

CPD Administrative Assistant Rita Bailey coordinated the project.

HEALTH

'We continue to see families struggling and patients fighting for their lives'

Cullman Regional reports 75 COVID-19 patients, 18 on ventilators » PAGE 2

'We are there for them and will continue to be there during this pandemic'

Checking in with Cullman EMS » PAGE 7

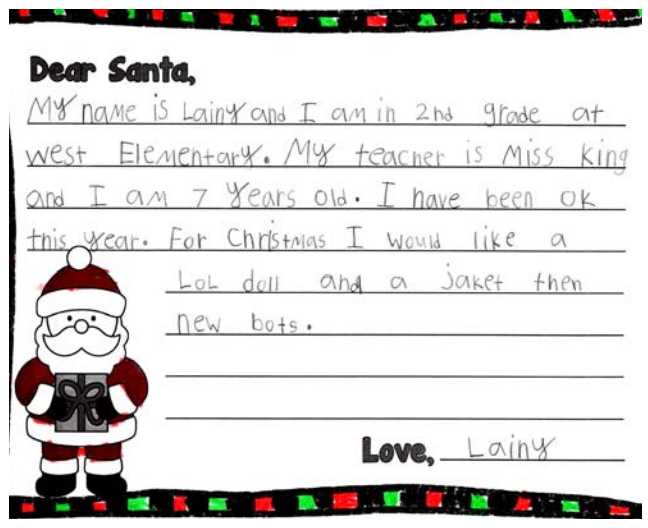
Holiday safety: Tips to keep thieves at bay



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Shoppers pack the North Shopping Center in Cullman Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020. » PAGE 7

Letters to Santa



» PAGE 6

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Free public Wi-Fi now available in Garden City Park

Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

GARDEN CITY, Ala. – As of Monday, Dec. 21, residents of Garden City can access free public Wi-Fi in the park across from town hall every day from 6 a.m.-10:30 p.m.

A project that's been months in the making, the Wi-Fi is being paid for by the Town, according to Mayor Tim Eskew, who said the project was turned down for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funding.

"Other municipalities got similar projects covered by CARES, but they turned us down, so we just went ahead and did it on our own," he commented. "But now it's up and running, no password required or anything."

Eskew said the time it took to complete the project was due to a lack of proper equipment.

"It's been trouble getting all the parts we need to do it with," he said. "Our installer's been ready, but the parts we needed hadn't come in."

On how many devices the park's Wi-Fi can support, Eskew said, "Oh, it'll be able to run a bunch. Our tech guy was very shocked at the speed of the internet there, so he felt it would be able to run a lot of devices. It'll really help our folks a lot, especially with the kids going back to school in a little while - they can come over to the park and do their homework."



WAT THE TECH?

Technology company What the Tech? installed Wi-Fi equipment in Garden City Park.

The mayor said the system will also benefit residents living along County Road 509, where many experience Wi-Fi difficulties. Wat the Tech?, the technology company that installed the system, posted an image on its Facebook page showing that the system provides an upload speed of more than 11 Mbps and a download speed of more than 200 Mbps.

Eskew said he and the council are excited to bring this service to the residents of Garden City, smiling, "We just feel like this will be a big boost for a lot of people around here."

Cullman Regional (from Front)

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman Regional is still seeing record numbers of COVID-19 hospitalizations, with the Christmas holiday almost here and fears that people gathering to celebrate could bring about a spike that might overwhelm the system in January. As of Tuesday morning, the hospital had 75 COVID patients, with 18 of those on ventilators.

Cullman Regional's Critical Care Unit (CCU) normally has 12 beds; that means it is currently operating at 150% capacity.

"Unfortunately, our numbers continue to increase," said Cullman Regional Vice President, Marketing Lindsey Dossey. "We continue to see families struggling and patients fighting for their lives through this virus. Once again, what happens over the next couple of weeks totally depends on the community members we serve."

She continued, "We ask everyone to remain vigilant and safe over the Christmas holiday.

"It's up to our community for us to see a decrease in numbers."

According to the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), Cullman County added 120 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, with 4,641 cases confirmed across the county since the beginning of the pandemic.

Of those, 1,166 were confirmed in just the last 14 days. Statewide, the ADPH reported 3,548 new confirmed cases in the last 24 hours, with 54,006 in the last 14 days.

The ADPH also reported a record high 2,527 patients currently hospitalized across the state.

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020 COVID-19 update from the Alabama Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Data and Surveillance Dashboard

- Total confirmed cases in AL: 268,339 (+3,548 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in AL: 61,472 (+1,431 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in AL: 3,910 (+61 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in AL: 542
- Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co.: 4,641 (+120 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in Cullman Co.: 1,814 (+41 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in Cullman Co.: 55 (+1 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in Cullman Co.: 14
- Total tested in Cullman Co.: 29,992
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 2,438
- Cases in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 1,166
- Total tested in Alabama: 1,800,979
- Cases in the last 14 days in Alabama: 54,006
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Alabama: 140,495
- Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 2,527
- Cumulative no. of hospitalizations in Alabama: 31,305
- Presumed recoveries in Alabama (reported weekly): 183,625

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank Closed until Jan. 4
The St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church will be closed until Jan. 4, 2021. It will reopen with regular hours Monday, Jan. 4, from 9-11:45 a.m. on regular days: Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings
The Grace of God group of Alcoholics Anonymous has open AA meetings (all are welcome) Monday and Thursday nights from 7-8 p.m. at the Carriage House, located next to Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St. NE Cullman. Contact phone numbers: 256-347-1097, 256-841-2209 or 256-708-1340

Church Services- Spirit Life Church of GOD
• Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Prayer meetings- Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Please join us to pray or come for prayer.
• Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
• Sundays at 10 a.m. adult, youth and children's classes; 11 a.m. children's classes; praise and worship, and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd
• Dec. 23, 7 p.m. Candle Lighting & Communion Service by Pastor Bobby Dodd. Everyone welcome! 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. 23 and 26-27 (drive thru-only the 26-27). Dec. 23 will be the last day for the train.
• 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!
• 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. 26 - 4-9 p.m.
Dec. 30,31 - 4-9 p.m.

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

City, County Holiday Hours, Sanitation Schedules
• Cullman County offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, Dec. 24-25 in observance of the Christmas holiday. The offices will also be closed Thursday and Friday, Dec. 31-Jan. 1 in observance of the New Year's holiday.
• Cullman County sanitation routes will run normally on these days.
• City of Cullman offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, Dec. 24-25 in observance of the Christmas holiday.
• Residential and commercial sanitation trucks will run their regular routes Christmas Eve, but there will be no sanitation service on Christmas Day.
• City of Cullman offices will be closed Friday, Jan. 1 on New Year's Day.
• There are no residential sanitation/recycling services on Fridays, but commercial sanitation will run as normal on New Year's Day.

Cullman County Cattlemen and Cattle-Women Annual Meeting Canceled
Our annual meeting was planned for Jan. 9, 2021 at Stonebridge Farms in Cullman. Due to the record number of COVID-19 cases and our annual meeting being 15 days after Christmas, we feel it is in the best interest of our members to postpone our annual meeting until a later date. We will reschedule and as soon as we have a date. You still need to renew your memberships so that you do not see an interruption in your Alabama Cattlemen's magazine and your other member benefits. We can do this for you. Please reach out to us on Facebook or get in touch with any of our directors and they can help you.

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STATE

Ivey: Germany's Heiche plans AL facility, creating 70+ jobs in Jasper

Cullman Tribune Staff
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – Governor Kay Ivey announced Tuesday that Germany-based Heiche Surface Technologies plans a substantial investment to open an advanced metals coating facility in Jasper, creating at least 73 jobs and expanding Walker County's footprint in Alabama's auto industry.

Heiche, whose customers include automakers and suppliers, will locate its manufacturing operation to a more than 100,000-square-foot speculative building in the Jasper Industrial Park, just two miles away from Interstate 22.

"Alabama's automotive industry continues to spark economic growth throughout many parts of the state, and that robust growth is transforming Jasper into a hub for international automotive suppliers," Ivey said.

"Heiche is a welcome addition to the automotive supply chain emerging in the Walker County city and all across Sweet Home Alabama."

Construction on Heiche's new Alabama facility is expected to begin in coming weeks, with operations expected to start by October 2021.

Founded in 1965, Heiche operates facilities in Germany, Hungary and Poland, as well as a U.S. operation in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Heiche, which specializes in the chemical surface treatment of metal parts, serves the automotive, machinery and electronics industries.

In 2018, Heiche became part of the publicly traded KAP AG, and a key component of its surface technologies segment.

Within this segment, the KAP Surface Technologies group operates in 10 locations with more than 800 employees.

"Despite ongoing uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic and widespread reductions or restructurings in the automotive industry, KAP Surface Technologies continues to invest and expand its operations," said Nicolai A.J. Baum, CEO of KAP Surface Technologies.

"By expanding its existing U.S. manufacturing footprint in the strategically well-situated Walker County, KAP Surface Technologies expects to strengthen its position in the U.S. market."

Heiche will become the fifth automotive supplier – and the first German company -- to operate a manufacturing facility in Jasper, which is located within 250 miles of 11 different automotive assembly plants in the Southeast.

Existing automotive suppliers, primarily Japanese, currently employ more than 500 people in Jasper.

"We chose Jasper because we see a huge potential for development," said Jürgen Werner, head of mergers and acquisitions as well as Greenfield Investments at KAP Surface Technologies. "Close location to the biggest players in the automotive industry, hospitality of the local authorities, and great infrastructure are some of the key aspects, which resulted in our decision for this location."

Following extensive exchanges with local representatives, Werner added: "Another and in my personal opinion most important point are people. We immediately felt at home here."

"Germany's Heiche is an innovative company that specializes in sophisticated metal-coating processes used in auto manufacturing," said Greg Canfield, secretary of the Alabama Department of Commerce.

"Along with new jobs in Jasper, Heiche will bring new expertise and advanced technological capabilities to the state's increasingly dynamic auto industry. We welcome them as a partner."

State Senator Greg Reed said the announcement is great news for Jasper and Walker County.

"Heiche is a premier company that will bring with it high-paying jobs and millions of dollars of investment to our community," Reed said. "I applaud all involved in bringing this project to our area."

The Walker County Development Authority, the Jasper Industrial Development Board and the City of Jasper have been working on the Heiche project for the past four months.

"Job growth is the very core of growing a city and on behalf of all in city government we are pleased with the decision by Heiche to locate in Jasper," Mayor David O'Mary said.

"We welcome the Heiche team and look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship."

David Knight, executive director of the Walker County Development Authority, said the recruitment of Heiche to Walker County reflects Alabama's "Team" approach to economic development.



OFFICE OF GOV. KAY IVEY

Rendering of the Heiche plant to be located in Jasper

"The cooperation between the state, local leaders, industrial boards, utilities and regional allies was critical to the successful recruitment of Heiche," Knight said.

"As an industry leader in advanced metal coatings, Heiche and their state-of-the-art facility are a welcome addition to our community and will help further our efforts to grow and diversify our local economy."



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

PREP BASKETBALL

Warriors, Lady Warriors split home matchups with Fyffe

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

WEST POINT, Ala. – The Fyffe Red Devils made the trip to West Point for a pair of varsity matchups against the Warriors and split their meetings against the home teams. The Lady Warriors took the first game 67-44 but the Red Devils were able to topple the Warriors 69-42 in the boys' matchup.

West Point 67 – Fyffe 44 (varsity girls)

A pair of Lexi Shadix baskets and a score by Braelee Quinn gave West Point an early 6-0 advantage to start the game and a three-pointer from Braelee kept the Lady Warriors in front 9-4 midway through the first quarter. Fyffe began to cut into the lead but another basket by Quinn made it a 12-9 game with just over a minute to play in the period. A Shadix layup stretched the lead to five but the Lady Red Devils buried a three just before the buzzer to trim the lead to 14-12 going into the second quarter.

Shadix was fouled on a made three-pointer at the start of the second and she netted the free throw to complete the 4-point play and give West Point an 18-14 lead. A bucket from Kylee Quinn followed by four straight made free throws by Shadix extended the lead to 24-14 with six minutes remaining in the opening half and the run continued for the Lady Warriors. Braelee Quinn and Shadix continued to score and Kaylee Faulkner capped off a 16-0 run with a three-pointer from the left corner. Shadix scored inside on back to back possessions to give West Point a 37-23 lead with a minute to play in the second and the Lady Warriors went to the locker room with a 38-23 advantage at the break.

Back to back put-backs by Shadix made it a 42-25 game early in the third quarter and Braelee Quinn added back to back three-pointers to stretch the lead to 48-25. Quinn drilled another shot from long range to make it 51-32 with just under two minutes to play in the period and after a Ryleigh Jones layup with 45 seconds remaining, the Lady Warriors went into the final frame leading Fyffe 53-36.

A pair of Jones free throws extended the lead to 19 early in the fourth and Kylee Quinn scored another basket inside to make it 57-37 with six minutes to play. Faulkner buried another three midway through the quarter to keep West Point ahead comfortably and the Lady Warriors were able to cruise to a 67-44 win over the Lady Red Devils.

Shadix led West Point with 29 points in the win. Braelee Quinn added 19, Faulkner finished with eight and Kylee Quinn added five. The Lady Warriors will be back home tomorrow night to face the Good Hope Lady Raiders.

Fyffe 69 – West Point 42 (varsity boys)

Kobe Bowers started things off with a three-pointer on West Point's first possession of the night, but the Red Devils responded quickly with a 9-0 run to take an early lead. Bowers knocked down another three to cut it to 9-6 and a Sam Wheeler basket trimmed the lead to one midway through the first.

Fyffe began to pull ahead but a Carter Thornton trey stopped the run and made it a 14-11 game.

Another Bowers long ball cut the Red Devil lead to two with three minutes to play in the first but an 11-3 run to close the quarter gave Fyffe a 27-17 advantage going into the second.

The run continued for the Red Devils until Will Cochran scored inside to make it 32-20 and Bowers added another three to make it 34-23 with just over four minutes remaining in the half. Cochran was able to score a couple more times in the paint, but Fyffe continued to put up points on the other end and the Warriors went into the locker room trailing 42-27 at the half.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Lexi Shadix (1) led the Lady Warriors with 29 points in their 67-44 win over Fyffe Monday night.

Wheeler drove to the basket and laid one in to cut the lead to 13 at the start of the second and Bowers added a mid-range jumper to make it a 44-31 game. Bowers dropped in a running floater to stop another Red Devils run and trim the lead to 49-33 midway through the third, but Fyffe was able to build a 53-35 lead going into the fourth.

Bowers drilled his fifth three-pointer of the game to cut it to 17 early in the fourth quarter and Wheeler was able to get another shot to fall midway through the period but the Warriors were held to just seven points in the final frame and Fyffe went on to win it 69-42.

Bowers led West Point with 19 points in the loss, followed by Cochran with eight and Wheeler and Thornton with six. The Warriors will try to bounce back tomorrow when they host Good Hope.

Pro Football Hall of Famer Kevin Greene passes away

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. – Auburn letterman Kevin Greene, who went from playing intramural football to leading the SEC in sacks to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, died Monday at the age of 58.

A fifth-year senior in 1984, Greene was the SEC's defensive player of the year, despite not cracking Auburn's starting lineup until the final four games of the season,

He walked on and played special teams on Auburn's 1983 SEC championship team after spending his first three falls on the Plains playing for Auburn's Army ROTC intramural team.

"Unbeknownst to me, I ended up leading the SEC in sacks with 11," Greene said in 2016 after being elected into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Greene received the Zeke Smith Award as Auburn's defensive player of the year in '84. Then came a season-ending exit interview with Coach Pat Dye.

"I asked him, 'Do you think I have a chance to play in the NFL?'" Greene said. "And he said, 'Yes, absolutely. There's a place out there somewhere for you.' That was really cool for him to say that. And that's really all the encouragement I needed.

"Next thing I knew I got drafted in the fifth round by the Los Angeles Rams. It was golden because I got my foot in the door. Now it was on me in training camp whether I was going to succeed or fail, and I wasn't going to fail. That wasn't even an option."

Kevin Greene said it was a blessing to play at Auburn for Pat Dye

"He had an unbelievable work ethic," former Auburn coach Pat Dye said in 2016. "Didn't make any difference whether he was running sprints, or any competitive drill that we ran, it was important to him that he win. And he displayed that on the field.

"Nobody in the country played the game with more rage, effort. I don't know that I've ever coached anybody who had more desire to be good than Kevin."

Former Auburn assistant coach Joe Whitt was Greene's position coach in 1983-84.

"One of the hardest-working guys I've ever been around," Whitt said. "Just relentless and very confident and was willing to do whatever it took to be successful.

"He had his mind made up that he wanted to play football at the highest level and really worked at the game."

Former Auburn fullback Tommie Agee was Greene's Auburn teammate in 1983-84 and competed against him in the NFL.

"He became a superstar," Agee said. "I saw a guy who was determined to make it. He got to the point where he was one of the best linebackers and defensive ends out there.

"I'll remember him as someone who never gave up. He gave you all he had from the first whistle until the last whistle blew. He was dedicated to making sure he helped his teammates win, an unselfish guy. He always put the team first. He went out there every day to get better and to make his teammates better.

"The competition and camaraderie we had were second to none. He was a great teammate, a brother. Someone who would go to battle with you and you wouldn't have to worry about your back."

Greene's two seasons at Auburn served him well in the pros.

"Everything I learned the last two years under Pat Dye down there on the Plains," he said. "That work ethic that I learned on the practice field lasted me a lifetime in the NFL. I was moving head and shoulders, so much quicker, passing everybody in practice that training camp of 1985.

I was just practicing at a whole another level than those vets. That ended up being why I made the active roster my rookie year."

The former walk-on who started four games at Auburn played 15 seasons in the NFL, recording 160 sacks, third most in history behind only Bruce Smith and Reggie White.

Enshrined in 2016 in his fifth year as a finalist, Greene joined Frank Gatski as Auburn's Hall of Famers.

In his enshrinement speech in Canton, Ohio, in 2016, Greene paid tribute to Auburn.

"The good Lord has smiled upon me my entire life," Greene told the crowd. "A recurring theme is that He surrounded me with people of high character and great integrity, and they have all left an indelible mark on the very fabric of my life.

"I go on to Auburn, and



AU ATHLETICS

Former Auburn star and Pro Football Hall of Famer died Monday at the age of 58.

I get a chance to practice against a fellow by the name of Steve Wallace. Steve Wallace was a beast at offensive tackle. He would go on to play 12 years in the National Football League, three-time All-Pro. He won three Super Bowls with the San Francisco 49ers protecting Joe Montana and Steve Young.

"And this man in practice, he beat me down. No doubt he did, and I felt the wrath of my position coach, Joe Whitt. That's okay, I learned.

"And I practiced against another fellow at Auburn everybody would know. Nis name is Vincent "Bo" Jackson. Everybody knows Bo. I'm going to be honest. Bo, he ran my (tail) over. But I've got a peace about it, honestly, because he ran a lot of (tails) over. Again, I felt the wrath of my position coach, but I learned.

"Surrounded by great teammates, John Dailey, Gerald Robinson, Lionel "Little Train" James and David King. And they all made me better. They helped me find my way as a walk-on there with the Auburn Tigers.

"It was a blessing. It was a blessing playing for Pat Dye and his staff down at Auburn. And what I learned during those days, those hot, tough days down on the Plains would literally last me an eternity in the NFL.

"I love Auburn. I am Auburn, and War Damn Eagle to all my brothers and sisters out there. I love you all."

Greene won a Super Bowl ring in 2010 coaching linebackers for Green Bay. After five seasons with the Packers, he stepped away from coaching in 2014 to spend time with his children before they went to college.

"I found success in coaching just by breaking it down to the Nth degree and removing as much gray area as I possibly could," Greene said. "I provided as much clarity about the position that I could possibly provide. For me, that was a no-brainer because I developed such a good intuition about playing outside linebacker for 15 years. I could easily communicate and teach that, whether they're going to give me first-round draft choices, or free agents out of nowhere. I could communicate to them, and consequently, they were going to be better players."

During Greene's NFL playing days, he frequently returned to Auburn for sessions that would prepare him to excel in coaching.

"I made a point to come back to Auburn and visit with the linebackers and defensive ends," he said.

"Coach Joe Whitt, my position coach at Auburn, asked me to come back as often as I could to talk to those young men about what it was like playing in the NFL. What it took, the work ethic, and being a student.

"I'd show them film in the meeting rooms of different techniques that worked for me in the NFL. So, I'd been coming back and doing these small little seminars for coach Whitt's linebackers, how to rush the passer, and give them little tricks of the trade. The right way to do things at that next level. Pad level, hand placement, strike point, all of the little fundamentals of the position. I've always enjoyed continuing my relationship of giving back to those fine young men playing for Auburn.

There's no secret why Greene was able to play so well for so long, he said in 2016.

"I think it just starts with the Good Lord blessing me," Greene said. "But I will also say this. A big reason why I was able to achieve the success that I did, of course I had to stay healthy, and I give that credit to the Good Lord, but my habits were right. All of my habits were spot on."

In five key areas – workouts, practice, eating, sleeping and studying – Greene was uncompromising.

"When I went in the weight room, I didn't joke around," he said. "I hit it hard. I did what the coaches wanted me to do and then some."

That continued on the practice field.

"I just wasn't good enough just to take off in practice during the week and then show up on game day and have a spectacular game," Greene said. "It just didn't work that way for me so I really had to practice at game-day tempo.

"My eating habits were good. I had to maintain weight around 243 or 245. I figured that was my optimum playing weight. So, I couldn't get any bigger or I couldn't get any smaller.

"My sleep habits were spot-on. I didn't burn the candle at both ends, so to speak. My sleep habits were really, really good. I was getting eight, 10, 12 hours of sleep a night to recover from those practices and those games.

"And finally, I think my study habits were outstanding. I put in my time to study opponents. Offensive sets and formations, and what they liked to do, and what their tendencies were, and what they liked to run out of certain personnel groupings. Then I would have formation recognition, pre-snap, that I could pretty much almost anticipate the play based on who was in the game, and how they lined up. I had formation recognition, and that's all based off what I watched on film that previous week on my opponent.

"I also studied my individual opponent. That offensive tackle. How he's going to block me. How deep the quarterback was in the pocket. I studied the game. And I think there are a lot of people out there playing professional football, but I think there are few professionals playing football."

EDUCATION

Wallace State Mechatronics program instructors earn NC3 certifications; training equipment upgrades

Russell Moore
WSCC

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – Wallace State Community College's popular Mechatronics/Electronics/Robotics program will start the new year with a number of enhancements. It recently benefited from new NC3 (National Coalition of Certification Centers) certifications and a grant for new equipment.

The Mechatronics Department acquired significant new equipment this semester as a result of an ALAMAP (Alabama Advanced manufacturing Apprenticeship Program) grant, developed by the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) office.

As a subrecipient of the grant, Wallace State currently has or will receive the following equipment: Fluid Power Hydraulics/Pneumatics, PLC Trainers Siemens and Allen Bradley, AC/DC Training Systems, Industrial Motor Controls Training Systems, Electromechanical Trainers, Pump, and Mechanical Drive Training System.

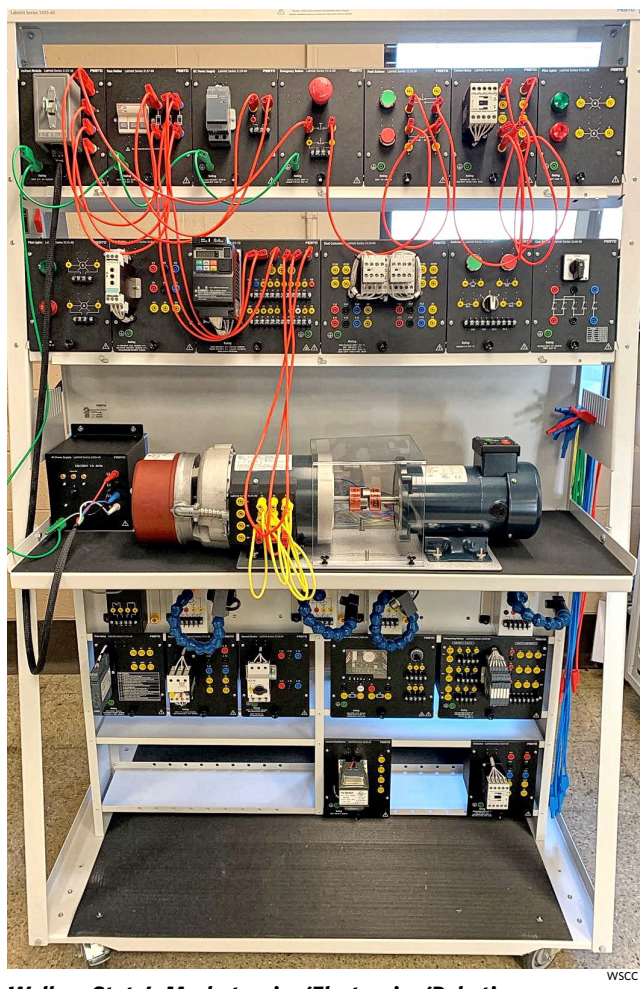
Program head Jerry Murcks and instructors Dean Autry and James McKenzie also boast multiple NC3 certifications in Electricity, Fluid Power, Sensor Technology and PLCs (both Siemens and Allen Bradley). They teach these certifications to students, who graduate with extremely competitive qualifications that make them increasingly attractive to employers.

NC3 certified courses at Wallace State now include Concepts of Direct Current (ILT 160), Concepts of Alternating Current (ILT 161), Hydraulics/Pneumatics (ILT 168), Sensors Technologies and Applications (ILT 240), Intro to PLCs (ILT 194) and Advance PLCs (ILT 196).

"Once our students complete these specific courses, they'll carry the certifications to any job they choose across the U.S. This is an important step for our instructors, students and program," Murcks said. "The NC3 certification curriculum is detailed and great education for our instructors."

In addition to Mechatronics, Wallace State offers NC3 training in the following programs: Automotive Service Technology, Building Construction, Collision Repair, Diesel Technology, Engineering Technology, HVAC, Machine Tool Technology and Welding.

NC3 is a network of education providers and corporations that, together, embody passion and the highest standards for innovative CTE models and produce a sustainable, highly-skilled workforce. It was established to help build a workforce prepared to meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's industries by connecting employers and educational institutions in partnerships that foster effective training, elevation of skilled careers and employment opportunities.



WSCC

Wallace State's Mechatronics/Electronics/Robotics program has recently earned NC3 certifications and received new training equipment.

The ALAMAPS grant is also designed to narrow the skills gap in advanced manufacturing by expanding industry-recognized apprenticeships. It includes pre-apprenticeships, short-term apprenticeships and the college's FAME apprenticeships.

Wallace State's Mechatronics program offers the North Central Alabama Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (F.A.M.E.) apprenticeship program, among others, allowing students the opportunity to earn wages while completing an associate degree in Industrial Maintenance. Over a two-year span, students in F.A.M.E. can earn as much as $33,500, spending two days per week in the classroom and three days per week in the industry.

The latest F.A.M.E. cohort was recognized on campus earlier this semester.

Autry and McKenzie joined Wallace State's Mechatronics program as instructors this year. McKenzie is the lead instructor at the Wallace State-Oneonta site, and Autry was among the key individuals in establishing the inaugural GOFAME chapter in Owensboro, Kentucky, before it expanded into different states, including Alabama.

"I'm impressed with the great support the Applied Technologies Division has at Wallace State and the overall positive culture of the campus. One of the great things about F.A.M.E. is a student earns an education, while also getting experience at a particular job. Students have little to no debt when the program is complete, and they have a great chance to continue to work for that company and better things for their lives and families. That's what it's all about," Autry said. "I'm impressed with the F.A.M.E. chapter here and what has been accomplished in a short time. There's a great need for multi-craft maintenance technicians all over the United States. It's not limited to Kentucky or Alabama."

For more information on the program, contact Murcks at 256-352-8154, email jerry.murcks@wallacestate.edu or visit www.wallacestate.edu/mechatronics.

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

West Point (from Front)

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

WEST POINT, Ala. – The West Point Town Council voted Monday night to amend the Town's 2020-2021 budget to include the cost of repaving County Road 1141.

The cost for the approximately 2 miles of roadway inside the town limits was $307,273.82. The work was done by Good Hope Contracting. The project was paid for by Rebuild Alabama gas tax funds and the Town's money market fund, according to Town Clerk Joann Jones.

The repaving project went over budget $23,651.82, and the council approved paying that amount to Good Hope Contracting.

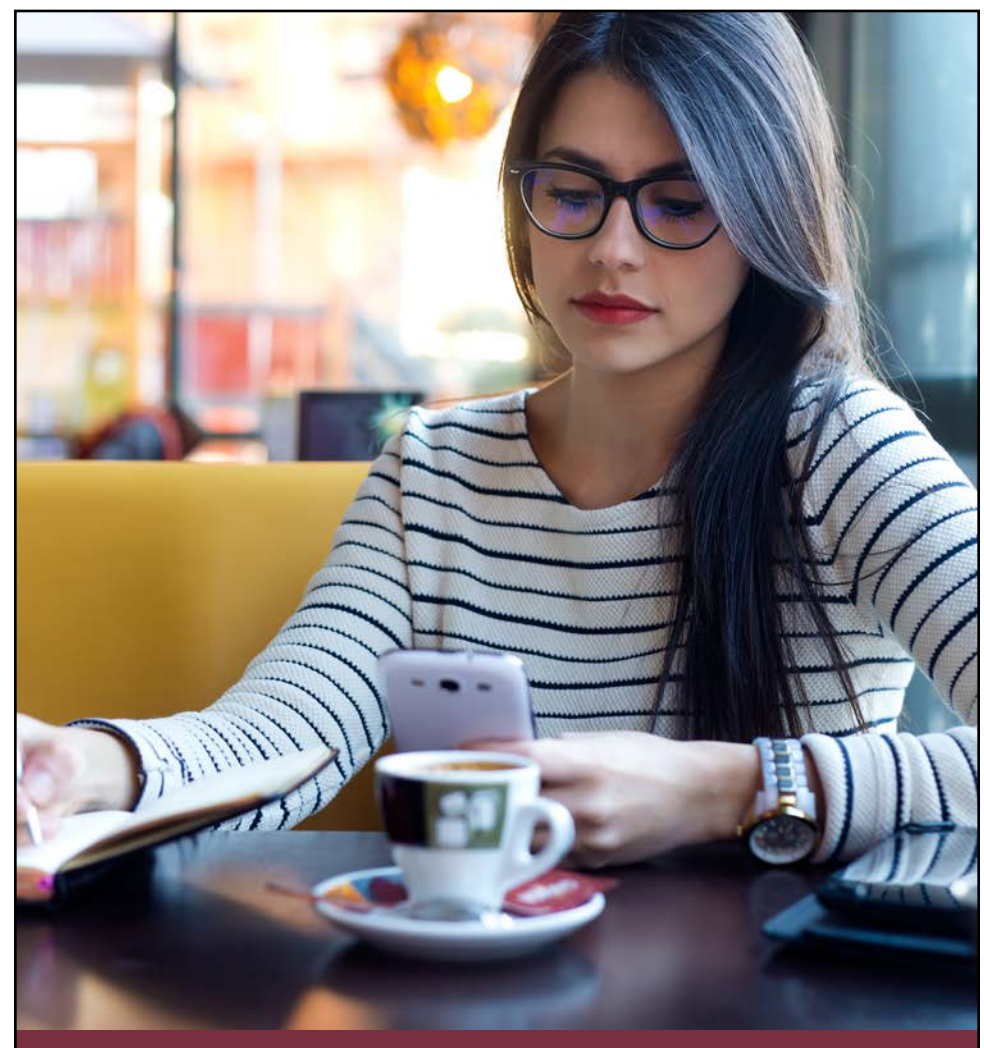
The council also passed a resolution changing the wording of the grant for the turn lane project for Dale's Market. The original wording of the grant said Dale's would employ 20 people, but the number was reduced to 12.

Mayor Gerald Schafer said of the change to the grant paperwork, "We got $120,000, so we are still alright. They have 12 employees and they allowed $10,000 per employee so it's just a change in the wording."

The council also approved a one-time pay adjustment of $1,200 for both of the Town's full-time employees: the town clerk and the park/maintenance director

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UNIROYAL MICHELIN

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!

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

Dear Santa,

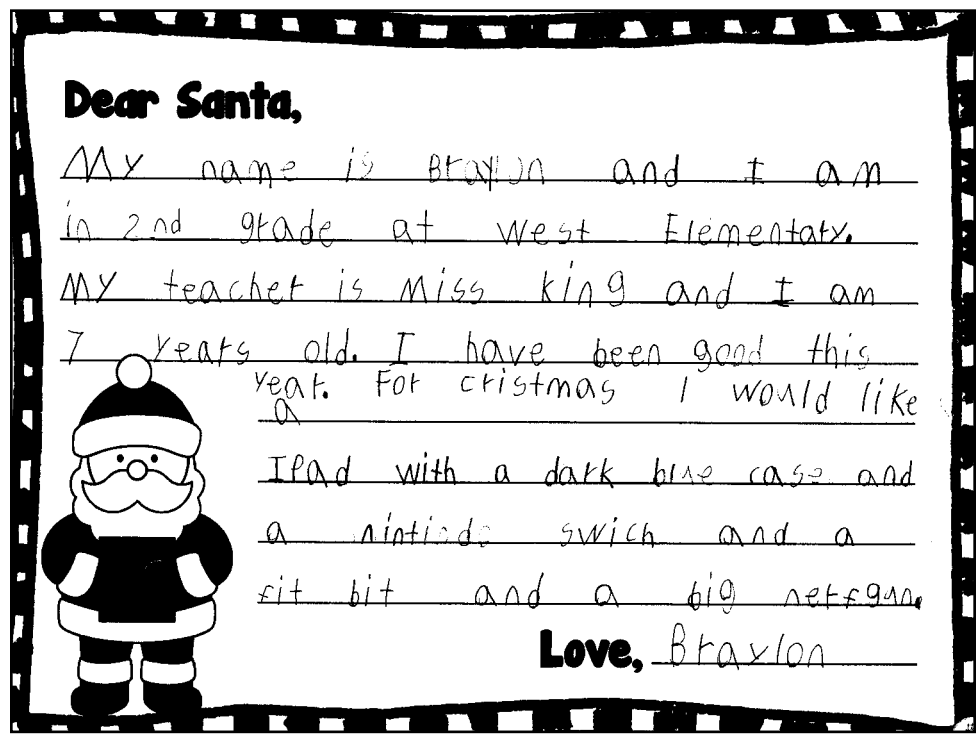
Merry Christmas! Thank you for our presents last Christmas! We have worked very hard to be good boys and girls this year! We hope that you, Mrs. Claus, all the elves and the Reindeer are doing well in the North Pole. Our wish this year is for all the world to be safe and healthy. We also hope you can send our favorite toy!

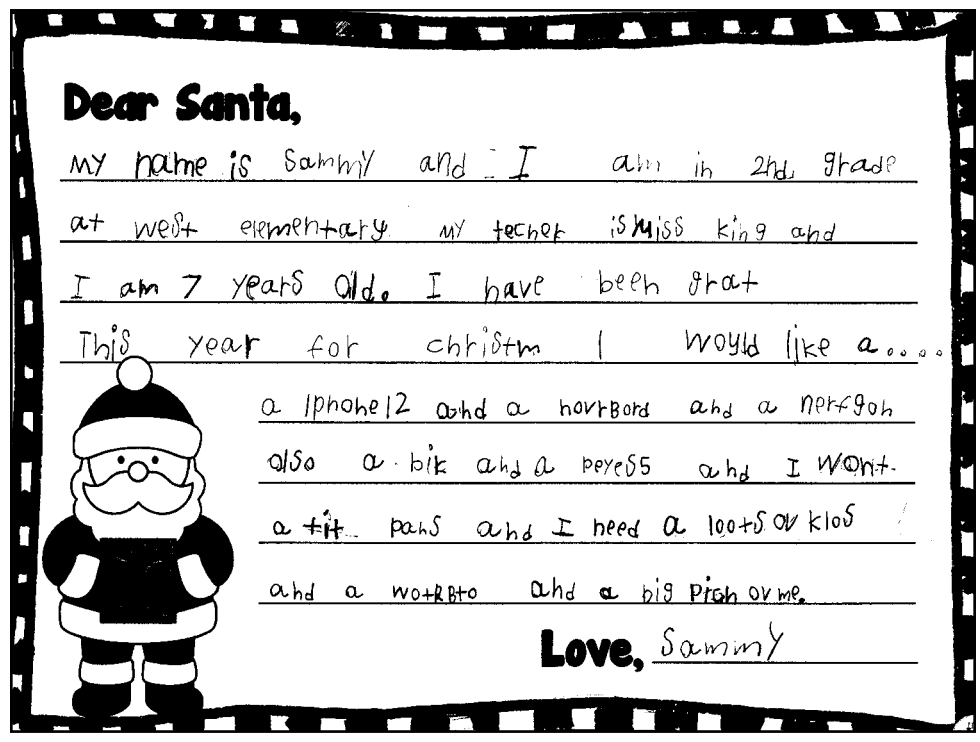
Camila- Robo Bunny
Lane- RC Car
Aleigha- Makeup set
Hunter- Tablet
Emily- Disney Descendants Dolls
Camm- Nintendo Switch
Ryleigh- Stuffed Rudolph
Melody- Keychain with key to the North Pole
Jax- Minecraft Lego set
Zaida- Glow in the dark Seashell necklace
Kaira- Blue Cup
Aslyn- Unicorn earrings
Tucker- Nintendo Switch
Mia- real live Bunny
Lindie- RC Barbie Car

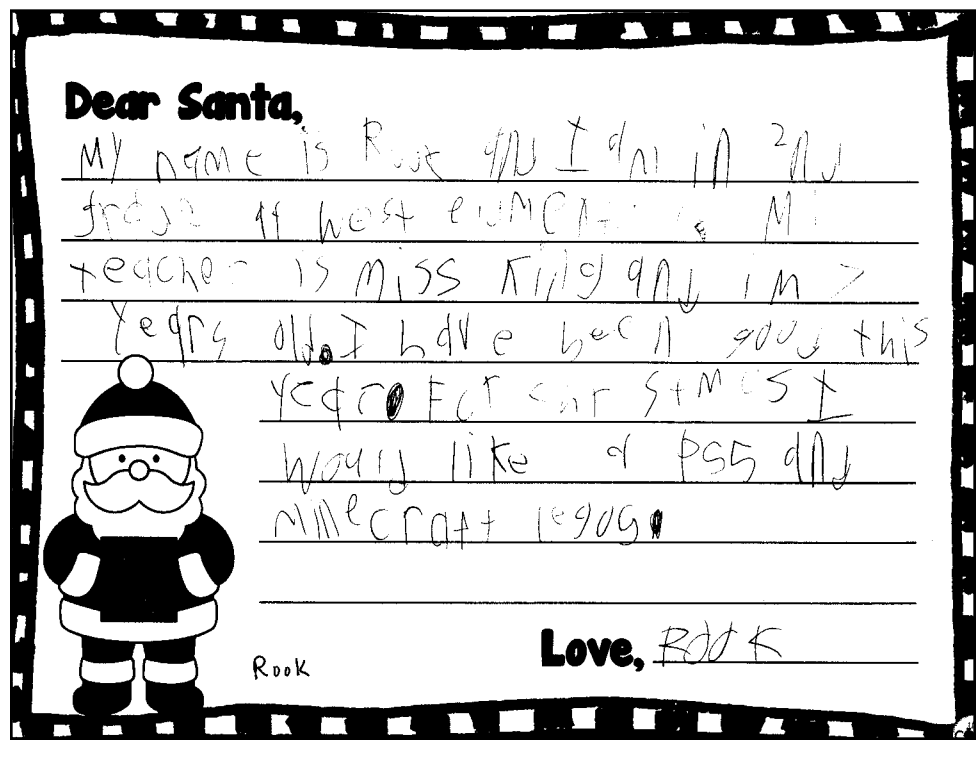
We love you Santa! We hope you enjoy the milk and cookies that we will leave for you. Also, we'll have a special treat for the reindeer! Give Mrs. Claus a hug from us.

Love,
Mrs. Barbee's 1st Grade Class
Welti Elementary

Miss King's Second Grade Class
West Elementary







EMS (from Front)

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Some of the perhaps most unsung heroes in the COVID-19 pandemic are the paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) who make up Cullman Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

According to Cullman EMS Director James Curtis, his department runs 14 paramedics and EMTs per day in seven ambulances.

In all, he said, 30 EMS employees have contracted COVID-19 this year.

So, what has changed in the department's day-to-day operations due to COVID-19?

To keep its employees safe, Curtis said, "We have provided PPE (personal protective equipment) to the field crews and we use a COVID screening tool when taking 911 calls to alert the crews of any possible COVID-19 symptoms before they arrive on scene.

"We are using a fogger system to decontaminate the ambulances and have installed hand-sanitizing stations in each ambulance."

Curtis said the pandemic has not changed the way in which EMTs and paramedics deal with patients.

"Nothing has changed other than we now have a COVID screening tool when evaluating patients," he said. "We continue to provide care for the people of Cullman that need us - just as we always have and always will."

Said James, "We have added the use of a fogger system to sanitize the ambulances and office space.

"The crews have a regular cleaning schedule to complete each day."

Still, 30 Cullman EMS employees have contracted COVID-19 this year.

"A total of 30 employees have contracted COVID," said James.

"It is unknown if those were contracted while at work, but Cullman Regional has treated each of these as if it were a confirmed exposure at work and paid the employees while they are at home recovering.

"We follow the CDC guidelines for exposure and positive test results. Employees are sent home until they are cleared by our employee health nurse to return to work."

Cullman EMS responds to emergency calls throughout Cullman County, and James has a message for the community.

"I want the community to know that we are there for them and will continue to be there during this pandemic," he said.

""We want them to be safe and follow the CDC guidelines for handwashing and wearing a mask while around other people in order to help slow the spread of this illness."

Safety (from Front)

Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – When gifts and presents abound, so do burglars and thieves looking for easy targets. As people make last-minute shopping trips in the next few days and receive presents through the weekend, many may be concerned about how to keep themselves and their belongings safe. To get some advice on the matter, The Tribune talked to Cullman Police Chief Kenny Culpepper and Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry.

Shopping in person

Culpepper: "When doing last-minute shopping, don't leave your packages in plain view - put them in the trunk and keep your vehicle locked. Be aware of your surroundings and where you're parked if you go shopping at a physical store."

Gentry: "Over the holidays, you always have to be vigilant. The main thing I'd have people watch out for is that, as you're going shopping, make sure to lock your car doors and don't leave any valuables out in plain sight. With more people shopping and more people going to stores, criminals know this, and they're gonna be looking for easy things to steal. Just pay attention to your surroundings when you're out shopping and enjoying time with your family, so that you don't fall victim to a theft or a breaking and entering of a motor vehicle or other crimes like that since we do see a rise in those around the holidays."

Shopping online

Culpepper: "On the online aspect, be wary of cyber criminals and people trying to scam you. Since it's so close to Christmas, I expect that's tapered off since people might not order things that won't have time to be delivered. Also, if you have to meet somebody in person to pick up a purchase, we have our Safe Drop-off Zone here at the police department. We've got designated parking places under video surveillance, so you can be safe if you're gonna meet an unknown party to sell or purchase or anything like that."

Gentry: "When you're dealing with the internet, you have to be really careful - if it's too good to be true, it probably is. There's a lot of scams on the internet, especially at this time of the year. If you're going to purchase something from someone and you have to pick it up yourself, meet them in a highly populated area. You can always meet them at the sheriff's office or your local police department - that's one true way to know if someone's trying to run a scam, just invite them to meet at the sheriff's office. We welcome people that will do online transactions there. Of course, we have cameras set up in our parking lots and so does the police department, but that way our citizens can feel safe and utilize our office for those transactions."

Porch pirates

Culpepper: "Since there are a lot of packages being delivered right now, we do depend on the neighbors and if they think something is suspicious. If I'm driving down the road and I see someone pick up a package off a porch, I don't know necessarily who lives there and whether that person belongs there or not, but a neighbor might. If you see something suspicious - you think somebody's following a delivery truck, or you see somebody picking up a package and you realize they don't look like they belong at that residence - call us so we can check it out."

Gentry: "Track your packages as they're delivered. We're an internet society now, so we have so much that's delivered, but criminals know that, too, so really be vigilant about watching your packages and when they're delivered so that nobody comes up and steals a package off your doorstep."

Additional comments

Culpepper: "The big issue's the COVID this year rather than the crime, so people should be practicing safe social distancing and health measures. Another big issue around this time of year is people drinking, especially around New Year's, so be careful about drinking and driving. We just want everyone to be safe on all holidays and make it a joyful time."

Gentry: "We don't deal with this a whole lot out in the county because we're typically rural, but if you live in a highly populated area and you have a lot of people walking up and down and looking in trash cans - if you're concerned that people are gonna see the boxes for any expensive gifts you received and that it will make you a target, then I'd be vigilant about hiding those boxes or taking off markings so people won't know what the box was for. From the sheriff's office, we'd like to ask everyone to have a safe, blessed and merry Christmas!"

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 23

A graveside service will be held for Wilford Cleveland Butts, 89, of Cullman, Alabama Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020 at 11 a.m. at Garden City Cemetery. Mr. Butts passed away Dec. 21, 2020, with Reverend Matthew Smith officiating and Hanceville Funeral Home directing. The son of the late Cleveland and Ethel Smith was a member of East Side Baptist Church and a U.S. Army veteran. He is survived by his wife Lou Nell McAnnally Butts; children Tim (Selina) Butts and Sharon Shaver (Greg Rusk); and grandchildren Chastin (David) Gibbs, Benjamin (Deanna) Shaver, Shea (Lisa) Butts, Julianna (Tyler) McSwain, Ashton (Josh) Swindall, William L. (Erinn) Shaver and Shantin Finch. Also surviving are 22 great-grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by two sisters, five brothers and one great-grandchild.

Visitation will be held Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home from 1:30-3 p.m. A U.S. Navy veteran and longtime member of the Teamsters Union, Ray returned to his hometown of Cullman in 2003. Ray is survived by his wife Melba Ann Purvis-Thornton; three brothers Douglas (Irene) Thornton, Bryant (Alice) Thornton, Jr., and Lee Thornton; five daughters Lisa Marie (Ed) Dillinger, Elizabeth Ann Thornton, Cynthia Rose Frankhauser, Melissa Catherine Thornton, and Theresa Elnora (James) Pruitt; stepson Nathan Purvis; stepdaughter Julie (Kevin) Stein; seven grandchildren James R. (Jenny) Thornton, Bryan James, Loryn (Josh) Peace, William Tighe, Kyle (Bethany) Frankhauser, John James, and Luke Frankhauser; three great-grandchildren; and many loving nieces and nephews.

On Monday, Dec. 21, 2020 Elbert Ray Thornton, 83, passed away at Cullman Regional Hospital.

Jeremiah Nathaniel Sansing, 25, of Cullman passed away Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020. He was born March 17, 1995 in Jefferson County to Paul Edward Sansing, Jr. and Rebecca Simmons. Jeremiah enjoyed skateboarding and biking. He could do amazing tricks and stunts with both his board and his bike. Jeremiah was talented with electronics and was known to take them apart and improve them before rebuilding what he had torn apart. He loved to "tinker" with just about anything and he had a gift in repairing broken things. Mr. Sansing is survived by his father Paul Edward Sansing, Jr.; mother Rebecca Simmons Hawkins; grandmother Betty Campbell; a son Jayden Lee Sansing; brothers Paul Edward Sansing III, John James Lee Sansing, and Kyle Robert Doss Sansing and wife Anna Marie; sister Amber Nichole Hall; and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, friends, and family. Graveside services for Jeremiah will be 2 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020 in New Hope #2 Cemetery. Friends may visit with the family at the funeral home between 1-1:30 p.m. Wednesday. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Sansing family.

Judy Kaye Huddleston, 69, of Holly Pond passed away Monday, Dec. 21, 2020. She was born Sept. 23, 1951, to J.B. and Dorothy Dunkin Neal. Mrs. Huddleston was an elementary school teacher for 31 years at Holly Pond School, and she continued to mold and guide children as she served as a substitute teacher up until the time of her death. Judy was a member of the Cullman County Retired Teachers organization as well as a member of the Holly Pond Homemakers Club. She was an avid supporter of the athletic programs at Holly Pond School and cheered on her students as they fought their way to victory. Judy was a longtime member of Holly Pond First Baptist Church and she also enjoyed the fellowship of Pleasant View Baptist Church. She loved her dogs and pets and enjoyed their company. Mrs. Huddleston was blessed with three grandchildren and it was apparent that those three were adored by Judy. Mrs. Huddleston played an important role in the lives of not only her family, but also in the lives of most of the people that grew up in Holly Pond. We are forever grateful for the time and patience she showed to us as she taught us to read, write, count, and tie our shoes. Mrs. Huddleston is preceded in death by her husband, Danny Wayne Huddleston and her parents, J.B. and Dorothy Neal. She is survived by her son Jay Huddleston and his wife Amy; three grandchildren Charlie, Lexie, and Austin Huddleston; a brother Kerry Neal and his wife Juritta; and a host of nephews, nieces, friends, and neighbors. Graveside services for Mrs. Huddleston will be held Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020 at 11 a.m. in Holly Pond Cemetery, with Steven Bryson officiating. Keith Bryson, Steven Bryson, Chase Dutton, Brett Neal, Chris Ham, and Chris Jones will serve as pallbearers. Friends are invited to visit with the family at the cemetery. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Huddleston family.

Memorial service details are incomplete at this time for John William Purser, 63, of Vinemont. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Purser passed away Dec. 20, 2020 at Cullman Regional Hospital. He was born Jan. 30, 1957 to John Wayne and Sena Ray Westmoreland Purser. He was preceded in death by his parents and survived by his brother Kenneth Purser and sister Elizabeth Williams. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

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Keep your body moving during the holidays

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CULLMAN, Ala. – Schools are out for the Christmas holidays and the kids are likely happy to be home and relax. It's easy for them to get in the habit of sleeping in late, watching television or playing video games and staying inside. Especially this year with Christmas gatherings strongly discouraged, keeping kids active and engaged may seem hard, but there are still plenty of fun things to be done to keep them moving and healthy.

Cullman High School P.E. teacher and coach Jonathan Hayes has several easy suggestions for students. His main advice? Get outside!

"You gotta be creative of course because of COVID, but the things I have suggested to my classes when we have been dealing with virtual learning and hybrid is be outside every day- at least 45 minutes if not longer," he said.

"An article came out in the last day or two about how vitamin D can help fight COVID."

Hayes acknowledged that meeting a large group of friends for activities is not a good idea but had several ideas for great outdoor opportunities for individuals and families.

"Take advantage of the good weather we have had. Get outside and get creative," he said. "Bankhead (National Forest) is free and it's not that far away. Find some trails- they are well marked. Go hiking- they have some great waterfalls over there."

Locally, he added, "We have great parks and rec here. Get out and walk and take the dog! Just get outside and find anything you can do safely. Kites are cheap!

"Go fly it for a day. Hurricane Creek Park is very close to Monte Sano (State Park) in Huntsville."

Hayes also suggested the bike trails at Duck River where he said the trails are perfect for all skill levels.

"I'm a huge proponent of being outdoors, especially now," he said. "We kayak, we bike, we hunt, we fish, and we have a little dog we walk. For exercise and to gain benefits for cardiovascular, you have to get the heart rate up for so long so that's why I say for 45 to at least, I prefer, 60 minutes," Hayes said.

Tennis, golf (if you choose to walk) and disc golf are other activities that are fun and available in the Cullman area. While some might not get the heart rate up as much as others, Hayes said, "I think the benefits of just being outside and not staring at a screen during such a shortened daylight time is so much more.

"At some point, you need to elevate the heart rate and get in those target heart rate zones, and I know that is tough to do when you are doing it by yourself."

Finding a family member or friend who could use a visit but still maintaining a safe social distance can be done by walking outside at one of the many walking trails in the city and county.

Hayes stressed, "Just take advantage of all the stuff that we have with Duck River, parks and rec, disc golf and golf courses. They all do a great job."



CULLMAN HIGH SCHOOL

Cullman High School physical education teacher Jonathan Hayes

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