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Holiday update from the Cullman County Animal Shelter



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

The Cullman County Animal Shelter posted on Dec. 22: "This handsome guy was picked up in the County on Co Rd 783. If you are the owner of this K9 or know who the owner is, please contact the shelter at 256-734-5448. Thank You (20-1354)"

Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – With many businesses and organizations either adjusting their schedules or closing down entirely for the long holiday weekend, many people may be concerned about the Cullman County Animal Shelter and how the animals will be spending the holidays. Dwain Floyd, director of the shelter, spoke with The Tribune about how the shelter will be operating this weekend and next and what it needs to give the animals a merry Christmas.

"The only operating changes are that we're not open to the public," he said. "Somebody's here every day cleaning and taking care of the animals, and then of course the Animal Control (officers) are available on an on-call basis from the sheriff's department."

In terms of needed items, Floyd said the shelter's list of donation requests is unchanged, though most of the items it requests are difficult to obtain.

» PAGE 4

Cullman Fire Rescue raises $350 for Cullman County DHR

» PAGE 3

FEATURE

Holiday home fire safety tips



PIXABAY

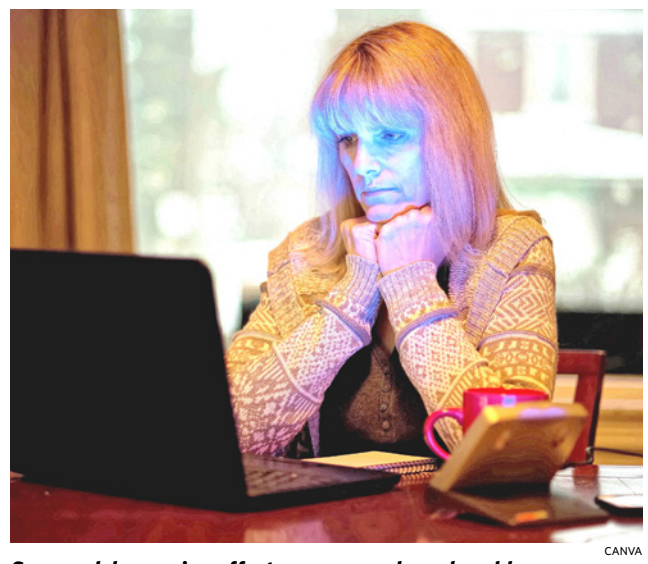
According to Cullman Fire Rescue, "Be vigilant, because candles cause roughly half of all home decoration fires during the month of December."

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HEALTH

Fighting the holiday or wintertime blues

Symptoms and treatments for seasonal depression



CANVA

Seasonal depression affects many people and could be more prevalent this year due to social distancing because of COVID-19.

» PAGE 5

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Bill Smith
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Berlin will not repair, replace tornado siren; free public Wi-Fi a no-go

Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

BERLIN, Ala. – At its November meeting, the Berlin Town Council approved a spending plan for its remaining Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funds, including $4,800 to purchase equipment to create public Wi-Fi areas in the town's lower income areas along County Roads 1612, 1619 and 1620. At its most recent meeting in December, however, the council announced that legal advice led it to abandon the idea, though alternative options were suggested to use the remaining CARES Act money to provide vouchers that would reduce the service cost for some households. Berlin will soon be able to access the Cullman Electric Cooperative's Sprout Fiber Internet.

Also part of the approved spending plan, the Town supplied cleaning supplies to Fairview, Holly Pond and Welti schools, allotting an additional $1,800 to each school. The council also created care packages of sanitizing supplies and protective equipment for residents of Berlin, the distribution of which was declared a success.

The council voted to repair a drainage box outside of Berlin Hardware & Farm Supply, and also voted in favor of abandoning the outdoor tornado siren at the fire department. The reasons given for the abandonment were that serious damage sustained by the siren's speakers and other electronics in a lightning strike will be too costly to repair- and replacement is extremely costly- and the council said most residents already have cell phones or weather radios that provide weather alerts.

Cleaning services provided by Wisner Solutions were discontinued due to CARES Act funds coming to an end, and quotes for the Berlin Farmers' Market building were gathered. However, the council could not come to an agreement about the building, so the issue was tabled and will be brought up again at a special meeting after the new year.

All Town employees received a $400 Christmas bonus.

STATE

ADOL announces new phone appointment system, discontinuing in-person assistance

Tara Hutchison
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – The Alabama Department of Labor this week announced a new phone appointment system for unemployment compensation claimants who need assistance with their claims.

The new phone system will debut Jan. 4, 2021. Beginning January 3, 2021, claimants can call 1-800-361-4524 after 5 p.m. until midnight on Sundays through Thursdays to schedule a call back for the next day. 600 callbacks will be scheduled each day, with the exception of holidays and weekends. If a claimant is unable to secure an appointment on one day, they are encouraged to call back the next day after 5 p.m.

"This new callback system will allow us to serve more claimants per day than we've been able to previously," said Alabama Department of Labor Secretary Fitzgerald Washington. "We've been working nonstop to improve our services to unemployed Alabamians and this system will hopefully accomplish that."

Claimants will only be allowed to set one callback appointment per day. Callbacks will be scheduled between 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Claimants should keep their phones near them the entire day of their scheduled callback. Calls will come from a Montgomery, AL number.

Due to health and safety concerns related to COVID-19, ADOL will be discontinuing in-person appointments at the Crump Senior Center in Montgomery until further notice. The last dates for in-person service will be Dec. 28-29, 2020. Appointments for those days were available on the ADOL website (www.labor.alabama.gov) beginning Friday, Dec. 25, 2020 at 5 p.m.

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COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Friday, Dec. 25, 2020 COVID-19 update from the Alabama Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Data and Surveillance Dashboard

• Total confirmed cases in AL: 277,754 (+3,075 since yesterday)

• Probable cases in AL: 64,672 (+550 since yesterday)

• Total confirmed deaths in AL: 4,096 (+3 since yesterday)

• Probable deaths in AL: 584

• Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co.: 4,801 (+46 since yesterday)

• Probable cases in Cullman Co.: 1,906 (+11 since yesterday)

• Total confirmed deaths in Cullman Co.: 55 (+0 since yesterday)

• Probable deaths in Cullman Co.: 15

• Total tested in Cullman Co.: 30,522

• Total tested in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 2,411

• Cases in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 1,172

• Total tested in Alabama: 1,834,424

• Cases in the last 14 days in Alabama: 54,406

• Total tested in the last 14 days in Alabama: 141,292

• Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 2,465

• Cumulative no. of hospitalizations in Alabama: 31,954 (not updated as of press time)

• Presumed recoveries in Alabama (reported weekly): 193,149

See more details at https://bit.ly/2VjC-QbP.

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

18th Annual Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Display at Sportsman Lake Park

• Admission to the Winter Wonderland is $10 per vehicle.

• Dec. 26-27, drive thru-only

• 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. 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 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 CattleWomen 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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Funny Things from Yesterday: They brought the twins over

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



Things have changed a whole lot since I was a very young boy growing up. We didn't have a refrigerator until I was about 7 years old. This one would make ice if you had an ice tray and filled it with water and put it in the freezer compartment.

Refrigerators have graduated up to putting a waterline to them and they make the ice cubes and drop them into a container. Now we have a refrigerator that makes ice cubes and will crush them up if you want crushed ice.

Our refrigerator quit making ice and we had no crushed ice.

We called our granddaughter, Leanna, who had bought the refrigerator originally and asked her what might be wrong with it. She said that the water filter might be stopped up. Water filter? I was behind times, for I had never heard of a water filter on a refrigerator.

I had no idea where to look for a water filter and I asked if Heath could come over and check it for us. She said that they would come over when they picked up the twins from the babysitter's home.

Boy, Rudene and I were glad they were bringing the twins. We have not been able to have our family get-togethers and we really miss them.

The twins were at full-speed. We have a little book that is for potty training a boy and it makes a flushing sound when you push a button on the book.

One of the boys had it and it had a continuous flush like a hung commode.

We have magnets on our refrigerator with animal pictures on them that all our little ones like to pull off. One of the boys was in the kitchen by himself and he had pulled one of the magnets off the refrigerator.

It was a schedule of the Auburn games. It was 4 inches wide and 8 inches long.

We have a kitchen step stool that is 10 inches wide, 20 inches long, 10 inches high and it has an oval hole in the middle to carry it by. The youngster was pushing the magnet through the hole and then doing it again. Later he got an empty Christmas wrapping paper roll and pushed it into the hole.

Rudene and I really enjoyed seeing the twins explore and find new things to try. It is so much fun to see how much they have changed and learned since they last visited us.

We also appreciate Heath being so willing to fix our refrigerator.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Wise men sincerely seek to worship christ

Bill King
Tribune Contributor



I am a storyteller. I love to read, hear, and tell good stories. I've heard some storytellers say, "Never let the truth get in the way of a good story." I might even agree, as long as our audience understands that our story isn't true. Of course, we call those kinds of stories fiction. Those types of stories are told simply for entertainment, and they are often quite inspiring, but are not to be believed as truth. Many of us do tend; however, to find true stories a little more moving and inspiring than the fictitious ones. There are many stories that surround the Christmas season that are fantasies. They contain characters that we might call "Make believe."

Many of them have become part of our culture, and we find them to be quite enjoyable, but the main story of Christmas falls in the non-fiction category.

The characters in these stories were real, and their stories were true.

These stories also contain the real reason why we celebrate Christmas. The following is one of the true stories of Christmas. It can be found in Matthew's gospel. Matthew tells us:

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshipped Him.

And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. (Matthew 2:1-12)

The wise men in the Bible story said they had come to worship Jesus. When they saw Him, worship was exactly what they did.

They fell down in honor of the Christ child and worshipped. Then, they presented gifts to him. Earlier, when they told Herod the king why they had come, and what they intended to do, he even instructed them to return and tell him where the Christ child was, so he might come and worship too.

The story Herod told them was fiction, because he had no desire to worship. The truth is that there are still wise men and wise women, who truly seek to worship the Christ!

May your Christmas be a time of worship and time of joyous celebration. Merry Christmas to you all!

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: 1900, 1950

From the files of 1900

The weather this week is the warmest of the season.

E. Hauk is having a well drilled on his lot on First Avenue East.

Miss Pearl Petters of Birmingham is the guest of Mrs. P.B. Arnold.

Sweet potatoes are being shipped at the rate of 100 barrels a day.

S.M. Lovelady went to Cincinnati this week to buy goods for the J.H. Karter Company.

The old reliable "horseshoer," W.P. Cooper, can be found at Charles Ruehl's shop near Karter's Gin.

W.B. Spinks brought us the largest melon we have seen this season. He also grows good apples.

Marriage licenses have been issued to Wilburn A. Screws and Miss Nancy D. McCoy, James O. Johnson and Miss Emeline Hopkins and William M. Briscoe and Miss Prisie Rutledge.

Robert G. Owens and Mrs. Nancy A. Garrison were married on Sunday.

A.J. Giles is cutting lumber for the college at Joppa.

From the files of 1950

Some ponds in the Berlin Community have lost all the fish because of cotton poisoning in surrounding fields.

Doc Knight of Cullman visited his father, Mr. E.T. Knight, at Valley Grove on Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Ova Calvert and family, Mr. and Mrs. Junior Parker and Mr. and Mrs. Cletus Daniel of Duck River attended the Calvert Reunion on Sunday.

The Gold Ridge baseball team defeated Baileyton, 12 to 1 last Saturday.

Eidson Chapel residents attending the baptizing at New Hope on Sunday included Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Lovell, Mr. and Mrs. Ossie Pitts and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Lovell.

Mrs. C.C. Quick of California is visiting relatives here and attending revival services at Ledocia.

Gurley Benefield of New Harmony is building a dairy barn.

Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Duke of Vinemont are the proud parents of a son, Freddie Lamar, born on August 11th.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert A. Day of Good Hope are the proud parents of a son, Steven Malcolm, on August 12th.

Those completing the Red Cross Home Nursing Course include Mesdames W.B. Howard, Marvin Patton, L.G. Andrews, Henry Wood, W.T. Chandler, W.E. Bradley, W.T. Holmes, Elsie Robinson, Cordis Tubbs, Carl Phillips and Asa Blalock.

Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Keller have returned home after spending time in Gadsden with Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Keller and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Basenberg.

Mesdames C.H. Gray, Vann Gibbs, George Burkart, T.Y. Steele and Mary Plunkett visited Mrs. Max Forbis in Huntsville.

Slim Lay and his band played at the Canteen dance on Friday night.

DHR (from Front)

Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – During the month of November, Cullman firefighters got into the spirit of giving through an unusual method: growing mustaches. Kyle Elliot, a member of Cullman Fire Rescue, said the "No Shave November" fundraiser raised $350 to benefit kids through the Cullman County Department of Human Resources (DHR).

"November is a special time of year. You've got Thanksgiving, you got Christmas around the corner, and you've got No Shave November," Elliot stated. "No Shave November is a time for men to grow out their beards, but unfortunately fire fighters are not allowed to have beards due to safety reasons. So instead of beards, most firefighters grow mustaches - yes those hideous mustaches that the wives love so much - and this year the Cullman firefighters decided to partake in No Shave November."

According to Elliot, a few of the firefighters participating decided to go further than just growing out their facial hair - they would grow it out for a purpose, and thus the "Upper Lip Championship" began. Participants competed to grow the best mustache (within department regulations) during the month of November, and the entrance fees paid to compete went directly to the children's fund.

Elliot said the competition garnered a lot of departmental support, and they even had T-shirts made and booked a location to hold the contest.

"There's already talk and planning of future events in hopes that it continues to grow," he said. "A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the competition and donated, fire administration for the support, Initial Impressions for helping with the T-shirt designs and printing the shirts, Buffalo Wild Wings of Cullman for allowing us host the competition (all personnel and staff were compliant with current CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and state (COVID-19) guidelines) and Cullman County DHR for allowing us to help sponsor Christmas."

Elliot finished by saying, "All of us at Cullman Fire would like to wish everyone a very safe and Merry Christmas!"



CONTRIBUTED

POET'S CORNER

Mary's Song

Charles Causley - 1917-2003

Sleep, King Jesus
Your royal bed
Is made of hay
In a cattle-shed.
Sleep, King Jesus,
Do not fear,
Joseph is watching
And waiting near.

Warm in the wintry air
You lie,
The ox and the donkey
Standing by,
With summer eyes
They seem to say:
Welcome, Jesus,
On Christmas Day!

Sleep, King Jesus:
Your diamond crown
High in the sky
Where the stars look down.



Let your reign
Of love begin,
That all the world
May enter in.

COMIC – CHIRP & FLIT



Update (from Front)

"We go through basically the same cleaning supplies you'd use at home.

"We use Clorox wipes like crazy, but guess what - you can't find them anywhere," he said.

"We've actually been using a system that the County brought up to us.

"It's a kind of electric sprayer that we take around, and we disinfect with that right now, but we still like to go around and wipe things down.

"It just (doesn't feel) clean unless it's been wiped down."

He continued, "Other than that, the easiest thing to get your hands on if somebody wanted to donate would be food for the dogs.

"As of right now, we don't have a sole source for food for the animals as far as the dogs go.

"We are, at this time, totally feeding off of those contributions from the public, and it's been going great."

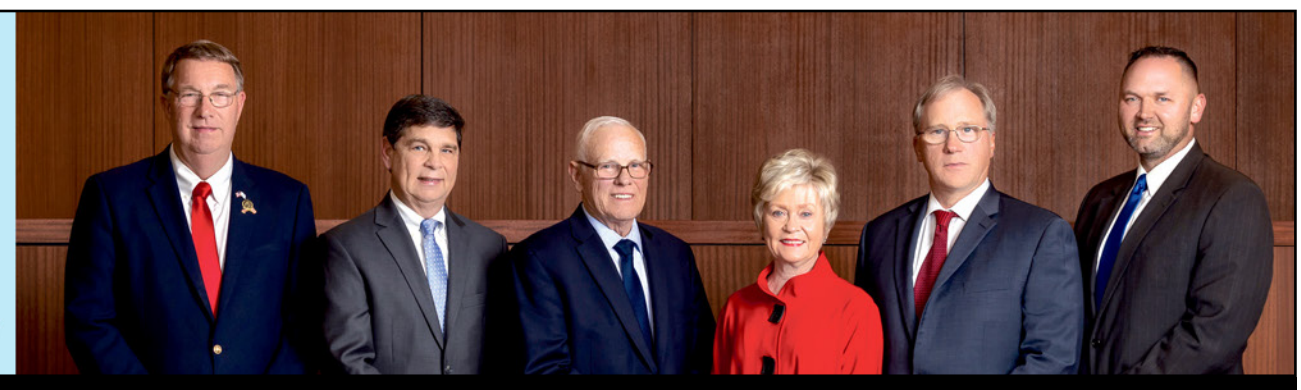
Floyd said donations can be dropped off at any time and left at the doors of the shelter, as one of the workers will see them and bring them in.

As for any upcoming events in 2021, Floyd said nothing has been planned so far due to COVID-19 restrictions; however, he hopes to start going "full force" into event planning once the danger decreases.

The shelter has an extremely active Facebook page where you can see all the animals picked up and the furry friends available for adoption: www.facebook.com/cullmancountyanimalshelter.

Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmancountyanimalshelter@gmail.com. Visit the shelter at 935 Convent Road NE.

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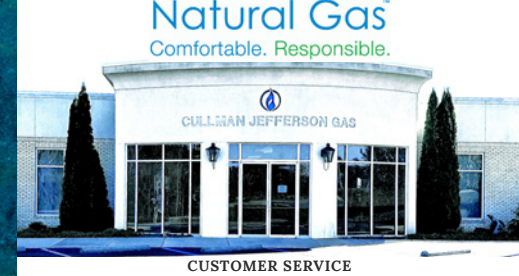
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Blues (from Front)

Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Winter is can be a stressful and depressing time for some people. The decreased sunlight, colder temperatures, dreary landscapes, holiday stress and increased time staying indoors all contribute to seasonal depression, and the isolation necessary this year to prevent the spread of COVID-19 has led to people experiencing this who have never done so before. To help identify the symptoms of seasonal depression (or the "holiday blues") and possible ways of treating or mitigating the effects, The Tribune reached out to WellStone Behavioral Health Chief Operating Officer Chris Van Dyke.

What are the common symptoms of seasonal depression?
"Some people experience a sort of depressed mood - just don't really enjoy things that they normally would enjoy, don't want to go out and do things and would just rather sit at home.

"There's a lot of feelings of tiredness and wanting to stay in bed all the time.

"Those things are pretty common. Then on the extreme end, you have people who start feeling hopeless and have thoughts of death or suicide."

For people who have never experienced this before but are experiencing it now, what are some ways of handling the effects?
"There's a few things I would recommend. Some people think of it as kind of cliche, but gratitude really has a lot of power to help us get out of these sorts of things.

"You can create your own kind of gratitude journal, or you can go online and find templates of how to document what you're grateful for.

"My suggestion is to just write down, every day, one thing that you're grateful for or who you're grateful for and why.

"That really helps you think about what you can be grateful for, and the more we can be grateful for what we do have, the better it helps us pull out of that depression.

"Another suggestion would be to express that gratitude to people - both to people that we see all the time and people we don't see very often.

"That could be making a phone call to someone you haven't seen in a long time and telling them why you're grateful for them or writing a letter to that person, and it's really important to make sure you do that with the people you see every day.

"Sometimes we take those people for granted very quickly.

"So gratitude's a big recommendation, and the other one would be exercise.

"I know it's hard this time of year, especially when it's cold, but anything you can do to exercise - even if it's just stretching and breathing exercises in your home - can really help motivate you a bit and give you a little energy to pull out of that."

What about people who experience this chronically?
"If somebody has been experiencing this chronically, they usually have a way that they've treated it in the past, and hopefully it's a healthy way.

"Some people have special lights that they use for light therapy, and that is effective.

"Some people need to get on medication to help them through the winter months. Some people might see a therapist.

"There's a lot of different ways, and I would just recommend that people stay away from the unhealthy ways of coping like drinking or recreational drug use.

"Those might feel better in the moment, but they're going to make it worse over time."

What should people do if they feel a loved one is experiencing seasonal depression?
"The most important thing is to not ignore it. That's our natural tendency, to ignore it because we feel uncomfortable or because we might offend the person, but it's better just to talk about it.

"Even just saying something like, 'Here's what I see: you seem to be depressed, you seem to be withdrawn,' anything to get some conversation going."

For people who may be unfamiliar, what services does WellStone offer?
"WellStone is a public nonprofit mental health center, so we treat a wide variety of problems for all ages.

"We do outpatient counseling, we have psychiatry, we have outreach services which go out into the community and see people in their homes who have serious mental illness.

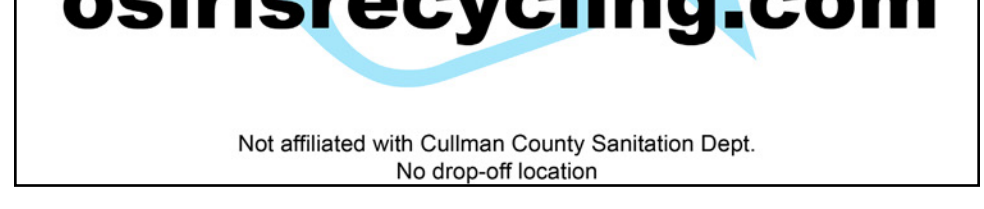
"We also do substance abuse treatment services.

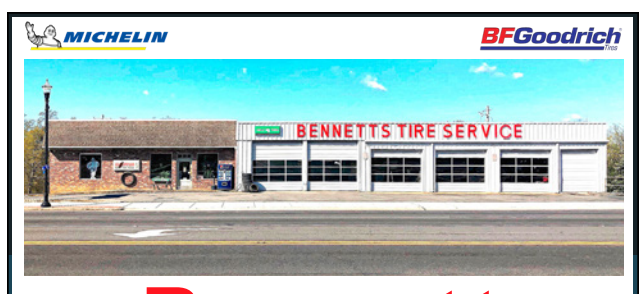
"If people are interested in services, want to set up an appointment or just want more information, we have a special Access to Care line that they can call at 256-255-1020.

"They can talk to somebody there and get more information or schedule an appointment to get an assessment."

Any further comments?
"If someone was feeling like they were thinking about suicide or had some other mental health crisis, we have people they can call 24/7 at 256-734-4688.

"During the day, we'll talk to them on the phone and at night, that'll route to our on-call workers."









THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
DECEMBER 26, 2020

OUTDOORS

Tips for hunting the rut in Alabama

David Rainer
Ala. Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources



CHUCK SYKES

A whitetail buck freshens a scrape to leave new scent during the rutting process.

While the whitetailed deer rut has come and gone in a few areas in Alabama, hunters in the majority of the state are dealing with the December doldrums, waiting for the breeding season to begin in earnest.

Alabama native Chuck Sykes, director of the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) Division, said the whitetails in the bulk of the state adjust to the increased activity in the woods, and hunters are having to deal with a lull in deer movement.

"People kill deer the first couple of weeks of the season, and, in my opinion, those deer get enough pressure that they go underground for a few weeks until the rut brings them back out," Sykes said.

He said hunters should soon start seeing evidence of early rutting behavior with increased activity by the bucks.

"Typically, you'll start seeing a few scrapes and rubs, and you'll start seeing a few does without fawns right up under them," Sykes said. "The does are starting to wean those fawns, getting ready for the rut. So, you'll see button bucks walking around aimlessly by themselves."

Bucks paw the ground to make scrapes where urine is deposited as a scent marker. A licking branch, where the buck can leave additional scent, is usually above a scrape. The rubs are the results of bucks using their antlers to debark trees, often cedars, to mark boundaries and leave more scent.

"Earlier in the season, you've got bachelor groups of bucks running together," Sykes said. "You'll see a bunch of rubs and scrapes in certain locations where they're establishing their pecking order.

"This time of year, when you see those scrapes and rubs, it's deer laying out their territories, getting in areas where they can intercept a bunch of does. That's a big portion of the mating process. When you start seeing those scrapes being freshened up, those are excellent places to hunt. A scrape is like a deer nightclub. They go to it and lay down some scent. It lets everyone know who's in the neighborhood."

In early January, hunters will likely see a few bucks chasing does, but Sykes says that activity is only by the younger bucks.

"Those bucks usually jump the gun by a couple of weeks over your mature deer," he said. "It's like people who raise cows. You put a young bull in the pasture, and he'll follow a cow around three or four days before she's receptive, a couple of days while she's receptive and then three or four days after she's receptive. They waste a lot of energy.

"You put an older bull in the pasture, and he's going to lay around until the time is right. He conserves energy. Bucks are the same way. Those young bucks are rambunctious and moving around. The mature bucks, you're not going to see them moving until it's right."

As for the timing of the rut, Sykes says peak rutting activity varies very little from year to year.

"You can go back and look at our historical stocking data, and the deer rut takes place within a day or two every year in those certain locations," he said. "When people say the deer just aren't rutting because the weather is hot, well, the deer are still rutting. They have the ability to do it at night when the weather cools down. The rut takes place whether you see it or not.

"That's where the environmental conditions and hunting pressure have effects. If deer are getting pressured a lot, they may not move around during daylight hours. They will wait until after dark."

Sykes said several misconceptions about the deer rut in Alabama persist, especially with the advent of social media platforms.

"One of the biggest misconceptions is I've got this big buck and I'm going to save him because he's going to breed 15 or 20 does on my property," he said. "That's just not the case. Whitetails are not like elk, where a bull elk might have a big harem of 10 or 15 cows. In a good year, a buck may sire four to five fawns.

"Another huge misconception that you see all the time on social media is people talking about taking this buck out of the herd because they didn't want him breeding and passing along bad genetics. In most cases, that's just an excuse to pull the trigger. With free-range, wild deer, culling cannot change genetics. There are just too many factors involved. Half of the genetics are coming from the doe."

Sykes insists hunters should not try to cull bucks based on antler characteristics. Instead, cull bucks based on age.

"You need to base your decision on whether you want to feed that deer another year," he said. "You have limited resources of food, cover and water, so that's how you make a determination, not because of what people think are inferior genetics. If you see a buck that has a nice rack on one side and a spike on the other, more than likely that occurred because of an injury to the pedicle (antler base)."

Sykes has a long history of hunting deer in Alabama. He was a guide at Bent Creek Lodge near Jachin, Alabama, for five years before managing Circle N Lodge in east Alabama for eight years. He was a wildlife consultant for 20 years before becoming WFF Director in 2012.

"I'm kind of an oddball," Sykes said of his deer-hunting tactics. "I like to hunt deer before the rut when I can pattern them better on food sources. The rut can be a wonderful time to hunt, and it can also be extremely frustrating. If the conditions are bad and the bucks are locked down with does, you may not see a thing. Then on that one day when all the conditions are right, you get a hot doe running through your property and you may see six or eight bucks chasing her. That's what everybody wants to see.

"But the rut can be very hit-or-miss. It can be extremely frustrating, or it can be extremely euphoric."

While Sykes is hunting food sources right now, when the serious rutting activity starts, he is going to areas where he can find the most females.

"In west Alabama where I spend most of my time, I'm hunting does when the rut starts," he said. "I'm going to be in a place with as many does as I can find if I'm trying to look for a mature deer.

"There's one thing about the rut that is fairly interesting. I've got 10 or 15 trail cameras out that I've been monitoring since June. You think you know who everybody is. You've got your hit list together. Then, come January 20, you'll have a deer show up that you have no idea who he is. It could be good or bad. You have some of your regulars go see the neighbors for a few days, but their deer may come to see you."

One of the most important factors of successful hunting during the rut is having the time to spend in the woods, which is why many hunters take significant vacation time in January.

"You can't kill him sitting at home," Sykes said. "You've got to be out there as much as possible for when the magic happens."

However, hunters can't be haphazard about their approach to hunting a mature buck.

"You do your homework," Sykes said. "You do your scouting. You try to plan as much as you can. And when the conditions are right, that's when you go.

"One of the biggest mistakes I think people make is they have a deer in an area where they have a stand, and they want to hunt him so bad that they go in with a bad wind direction or conditions that aren't right. Typically, for those older deer, you've got one day you can ease in and get him. If the wind shifts or you make a mistake, it makes it 10 times harder to try to find him again. I hunt the wind. If the wind is not right, I do not go."

Tips (from Front)

Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – With the increased use of fireplaces and space heaters, celebratory candles and decorative lights and electronics, the chance of fire-related incidents increases around the winter holidays. Cullman Fire Rescue Chief Brian Bradberry, Cullman Fire Inspector Jason Heaton and Berlin Volunteer Fire Department Chief Ralph Laney offer tips on how to avoid common fire mishaps.

According to Bradberry, "Many of the fires that we encounter this time of year are due to cooking, flammable objects placed close to heat sources and overloaded electrical circuits."

Fireplaces and fire pits
Laney: "Anything flammable needs to be at least 6 feet away from the fireplace, and I'd say clear out at least 10 feet away from an outdoor bonfire. Make sure the fire's at least 10 feet away from any structures, too, and keep a water hose ready in case your bonfire does get out of control."

Bradberry & Heaton: "Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.

"Use a grate or screen in front of the fireplace, and keep stockings and other decorations out from in front of it while lit.

"Never start any fire with gasoline or lighter fluid; instead, use crumpled paper or a store-bought fire starter covered with small sticks. Avoid burning pine or cedar, as they can pop and throw sparks.

"Finally, make sure you know your local ordinances about fires and be aware of any burn bans in effect for your area."

Candles
Bradberry & Heaton: "Your best bet is to use flameless battery-operated candles; however, if you use real candles then make sure their holders are stable, they are located in a place where they won't be easily knocked over and anything flammable is kept at least 12 inches away from them.

"Never hang real candles on a tree. Be vigilant, because candles cause roughly half of all home decoration fires during the month of December."

Kitchen/cooking fires
Laney: "Get a small fire extinguisher from Wal-Mart or somewhere like that; make sure you know how to use it and keep it somewhere you can easily grab it. Be really cautious about not walking off and leaving anything unattended."

Bradberry & Heaton: "If you have to leave the kitchen, make sure to turn the burner off. Also turn the burner off if you start seeing smoke or your oil or grease starts boiling.

"These tips are especially important if you have a gas burner instead of induction. If you have a fire inside a pot, keep the lid handy and slowly slide it over the top to smother the flame.

"Make sure to clean out any crumbs or food particulate from your oven, toaster and other appliances, and fires inside the oven should be left to burn themselves out after turning off the heat."

Space heaters and other electronics
Laney: "Space heaters are very dangerous. I had a person talk to me just this morning who said they had a space heater that flamed up, so they pulled the cord out and threw the heater outside and the fire just got bigger.

"If they hadn't been at home, their whole house would have burned down. If you have a space heater and you need to leave the house, you should unplug it and leave it unplugged until you get back.

"You also need to keep anything flammable at least 3 or 4 feet away from it."

Bradberry & Heaton: "If you use a real tree, make sure the bottom is cut fresh and keep it watered every day. Dry trees can act like kindling and burn fast and hot.

"Throw out any light strands with frayed or exposed wires and be sure to read the manufacturer's instructions on the appropriate number of light strands to connect.

"Keep your tree at least 3 feet away from heat sources like space heaters, radiators and heat vents. Use space heaters with tip-over safety switches that turn off automatically and turn them off when you leave a room or go to bed."

Fireworks
Laney: "Use a little common sense - don't shoot anything toward anyone, make sure they're fired away from dwellings, and don't be holding them in your hand when you light them. Make sure they're firmly on the ground and won't tip over when they launch."

Other general tips:

- Check smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and make sure they have good batteries and are in good working order.
- Have a working fire extinguisher or two.
- Have gas lines inspected before you turn the heat on for the first time.
- Do not use outdoor heating or cooking devices for indoor heat.
- If using heat lamps to protect pets or plants, make sure those devices are not mounted on, close to, or pointing directly at combustible materials.
- Close doors in your home before going to sleep to help slow or stop fire spread.
- Do not block doors/exits with furniture or decorations.
- Always have a fire escape plan and go over it with visitors. Once out of the house, stay out and call 911.

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LEGALS

Pursuant to Alabama Code 32-13-1, Earl's Body Shop, Inc will offer for sale at Public Auction the following vehicles on January 25, 2021, at 7:00 a.m.
2007 Pontiac Vibe, Vin.#5Y2SL65817Z433141
2010 Hyundai Accent, Vin.#KMHCM3AC9AU162047
1997 Cadillac Deville, Vin.#1G6KD54Y1VU254748
2010 Chrysler 300, Vin# 2C3CA4CD5AH101293
97 Honda CRV, Vin.#JHLRD1851VC069418

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned motor vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80, as per Legislative Act 2015-470:
2005 Kia Optima, Vin.#KNAGD126265465978
1999 Chevy S-10, Vin.#1GCCS1440XK153972
2001 Ford Taurus, Vin.#1FAFP53U11G168780
1998 Suzuki Katana, Vin.#JS1GR7GA4W2100718
1997 Dodge Ram 1500, Vin.#1B7HF13Z9VG715573
2004 Pontiac Vibe, Vin.#5Y2SL62824Z463863
1995 Ford F-150, Vin.#1FTDF15Y4SLB17683
2011 Suzuki Grand Vitara, Vin.#JS3TD0D23B4102886
These vehicles will be sold on Saturday, January 30, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. for towing/storage fees if not claimed. Located at Hammock Auto Sales, 17 County Road 406, Cullman, Alabama 35057, 256-775-3754.

PB MIN BK 192 PG 968 - 12/23/2020 09:43 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
MICHAEL PLETENIK * **CASE NO.: PC 2020-335**
Deceased. *

NOTICE
PETITION FOR SUMMARY DISTRIBUTION

Notice is hereby given that a Petition for Summary Distribution has been filed by Kimberly H. Drake, petitioner, on the 9th day November, 2020, and that thirty (30) days after the notice of publication hereof and pursuant to the law of the State of Alabama, the Court shall be requested to enter an order directing summary distribution of the estate of said decedent.

Kimberly H. Drake
Petitioner

Thomas E. Drake, II
Attorney for Petitioner
419 Second Ave
Cullman, AL 35055

To: PUBLISHER OF ***The Cullman Tribune***

Please publish the above notice **ONE TIME** in said newspaper, and thereafter file with the Court a copy of the notice so published and an affidavit of publication.

DONE this the 22nd day of December, 2020.

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

LIFESTYLE

A Round of Applause for the Joy-Givers: The most joy-giving joy-givers of 2020

Ben South
Tribune Columnist

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

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

PLEASE GIVE A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR: THE MOST JOY-GIVING JOY-GIVERS OF 2020

2020 has been a year when even Pollyanna and Forrest Gump might have found it difficult to stay positive. But thanks to fictional joy-givers like those two and real-life joy-givers like the ones saluted here, we've been able to, "Stand up on our legs. Be like two, fried eggs and keep our sunny side up."

This roster of "THE MOST JOY-GIVING JOY-GIVERS of 2020" proves, when the times get joy-challenged, the joy-givers keep on giving joy even more than ever.

Like any "Best Of" or "Most" compilations, this one is admittedly subjective. Please let my salute to "THE MOST JOY-GIVING JOY-GIVERS of 2020" be a bouncy springboard for you to create your own. Think about every grocery store worker you encountered this year.

Also, be grateful for that video technician who arranged for you to have your worship services reach you at home. Sure, 2020 was not "The Best Year of our Life" for most of us, but thanks to so many good neighbors and joy-givers, it's been a lot better than it would be without them.

Here are candidates from a variety of categories, and in no certain order, for your consideration as some of "THE MOST JOY-GIVING JOY-GIVERS of 2020":

ANDREA BOCELLI
Remember the soaring joy of the megastar opera tenor singing "Amazing Grace" in an empty but gorgeous courtyard in Italy; please YouTube this if you have not heard it ever or this week and be prepared to have your joy lifted beyond the cathedral steeples to the heavens.

ASTRONAUTS CHRISTINA KOCH and JESSICA MEIR
Harkening to those lyrics in "Annie Get your Gun," anything male astronauts can do, female astronauts can do, too; in October 2019, these brilliant, brave women completed the first ever, all-female spacewalk" when over seven hours, outside the International Space Station, they repaired a malfunctioning part that would have made Princess Leia proud and inspired legions of aspiring, astronaut-to-be girls and boys. Should we ever need a planet to inhabit other than earth, the work of space pioneers like these two will be opening that opportunity for all of us.

DR. ANTHONY FAUCI
This modest, self-deprecating "Brad Pitt-look-alike," real-life medical doctor, director of the National Institute of Allergic and Infectious Diseases, gave us the facts about the COVID-19 pandemic and delivered them with courage, candor and compassion.

Also, this is a good place to honor the work of Operation Warp Speed, every doctor/nurse/therapist/health worker in America and also the vaccine-developing scientists at "Big Pharma" like Pfizer and Moderna.

TAKE ME TO THE WORLD, The Stephen Sondheim 90th Birthday Online Salute
The multi-Tony Award-winning composer/lyricist was honored by the shining-est stars of the Broadway galaxy performing a relentlessly joy-giving array of his creations; this was planned as a LIVE event but then God laughed and gave the world a plague, so with the determined spirit of "THE SHOW MUST GO ON," it did, on Zoom. Now FREE on YouTube, you can enjoy a gob-smacking two hours and 23 minutes of great, Sondheim classics; some of the stand-out numbers in this March 2020 cavalcade of stars were the trio of Meryl Streep/Audra McDonald/Christine Baranski, dressed in bathrobes and swigging from wine glasses, while ZOOM-belting "Ladies who Lunch" from FOLLIES, Neil Patrick Harris talk-singing the "Witches Rap" from INTO THE WOODS, and Bernadette Peters tenderly reminding us all that although we may be socially distanced, "No One Is Alone;" the salute supports ASTEP (Artists Striving To End Poverty). Please consider making a donation that will help the economically devastated, performing arts community help each other.

McKENZIE SCOTT
The fabulously wealthy ex-wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos has pledged to give the vast bulk of her money back to society; she's already given $1.7 billion, YES, BILLION, to 116 organizations and has pledged an additional $6 BILLION, creating a bold, compassion-into-action vision for philanthropy in these times.

ROBERT F. SMITH
While we're praising deep-thinking, deep-pocketed joy-givers, imagine being a new graduate of Morehouse College and your commencement speaker, Mr. Smith, shares that he is erasing the student loan debt of every graduate with a $34 million gift to this historically Black college so the newly degreed grads can invest themselves fully in the future.

NATHAN LAW
He is a pro-democracy activist in Hong Kong who has the courage of his convictions to stand up to the thuggish Chinese Communist government bullies; Law is a son of a working-class family and the youngest lawmaker ever elected to the city legislature. We will be hearing much more from this graciously defiant young rebel who is on the short list for a Nobel Peace Prize.

TYLER PERRY
The boisterously joy-giving storyteller has produced 22 feature films, including the "Madea" series and 1,000-plus hours of award-winning television. This year he invested in creating the largest, privately owned production studio in the world in Atlanta. Regarding the current health and economic crisis, Mr. Perry said, "I will tell my son that progress is made in small steps and even if you get exhausted—you fight on—because there are always signs of daybreak before the morning comes." (FULL DISCLOSURE: My genius, videographer niece, Bess, often works on Tyler Perry projects and she assures me, he is just as genuine and caring in the workplace.

In fact, they all stand in a circle and hold hands each morning while Tyler Perry offers a joyful prayer of gratitude.)

ZOOM, The Techy Joy-Givers Who Created ZOOM and other virtual-gathering innovations
I don't want to imagine an even lonelier 2020 without the almost-like-being-there connections such creations allow us humans.

SIR PAUL and STELLA McCARTNEY
The knighted former "Cute Beatle" wrote new love songs in 2020, and his daughter, Stella, is considered "The Queen of Sustainable Fashion Design." This joy-giving father-daughter duo is showing us the way to new joys in the future.

FASHION-INTO-FACE-MASKS
Designer Christian Siriano, who you may remember from a few seasons ago on "Project Runway," redirected the efforts of his atelier from cocktail dress to the cause of American's masking up against COVID; giant, global fashion houses like Balenciaga and Yves St. Laurent have done similarly.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II
Not only did "The World's Longest-Reigning Monarch" show us how to survive a global crisis, but she is also smiling and more joyful at 94 years old than ever.

Among the joyous life lessons the Queen taught us in 2020 were: Be open to change; Forget about your own worries by giving yourself to causes that serve others; Recharge your energy (she does this for a quiet hour each day with a pungent pot of Earl Grey or Darjeeling tea; and last but not least, Give yourself some joy (QEII goes horseback riding almost daily which is a brain-boosting, muscle-firming pleasure she's enjoyed since childhood).

Queen Elizabeth II continues a practice she started in her teens by ending each day journaling her thoughts and gratitude.



BendigoArt.com/CullmanTribune.com

NAVJOT ARORA's MILLION GALLONS OF GOOD SOUP
The Westchester County, New York restauranteur started a challenge to cook and give away a million gallons of soup during the 2020 COVID crisis- WHY SOUP? It's practical, nutritious and freezes/transports well. This culinary joy-giver said, "The only thing we can all do is try to help. For me, that means feeding people, taking care of my employees and honoring a community that has shown us so much love. You can either be paralyzed in fear or you can decide to do something. I'm making soup." To find out more about this joy-giver and his mission check out www.milliongallons.com.

CINDY AYERS ELLIOTT
The former Wall Street investment banker returned to her Mississippi roots and asked herself what was missing in her West Jackson community and how could she help.

Lessening food insecurity in this area where the nearest grocery store is 15 miles away became her passion, and since coronavirus hit, Foot Print Farms, the nonprofit she founded, has been providing 3,150 pounds of fresh, healthy, affordable food each week to serve 450 families. Ayers Elliott said, "We have to come together to serve those most in need all of the time, but especially during hard times."

FARMERS and FARMWORKERS
These essential workers deserve their own "Round of Applause" and a backrub. Thank you to everyone who produced our food this year!

HAMILTON: THE MUSICAL MOVIE
Writer/performer Lin-Manuel Miranda has given so much joy with LIVE performances of this groundbreaking musical, and in this year with theaters shuttered he co-created with Disney+ to "stream" the movie version allowing the audience an even greater intimacy with the performers.

FREE, "FULL, LIVE CONCERTS" ON YOUTUBE
While we drum our fingers waiting for the COVID vaccines to take effect and concert venues to be safe again, there are many hours of fantastic, filmed LIVE concerts with great performers.

Here are some I sampled in 2020: THE T.A.M.I. (Teenage Awards Music International) SHOW with stunning performances by James Brown, The Rolling Stones, Chuck Berry, the Beach Boys (2 hours); ELVIS: ALOHA FROM HAWAII, this show is a few years after "The King's" much-lauded "Comeback Special" and reaches a global audience (70 minutes); THE RISE AND FALL OF ZIGGY STARDUST AND THE SPIDERS FROM MARS, this is a niche pleasure but for those still enthrall to the creative genius of David Bowie this is a sure-fire treasure chest (1 hour); GEORGE HARRISON AND FRIENDS CONCERT FOR BANGLADESH, this was like a rock-and-roll sandwich slathered with Far Eastern spirituality and the "friends" were talents like Bob Dylan, Billy Preston and Ringo Starr (3 hours).

Please join me in A ROUND OF APPLAUSE for "THE MOST JOY-GIVING JOY-GIVERS of 2020." And, please add your own nominees. I also thought of the joy to the world given this year by Jose' Andres, Pope Francis, Megan Rapinoe, Selena Gomez, The Weekend (rapper), Giannis Antetokounmpo (good luck to the basketball sportscasters trying to pronounce his name), Nick Saban, Lebron James and so many others.

THANK YOU for the joy you gave in 2020. MERRY CHRISTMAS to you and a JOYOUS NEW YEAR!

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 26

William Ronald "Ronnie" Hendon, 73, of Arley entered into rest Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. Ronnie was born Oct. 12, 1947 in West Palm Beach, Florida to William Elber and Rutha Mae Holt Hendon. Ronnie loved hunting, fishing, camping and grilling. He loved football, especially Alabama football. He loved watching NASCAR, seeing Bill Elliott and the Earnhardts racing. Visitation will be held Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020 from noon-2 p.m. at Bethel Baptist Church No. 2 where services will follow at 2 p.m. Brother Mike Tidwell will officiate. Burial will follow in the adjoining cemetery. Ronnie is survived by his wife Annie Bell Hendon; daughter Liz (Mark) Brannon; son Bart Hendon; grandchildren Lucas (Courtney) Anders, Landon Anders, Lexi Anders, Heather Phillips, Sabrina Phillips, and Hannah Hendon; great-grandchildren Knox, Samantha, Makenzie, and Makayla; sister Gayla Rudd; and a host of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Ebb and Rutha Mae Hendon; infant daughter Donna Ann Hendon; and brother-in-law Freddie Rudd. Memories and condolences may be shared at www.nicholsfuneralhomes.com.

Karen Tipton Hanson, 64, of Joppa, Alabama passed away Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020. She was born Feb. 27, 1956 in Arab, Alabama to Conrad and Sue Henderson Tipton. Karen was a cosmetologist for 42 years and she owned and operated her own salon for many of those years. When Mrs. Hanson was not in the salon, she could be found in her garden. She enjoyed working in her yard and loved the beauty of flowers and plants. Karen was a member of Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church in Holly Pond. Mrs. Hanson was an active member in her church, and she enjoyed the preaching of God's word, as well as the fellowship of her church family, at Pleasant View. Mrs. Hanson is preceded in death by her parents Conrad and Sue Tipton as well as a brother Ricky Tipton. She is survived by her husband Don Hanson; son Brady Hanson and his wife Reinah; daughter Brandy Coppett and her husband Justin; brothers Keith Tipton, Chris Tipton and his wife Cheryl; and a host of nieces and nephews. Funeral services for Karen will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020 at Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church. Burial will follow in Union Grove Cemetery. Chris Tipton, Cody Tipton, Connor Tipton, Brady Hanson, Cash Hanson, and Zander Hanson will serve as pallbearers. Friends may visit with the family Sunday, at the church, from noon until services begin at 2 p.m. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Hanson family.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
DECEMBER 26, 2020

Jones and Smith Selected as Heisman Finalists

UA Athletics
rolltide.com

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. – Alabama quarterback Mac Jones and wide receiver DeVonta Smith were named two of the four finalists for the 2020 Heisman Trophy, the Heisman Memorial Trust announced on Christmas Eve on ESPN. Jones and Smith are joined by Clemson's quarterback Trevor Lawrence and Florida's quarterback Kyle Trask.

Running backs Mark Ingram (2009) and Derrick Henry (2015) were Alabama's first two Heisman winners. Jones and Smith join Ingram, Henry, Amari Cooper (2014), AJ McCarron (2013), Trent Richardson (2011) and Tua Tagovailoa (2018) as the seventh and eighth players to be named a finalist for the award under head coach Nick Saban.

Running back Najee Harris finished fifth in the Heisman Trophy voting. Harris is a finalist for Doak Walker and Jason Witten Collegiate Man of the Year. The running back leads the nation in total touchdowns (27) and rushing touchdowns (24) along with scoring (162).

Alabama is the second team ever to place three players in the top five of the same Heisman vote, joining 1946 Army with Glenn Davis, Doc Blanchard and Arnold Tucker.

Mac Jones

- The selection is the fifth national finalist honor, as he was previously announced as a finalist for the Davey O'Brien, Manning, Maxwell and Johnny Unitas Player of the Year awards
- One of college football's top passers who leads the nation in seven separate categories including total QBR, PFF offensive grade for a quarterback, adjusted completion percentage, completion percentage, NFL passer rating, collegiate pass efficiency rating and yards per pass attempt
- Thrown for the second-most passing yards in the nation (3,739)
- Owns four of Alabama's 10 all-time 400-plus yard passing performances, the most by any one quarterback at UA and a number that ties the SEC record for a single season
- Totaled 18 touchdowns and 1,572 yards with a 219.10 passer rating against ranked opponents (Texas A&M, Georgia, Auburn, Florida)

DeVonta Smith

- Picks up this fourth national finalist honor after being announced as a finalist for the Biletnikoff, Hornung and Maxwell Player of the Year awards
- The national leader in receptions (98), receiving yards (1,511) and yards after the catch (768) while ranking second in receiving touchdowns (17) and receiving yards per game (137.4)
- Pro Football Focus' top-rated wide receiver this season and in the history of the site at 93.7
- Holds program record in both career receiving yards (3,620) and single-season receiving scores while sitting at second in the Tide record book for receptions (98) in a season
- Totaled four 200-plus yard receiving games for his career, including two this season, to set the Alabama career mark



UA ATHLETICS

Alabama's Mac Jones (10) and DeVonta Smith (6) were selected as finalists for this year's Heisman Trophy. Najee Harris (22) finished 5th in Heisman voting.

The 2020 Heisman Trophy winner will be announced starting at 6 p.m. CT on Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021. The announcement will take place virtually.

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

'That's why I'm here': Coach Bryan Harsin outlines Auburn football vision

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. – Like Pat Dye four decades earlier, the more Bryan Harsin studied the Auburn Creed, the more he realized that, personally and professionally, he would feel right at home on the Plains.

"The principles that are in it I believe in," said Harsin in his introductory news conference Thursday, two days after being named Auburn's 28th head football coach. "They fit who I am as a person. They fit who I am as a coach and what I believe in."

Dye had a similar response 40 years ago when, like Harsin, he came to Auburn from the West (Wyoming for Dye, Idaho for Harsin).

"This is me," Dye said. "This is what I believe."

Summarizing the Creed's values, Harsin reached the same conclusion.

"I needed to process that and see how that fit," he said. "And every single one of them did."

Harsin comes to the Plains from his alma mater, Boise State, where he averaged 10 wins per season in his seven years as head coach.

Embracing the challenge of recruiting and competing in the SEC West, Harsin exuded confidence.

"We want to play for championships, and we want to play consistently," he said. "That's why I'm here.

"I've heard that it's going to be challenging, it's going to be tough. Isn't that what you want as a competitor?

"That's part of why this job and this opportunity at Auburn was so attractive, because exactly those things. It's exactly the reason why you want to play for Auburn University and exactly why you want to come to a place like this, because it's going to be challenging. It's going to be hard.

"You better be the ultimate competitor. You better have that mindset and you better be a guy that embraces that and loves it.

"And I'm certainly excited about the challenge."

After meeting via Zoom with the 2020 Auburn Tigers, Harsin plans to speak to the team face to face when the players return from Christmas break to begin practicing for the Vrbo Citrus Bowl, which Harsin plans to attend.

"Why I chose Auburn University is probably the same reason they did," he said. "How could you not?"

Noting that Auburn has twice played for national championships and won one in the past decade, Harsin emphasized the importance of the daily decisions that position teams for success.

"We can certainly embrace the past," Harsin said.

"We will attack the future. For our players and our staff, it will be an everyday focus. How do we go 1-0? How do we maximize what's right in front of us?"

Before Harsin wrapped up his first public appearance by sharing his message for Auburn fans, he expressed his recruiting philosophy and his pitch to prospective student-athletes.

"Great coaches understand they need to recruit great players," he said. "It starts with your staff.

"Be relentless when you do it. You go after the very best and you do it every single day.

"At Auburn, we have the opportunity to go after the very best, and share with them the vision and the direction we want to go and how they fit into that, and more importantly, how Auburn University fits into their life.

"I'm going to have a degree from Auburn University that I can go on and use and be successful in whatever it is that I choose to do. Football will end. You will be a competitor the rest of your life."



TODD VAN EMST/AU ATHLETICS

Auburn Head Coach Bryan Harsin speaks at an introductory press conference Thursday afternoon.

Before taking questions, Harsin concluded his opening remarks with a mic drop sound bite, the kind fans reference when saying a new coach has won the press conference.

"I'm humbled for the opportunity," he said. "I respect the league that we play in. I appreciate Auburn University and what it stands for. I'm excited to be your head coach at Auburn University. And I can't wait to get to work. War damn Eagle!"

7 Alabama players named finalists for national awards

UA Athletics
rolltide.com

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. – Alabama football had seven players selected to 13 different finalist lists as awards season enters its final cycle before the College Football Awards Show on Jan. 7, 2021.

The Crimson Tide's list of finalists includes: Landon Dickerson (Rimington); Najee Harris (Doak Walker); Mac Jones (Davey O'Brien, Johnny Unitas, Manning, Maxwell); Alex Leatherwood (Outland); Will Reichard (Groza); DeVonta Smith (Biletnikoff, Maxwell); and Patrick Surtain II (Bednarik, Nagurski, Thorpe). In addition, the Alabama offensive line was selected as a finalist for the Joe Moore Award, presented annually to the nation's top offensive line unit. Also, head coach Nick Saban was selected as a finalist for Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year while offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach Steve Sarkisian was named a semifinalist for the Broyles Award, which goes to college football's top assistant coach.

Landon Dickerson
Rimington

- The top-rated run-blocking center according to Pro Football Focus (92.8)
- Earned the No. 2 overall grade at center by PFF (91.5)
- Sports an overall blocking grade of 91.0 by the UA coaching staff while grading out at 99.6 on all assignments
- Played 725 total snaps with just two missed assignments and has allowed zero sacks

Najee Harris
Doak Walker

- Leads the nation in total touchdowns (27) and rushing touchdowns (24) along with scoring (162)
- Ranks second in scoring per game (14.7) while sitting at third nationally in rushing yards (1,262)
- Forced 78 missed tackles on the season to rank second in the country in that category
- Totaled at least one touchdown in 10 of the Crimson Tide's 11 games and two-or-more scores in eight of those contests
- Holds the Alabama career records for total touchdowns (54), rushing touchdowns (44) and rushing yards (3,639)

Mac Jones
Davey O'Brien | Johnny Unitas | Manning | Maxwell

- One of college football's top passers who leads the nation in seven separate categories including total QBR, PFF offensive grade for a quarterback, adjusted completion percentage, completion percentage, NFL passer rating, collegiate pass efficiency rating and yards per pass attempt
- Thrown for the second-most passing yards in the nation (3,739)
- Holds the highest completion percentage (76.5) by an Alabama quarterback through the first 11 games of a season
- Owns four of Alabama's 10 all-time 400-plus yard passing performances, the most by any one quarterback at UA and a number that ties the SEC record for a single season
- Totaled 18 touchdowns and 1,572 yards with a 219.10 passer rating against ranked opponents (Texas A&M, Georgia, Auburn, Florida)

Alex Leatherwood
Outland

- Made 39 consecutive starts along the Alabama offensive line
- Played 683 snaps and missed only two assignments
- Averaging an overall blocking grade of 91.1 by the Alabama coaching staff and has graded out at a team-high tying 99.6 on all assignments

Will Reichard
Groza

- Ranks second in the nation for consecutive made field goals with 13 dating back to last season
- Owns a perfect field goal percentage to tie for the lead in Division I
- Has gone 85-of-85 on all kicks, including 12 made field goals and 73 consecutive PATs
- Also contributing on kickoffs, totaling 2,839 yards on 54 boots with eight touchbacks

DeVonta Smith
Biletnikoff | Maxwell

- The national leader in receptions (98), receiving yards (1,511) and yards after the catch (768) while ranking second in receiving touchdowns (17) and receiving yards per game (137.4)
- Pro Football Focus' top-rated wide receiver this season and in the history of the site at 93.7
- Holds program record in both career receiving yards (3,620) and single-season receiving scores while sitting at second in the Tide record book for receptions (98) in a season
- Totaled four 200-plus yard receiving games for his career, including two this season, to set the Alabama career mark

Patrick Surtain II
Bednarik | Nagurski | Thorpe

- The nation's top corner and No. 10 overall defender by Pro Football Focus
- Maintains a coverage grade of 86.3 according to PFF, the sixth-best grade in the country
- Allowed 25 yards receiving or fewer in eight of the Tide's 11 games this season
- Targeted just 43 times all season and allowed only 18 completions (1.64 cpg) and 250 yards (22.7 ypg)

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