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Tide & Buckeyes set to battle for national championship



UA ATHLETICS/OSU ATHLETICS

The Alabama Crimson Tide and the Ohio State Buckeyes will meet in Miami Monday, Jan. 11 to play for this year's national title. The Tide and Buckeyes defeated Notre Dame and Clemson respectively to advance to this year's championship game.

STATE

Shedd, Gudger talk upcoming session

Pandemic, gambling, prisons topics of 2021 Legislative Session



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTOS

Left: Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview; Right: Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman

» PAGE 3

– BUSINESS –

Hanceville Nutrition open for business



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Posing for a photo at Hanceville Nutrition's grand opening Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 are, left to right, Taylor Hester, Owner Brandi Johnson, Kancis Smith and Savannah Johnson.

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – Just in time for those New Year's resolutions, Hanceville Nutrition is open and ready to help you get off to a great start in 2021. The grand opening for the smoothie and juice bar was held Friday with the official ribbon cutting to take place Monday, Jan. 4 at 10 a.m.

Owner Brandi Johnson was busy Friday morning mixing up colorful drinks for the many customers who were excited about the juice bar's arrival. Leading up to the opening, Johnson did "tea drops" around Hanceville to introduce herself and her products.

She explained, "I did it for those who maybe hadn't tried the tea bombs so they could try them before they came in, and I loved the face-to-face interaction."

Johnson, who lives in Moulton, said she discovered the perfect location to expand her business near the Wallace State Community College campus » PAGE 4

Fighting the good fight

Telehealth, other new approaches keep Good Samaritan Health Clinic going



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

In this May 2020 photo, left to right, are Good Samaritan Health Clinic Executive Director Jolanda Hutson, Rumors Deli Owner Annette Harris and Good Samaritan volunteers Beth Moultrie and Paula Waters.

» PAGE 7

HEALTH

United Way of Cullman County holds strong through 2020

» PAGE 2

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Bill Smith
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CRIME

CPD asking for public's assistance in shooting investigation

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman Police Chief Kenny Culpepper said his department is investigating a shooting that occurred in the southwest part of the city Tuesday night. The CPD is asking the public to come forward with any information.

"Tuesday at about 10 p.m., dispatch got reports of shots fired over around Rosemont and 12th Way," said Culpepper. "When the officers went over there, they found that, for about a block, a couple of cars on the street and the police annex over there, the westside office, had been shot." The chief said witnesses told officers someone fired the shots from a tan or light-color sedan. No one was inside the police annex building at the time of the shooting. There were no injuries.

"It's under investigation," said Culpepper, who asked for anyone who has cameras in the area or may have seen or know anything to call the CPD at 256-734-1434.

CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 31

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

Editor's note: *No reports were received Jan. 1, 2021*

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 31, 2020. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

No incidents or arrests reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Dec. 28

• counterfeit $100; State of Alabama; Cullman Shopping Center

Dec. 29

• fraudulent use of a credit or debit card; person; miscellaneous charges

Dec. 30

• first-degree theft of property; person; 13th St. SW; ATV; $12,000

• unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle; person; Brunner St. NW; purse & contents

• fraudulent use of a credit or debit card; person; miscellaneous charges

ARRESTS

Dec. 30

Wilson, Donald L., 70

• fourth-degree theft of property

Overton, Shayla D., 25

• FTA- following too close

Brady, Brianna D., 26

• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance

• possession of drug paraphernalia

Brock, Gavin A., 20

• DUI- under 21

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No incidents or arrests reported.

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

United Way (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – United Way of Cullman County is the kind of organization created for moments like 2020 has turned out to be. As the world shut down, the agency shifted into high gear, providing resources for its partners and others, and even seeing new donation records from the community for certain programs.

A message from United Way of Cullman County to The Tribune said:

United Way board, staff and volunteers would like to thank the community for standing with us during this challenging year.

"We want the community to know that because of your pledges and support last year, we were able to respond to the unforeseen needs in our community this year," said Executive Director Becky Goff.

"We may all be eager to put this difficult year behind us, but we must stop and recognize the generosity of our community, which allowed us to get through these challenges and continue to support those who needed our help the most," Goff said.

This year, thanks to your United Way, our community was able to benefit from the following resources and support through the generosity of employees, businesses, foundations and grants:

• $33,612 generated for the COVID-19 Community Response Fund

• 17 emergency grants provided to local nonprofits

• Distributed donated food and cleaning supplies to 10 local community pantries

• Provided 4,200 Cullman County K-5 students with "School Tools" with a value of over $45,000 thanks to 23 generous sponsors

• Collected the largest amount to date of school supplies for Cullman County and City Schools during Stuff the Bus

• Responded to nearly 1,000 211 calls and texts for information and resources

• Delivered 500 thank you bags to health care workers

• Invested in and supported 19 local nonprofits

• Hosted food drives to generate resources for Cullman Caring for Kids

• Held the annual Day of Caring Volunteer Outreach Event

• Created a partnership with the Food Outreach forum to coordinate food relief efforts

• Assisted 20,000 Cullman residents through partner programs

• Coordinated Thanksgiving and Christmas food and gifts for struggling families

• Collaborated with local churches and agencies to set up warming stations

For over 40 years, United Way has been on the front lines evaluating community needs, creating solutions to challenges and providing support to cornerstone organizations so that they can focus on the challenges our community is facing. Each year, following the annual campaign, United Way holds its annual citizen review process to allocate resources to local nonprofits. This past year, with the community's help, 16 network agencies will have received nearly $260,000 in financial support from April 1, 2020-March 31, 2021. In spite of the decline in collections from employee pledges due to closures and layoffs experienced throughout the community due to the pandemic, United Way's commitment to network partners remains stable.

United Way is currently seeking pledges and contributions for the 2021 United Way Campaign to continue our financial support of local community agencies for the 2021-22 fiscal year. The annual campaign is projected to be short $50,000 due to loss of fundraising events and a decrease in pledges. United Way is asking everyone in the community to join us in support of our community to help us meet our goal. The annual campaign ends March 31, 2021. You can make a donation at www.UWAYCC.org or contact United Way at bgoff@uwaycc.org or 256-739-2948.

For more information on network partners or to view the current financial information of United Way of Cullman County, visit www.UWAYCC.org.

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

City of Cullman Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, Jan. 4 at 5:30 p.m. at Cullman City Hall

Holly Pond Town Council Meeting

Monday, Jan. 4 at 6 p.m. at the Guy Hunt Library

Fairview Town Council Meeting

Monday, Jan. 4 at 6 p.m. at Fairview Town Hall

Town of Berlin January 2021 Special Meeting

• Monday, Jan. 4 at 7 p.m. at the Berlin Community Center

• Discussion will include Farmers' Market building and weather alerts.

Baileyton Town Council Meeting

Monday, Jan. 4 at 7 p.m. at Baileyton Town Hall

Cullman Education Retirees Association Meeting

• Thursday, Jan. 14 at 11 a.m. at Stone Bridge Farms, 281 County Road 717, Cullman

• Our program will be presented by Kelly Smith, personal financial counselor. Following our program, we will have a short business meeting and then enjoy lunch together. Remember to wear your mask and practice social distancing.

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COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 COVID-19 update from the Alabama Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Data and Surveillance Dashboard

• Total confirmed cases in AL: 294,466 (+3,885 since yesterday)
• Probable cases in AL: 71,281 (+636 since yesterday)
• Total confirmed deaths in AL: 4,254 (+35 since yesterday)
• Probable deaths in AL: 618
• Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co.: 5,079 (+76 since yesterday)
• Probable cases in Cullman Co.: 2,115 (+39 since yesterday)
• Total confirmed deaths in Cullman Co.: 61 (+0 since yesterday)
• Probable deaths in Cullman Co.: 17
• Total tested in Cullman Co.: 31,442
• Total tested in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 2,161
• Cases in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 1,038
• Total tested in Alabama: 1,885,216
• Cases in the last 14 days in Alabama: 51,048
• Total tested in the last 14 days in Alabama: 122,073
• Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 2,815
• Cumulative no. of hospitalizations in Alabama: 34,373
• Presumed recoveries in Alabama (reported weekly): 202,137

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

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Funny Things from Yesterday: Christmas Story by Crosby

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



I must apologize for not having this story last week. It is a belated Christmas story that I did not have all the facts in time to send it in. Hopefully, you will enjoy it.

Crosby as you probably remember is our 3-year-old great-grandson. He sometimes amazes us with things he says and does. This is the latest thing he did at school and it was videoed for his parents. Some may have already seen it on Facebook.

The teacher asked him his name and he said, "Crosby."

The teacher then asked him questions about Christmas. Crosby said that an angel came in the air and Mary and Joseph were scared. He said the angel told them to name the baby Jesus.

The teacher asked him where they were. He replied, "Bethlehem."

"And what did they do in Bethlehem?" Crosby said that they asked someone if they had any room and they said no. They asked someone else if they had any room and they said no.

The teacher asked, "Where did they stay?" Crosby said that they stayed in a barn with the animals.

The teacher said, "With animals?" Crosby said again, "With animals."

Crosby then said that the baby came out.

Crosby said after this, "The angel told the shepherds about Jesus and they sang."

The teacher asked if the shepherds brought any gifts. Crosby said they didn't because they didn't have too much money. The teacher asked about the wisemen. Cosby said that they saw his star and they came. The teacher then asked if the wisemen brought him any gifts? Crosby said that they brought him some perfume, gold and some clothes.

The teacher then asked if Christmas is about getting presents? Crosby said, "No." Then he added, "Sometimes it is."

The teacher then asked again, "What is Christmas about?"

Crosby said, "Jesus."

Sorry to be late on this Christmas story, but it is so heartwarming that young children are learning the true meaning of Christmas at school, as well as at home.

My HAPPY NEW YEAR wish is one day late, but God's blessings to everyone in 2021!

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Good Riddance 2020 – Welcome 2021

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Have you ever had friends or family members whom you loved to see coming, but perhaps, by the time they left, you were happier to see them go? As some people say, "No harm, no foul, just being honest." Some people don't know when to leave, or as Mama used to say, "They wear out their welcome."

Would you agree with me that 2020 has worn out its welcome? I can't remember ever being so excited to see a year, any year, come to an end. I don't appear to be in that boat by myself. This year will be talked about for generations to come.

This time last year we were so excited to welcome in a new year. We celebrated its arrival like that of a new-born baby. We had parades, parties, and celebrations.

The numbers 2020 even sounded good. We used a play on words to say, "I can see good things ahead with 20/20 vision." Some people even wore glasses with frames shaped like the number 2020.

If we had only known then, what we know now, we would have seen thing differently. As it has turned out we didn't have 2020 vision after all, or at least not until later in the year. I began 2020 full speed ahead and with a calendar filled with plans. In the third month, I slammed on brakes and everything came to a screeching halt. As 2020 heads out the door, we wipe our brows, give a sigh of relief, and say "Don't come back!"

I don't believe in luck, but for those of you who do, those greens and peas you ate on New Year's Day, didn't work! I may eat those things, but only because I like them. As far as any effect on the coming year, I prefer to pray about it.

This year we should send up a prayer of thanksgiving that this year is over and that we survived. So far, neither I, nor my immediate family, have had the virus. Multitudes of people around the world have not been so blessed.

I'm also praying a thanksgiving that a vaccine has been developed and is on the way. While this terrible plague is not over yet, and we are still not out of the woods, at least we have hope.

We can see a light at the end of the tunnel...and as they say, we're praying it isn't on a train that's coming our way! Had we known what was coming our way last year, we might have tried to roll 2019 over and use it again. Of course, we know it doesn't work that way.

We can't go back and relive the past or undo what has been. We have to keep moving forward in faith and trust that better days are ahead. The truth is that we never know exactly what is headed our way. We have no idea what this coming year will bring us, but we can and should pray for better days. I don't claim to understand why some things happen as they do.

I don't know why we have this terrible virus among us, but I do know this: God's Word tells us that all things work together for good to those who love God. (Romans 8:28) He did not say that all things are good, but that all things work together for good.

At this point, I can't begin to see much good that has come from this virus, but I don't know everything either. I will not only say, "Have a happy New Year," but I'll add to that, "Have a better New Year!"

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: 1900, 1930

From the files of 1900

Miss Fannie Watts of Etha is attending music school at Holly Pond.

D.E. Jones is postmaster at Jones Chapel.

The sixth annual session of the West Cullman Singing Convention was held at Bethlehem West on August 3, 4 and 5.

J.M. Wilks presided. L.B. Cornelius acted as secretary. L.A. Worley was made chairman.

Reverend G.W. Chandler is teaching a singing school at Good Hope.

Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Hanlin and family returned Thursday from a visit to their old home in Indiana.

From the files of 1930

Probate Judge H.F. Mitchell has received Cullman County's allotment of new auto tags for 1931. The tags are yellow on a green background.

Jim Martin, 81, died at his home near Missionary Grove on Monday.

Cullman County High will open on August 25 with the following faculty members: M.H. Killingsworth, Virgil Collins, A.S. Johnston, J.H.S. Church, Sanford Clark, Pauline Neighbors, Minnie Harris, William T. Wilks, Nannie Lou Jenkins, Mary Nicholson, Ethel Rogers, Ruby D. Doyle, Susan Patterson, Freda Hartung, Thelma Goodwin and P.F. Bria.

Mrs. C.H. Bedingfield entertained at bridge on Friday afternoon.

Miss Lorene Fischer returned Tuesday from a three month tour of Europe.

Miss Sarah Lillian Ritcher has returned home after spending the summer with relatives in Birmingham.

Orus McMinn has recovered from a serious attack of malaria.

Miss Elizabeth Otwell who has been attending summer school at Boston, Massachusetts, has arrived home to visit her parents.

Mrs. Mary Julian of Blountsville is visiting Mrs. T.C. Holmes and Mrs. Clyde Stewart.

Miss Doris Bland left on Saturday for New Orleans for a visit with friends.

Miss Maggie Brown, who has been attending school at Jacksonville, has arrived home for a vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. Olin Brandon are spending several weeks in Arkansas.

Mrs. Gundy Schafer entertained with a picnic lunch, on Sunday, honoring Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Hayward and Mrs. John Schafer of Michigan.

Session (from Front)

Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – The Alabama Legislature will convene for the 2021 Legislative Session one month from today on Feb. 2. To get an idea of what topics will be discussed and what the public should know about the issues its legislators will be working on, The Tribune talked to Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview and Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman.

In the House, Shedd said the representatives will be hard at work catching up on opportunities they missed due to last year's abbreviated session.

"There's still a lot of concern about being in session with the pandemic still going, but I feel like we've got to get back to work," he stated. "I think we've got to be focused on trying to catch up, seeing what we can do and what we need to do to help those who've been hurt economically by the pandemic as well."

Shedd said the pandemic has demonstrated the need for a widespread broadband infrastructure throughout the state - both for education and for business - so he will focus a great deal of effort to help expand the networks in place as well as adding new ones.

Over in the Senate, Gudger said he expects to see a lot of discussion regarding COVID-19 liability insurance.

"I imagine there will be a lot of information and bills to protect businesses, small businesses and churches, people like that, from being sued by someone saying, 'This is where I got it from,'" he explained. "Everyone might think they know where they caught it, but there's not a definite map."

The two legislators also mentioned two upcoming topics in common: gambling and prisons.

A final report submitted to Gov. Ivey by the Governor's Study Group on Gambling Policy on Dec. 18 discussed detailed research of different methods of gambling, how other areas have implemented these methods and the pros and cons of each kind.

The three main gambling forms studied were lotteries, casino gaming and sports betting.

The Study Group found that implementing all three would generate an estimated $510-710 million in revenue for the state and create up to 19,000 new jobs, though the decision would not be without costs - an estimate of over 66,000 residents of Alabama may develop gambling disorders.

Both Gudger and Shedd said that the decision on whether or not to allow gambling and which forms of gambling to allow will likely appear in the upcoming session. The full 876-page report can be found at https://governor.alabama.gov/assets/2020/12/FINAL-GS-GGP-GAMBLING-REPORT.pdf.

Early in December, the U.S. Department of Justice filed a lawsuit against the State of Alabama over unsafe and unsanitary conditions in men's prisons across the state. The suit alleges that the State violated the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment rights of prisoners in 14 major correctional facilities "by failing to prevent prisoner-on-prisoner violence and sexual abuse, by failing to protect prisoners from the excessive use of force by security staff (with the exception of the Hamilton Aged & Infirmed Correctional Facility), and by failing to provide safe conditions of confinement in violation of the Constitution.

It went on to allege that the State has "failed or refused to correct the unconstitutional conditions" since negotiations started in Spring 2019 and that the State "is deliberately indifferent to the serious and systemic constitutional problems present," and therefore the United States "has determined that constitutional compliance cannot be secured by voluntary means." The full complaint can be found at www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1344011/download.

Shedd and Gudger both expressed concern over this suit and the possible cost for Alabama taxpayers.

"My biggest legislative worry for a long time has been the fear of the federal courts taking over the Alabama prison system and the cost that it would incur to the taxpayers of Alabama," said Shedd. "I think that's something we've got to really focus on to resolve that."

Said Gudger, "The state needs more facilities for the amount of prisoners that we have.

"That is something that affects all of us because that will cost the taxpayers money, and so we need to be able to be as efficient with our budget as possible."

After talking about the upcoming legislative session, The Tribune asked both men what hopes and aspirations they had for the upcoming year.

Shedd: "As everybody probably knows, I try to focus on local projects. One thing that I'm very hopeful for and working hard toward is the St. Bernard bridge four-lane, or at least getting it started, so that (U.S. Highway) 278 can be completed. That's my biggest wish."

Gudger: "The main thing that I think everybody's looking forward to is a fresh start - just having a year where we can have a normal environment and do day-to-day business, go to church, go to restaurants.

"With the vaccines coming, whether you're for them or against them, at least that'll start creating some more normalcy for the citizens of the state of Alabama. That's the number one thing, getting to have a regular environment because 2020 has been so unusual.

"Number two, as far as aspirations, I'm looking forward to a really good session. I go into the state legislature this year on Feb. 2, and I'm looking forward to getting there, looking at the bills, looking at the things we have in front of us so that we not only can hopefully bring some money back to this district and the state, but also look at issues like liability insurance and anything local that we need to be addressing.

"As far as personal aspirations, I just want to continue working at my small business trying to pay off debt, continue trying to balance family and politics, being a husband and father and a son taking care of my mom, and doing what I love to do every day."

POET'S CORNER

Old Newspapers

By: Randy C. Hale

In my possession some twenty plus
years now is an old box packed full
of newspapers stacked neatly
just as it was left behind by
my grandmother before.

A familiar musk is present when
opening the old faded box, its
shabby lid, revealing the stacks
of old recorded history from her
life foregone.

Someone had traveled to a far
country or returned from war.
There was a graduation, a marriage,
a baby born, someone's death
or notable accomplishment.

She put them there because
she was linked to them in some way,
kinfolks, former schoolmates,
someone she went to church with
or worked beside.

I wonder when she ever had time
to look through them, maybe on
cold winter days or a break while
spring-cleaning, thumbing through
two or three like I some times do.

I'll probably will never see all these
papers at the current pace I'm on,
but I wish to, connecting to the past
and to someone whom I loved dearly
who thoughtfully put them there.

Hanceville Nutrition (from Front)

at 918 Main St. NE in Hanceville.

"Since I was 8, I've been geared around nutrition," said Johnson, who has type 1 diabetes and hypothyroidism.

"She has also worked in the medical field for several years and said she is knowledgeable about what is good and not good for the body.

One of her favorite ingredients is aloe, she said. "I would drink that stuff straight. It is so good for digestive health. It filters you. Oh, it's amazing and sometimes if I don't need caffeine, I just do aloe-flavored water."

Johnson said juice and smoothies are good alternatives for those trying to break the soda and fountain drink habit.

She added, "With the 21 vitamins and minerals combined, it makes my nails grow insanely fast and they don't break off."

In the store's Moulton location, Johnson said, Pineapple Punch and Miami Vice are among the most popular drinks.

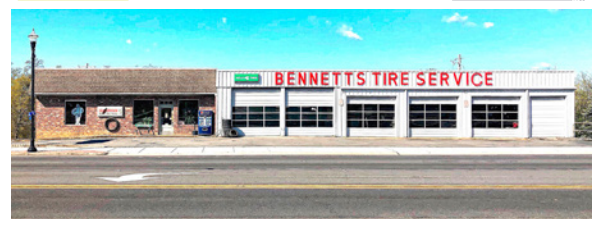
"That's a good go-to to start with," she said. "Most people do like it. The base on both of them are pineapple and orange.

"Then the Miami Vice has strawberry on top, and some people add the coconut to it. It also has no sugar and no carbs in it.

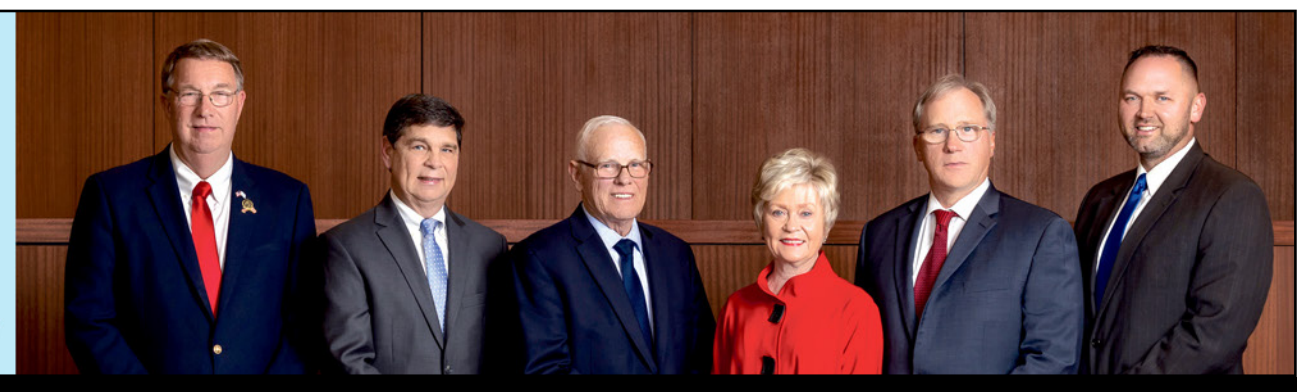
"If you like an in-between flavor, between tart and sweet, Tiki Island is really good! When I first started drinking the teas, I drank only Tiki Island for a straight year and sometimes I added a splash of coconut. It's such a beachy drink."

Hanceville Nutrition will be open Monday-Friday from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Johnson said she hopes to add a kids' activity corner in the future and provide a comfortable space for students and others to meet and hang out with friends or study. Hanceville Nutrition has free Wi-Fi.

Find out more at www.facebook.com/Hanceville-Nutrition.

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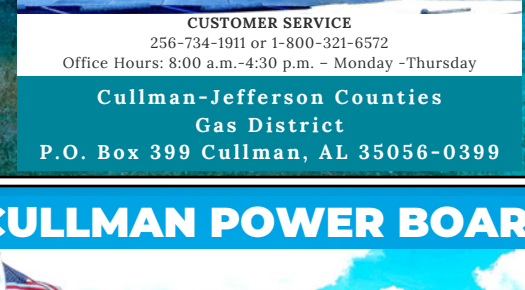
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A Round of Applause for the Joy-Givers: 365+ American joy-givers of 2021

Ben South
Tribune Columnist

HOORAY FOR THE JOY-GIVERS! Last year in the first, joy-challenged months of the pandemic, the weekly "A ROUND OF APPLAUSE" series was launched to celebrate present-day joy-givers and remember joy-givers of the past.

Now, after months of social-distancing and daily gloom-and-doom news, we need a heapin' helpin' of joy more than just about any time in our country's history.

So, throughout 2021, each day of the year, we are celebrating the birthday of an American joy-giver born that day. (Note: On a few days, we couldn't choose between two joy-givers, and there is one set of twins, so we included both and the full count for the year is 370.)

The 365 joy-givers reflect American diversity. There are humorists, singers, athletes, dancers, freedom fighters, cartoonists, motivators, musicians, artists, fashion designers, inventors, horticulturists, even a video game creator, a skateboarding star and a snowboarding Olympian.

We honor joy-givers from the beginning of America in 1776 to 2021. There is even one great, joy-giving American horse.

No, we are not celebrating with one big birthday party. Instead, we are saluting the joy-giving honorees with a "virtual party" each week: 52 fun gatherings with quotable repartee, a suggested menu and recipes.

You are invited to join in the celebration for a year filled with joy-giving, American heroes and heroines.

PLEASE GIVE A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THESE JOY-GIVING AMERICANS we are celebrating throughout 2021:

January
1-Paul Revere, George Washington Carver, 2- Roger Miller, 3-Victor Borge, 4-Don Shula, 5-Diane Keaton, 6-Danny Thomas, 7-Zora Neal Hurston, 8-Elvis Presley, 9-Edgar Allan Poe, 10-George Foreman, 11-Alexander Hamilton, 12-John Singer Sargent, 13-Horatio Alger, Jr., 14-T-Bone Burnett, 15-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 16-Lin-Manuel Miranda, 17-Benjamin Franklin, Muhammad Ali, 18-Danny Kaye, 19-Dolly Parton, 20-George Burns, 21-Wolfman Jack, 22-Daniel Wallace, 23-Chesley Sullenberger Iii, 24-Maria Tallchief, 25-Alicia Keys, 26-Ellen Degeneres, 27-Mikail Baryshnikov, 28-Jackson Pollack, 29-Oprah Winfrey, 30-Brett Butler, 31-Carol Channing

February
1-Jason Isbell, 2-Ina Garten, 3-Norman Rockwell, 4-Charles Lindbergh, Rosa Parks, 5-Red Buttons, 6-Babe Ruth, 7-Chris Rock, 8-John Grisham, 9-Carole King, 10-Jimmy Durante, 11-Thomas Edison, 12-Sid Caesar, 13-Grant Wood, 14-Jack Benny, Renee Fleming, 15-Susan B. Anthony, 16-Levar Burton, 17-Michael Jordan, 18-Louis Comfort Tiffany, 19-Eddie Arcaro, 20-Ansel Adams, 21-Erma Bombeck, 22-George Washington, 23-Aziz Ansari, 24-Steve Jobs, 25-Jack Handey, 26-Levi Strauss, 27-Marian Anderson, 28-Frank Gehry

March
1-Dinah Shore, 2-Dr. Seuss, 3-Alexander Graham Bell, 4-Knute Rockne, 5-Eva Mendes, 6-Bob Wills, 7-Luther Burbank, 8-Cyd Charisse, 9-Bobby Fischer, 10-Chuck Norris, 11-Lawrence Welk, 12-Jack Kerouac, 13-Bill Cunningham, 14-Billy Crystal, 15-Sly Stone, 16-Jerry Lewis, 17-Fred Allen, 18-George Plimpton, 19-Moms Mabley, 20-Fred Rogers, 21-Solomon Burke, 22-Stephen Sondheim, 23-Fannie Farmer, 24-Harry Houdini, 25-Aretha Franklin, 26-Duncan Hines, 27-Quentin Tarantino, 28-Charlie Mccoy, 29-Brooke Astor, 30-Secretariat, 31-Cesar Chavez

April
1-Debbie Reynolds, 2-Marvin Gaye, 3-Eddie Murphy, 4-Muddy Waters, 5-Bette Davis, 6-Merle Haggard, 7-Francis Ford Coppola, 8-Betty Ford, 9-Hugh Hefner, 10-Mark Roth, 11-Bill Irwin, 12-David Letterman, 13-Al Green, 14-Loretta Lynn, 15-Bessie Smith, 16-Henry Mancini, 17-Don Kirshner, 18-Superman, 19-Ali Wong, 20-George Takei, 21-John Muir, 22-Glen Campbell, 23-Shirley Temple, 24-Barbra Streisand, 25-Walt Whitman, 26-Carol Burnett, 27-Lizzo, 28-Jay Leno, 29-Willie Nelson, 30-George Balanchine

May
1-Kate Smith, 2-Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, 3-Bing Crosby, 4-Keith Haring, 5-James Beard, 6-Rudolph Valentino, 7-Johnny Unitas, 8-Don Rickles, 9-Jo Harjo, 10-Fred Astaire, 11-Irving Berlin, 12-George Carlin, 13-Stevie Wonder, 14-Mark Zuckerberg, 15-Jasper Johns, 16-Liberace, 17-Sugar Ray Leonard, 18-Tina Fey, 19-Nora Ephron, 20-Cher, 21-Fats Waller, 22-M. Scott Peck, 23-Rosemary Clooney, 24-Bob Dylan, 25-Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, 26-John Wayne, 27-James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok, 28-Hunter "Patch" Adams, 29-Bob Hope, 30-Benny Goodman, 31-Joe Namath

June
1-Marilyn Monroe, 2-Wayne Brady, 3-Josephine Baker, 4-Dr. Ruth, 5-Pat Garrett (Lawman), 6-Harvey Fierstein, 7-Dean Martin, 8-Joan Rivers, 9-Jackie Mason, 10-Judy Garland, 11-Peter Dinklage, 12-Jim Nabors, 13-Ashley And Mary-Kate Olsen, 14-Burl Ives, 15-Saul Steinberg, 16-Tupac Shakur, 17-Barry Manilow, 18) William Randolph Hearst Iii, 19-Moe Howard, 20-Brian Wilson, 21-Judy Holliday, 22-Meryl Streep, 23-Bob Fosse, 24-Ambrose Bierce, 25-Anthony Bourdain, 26-Nick Offerman, 27-Vera Wang, 28-Mel Brooks, 29-Slim Pickens, 30-David Alan Grier

July
1-Estee Lauder, 2-Larry David, 3-George M. Cohan, 4-Neil Simon, 5-P.t.barnum, 6-Kevin Hart, 7-Satchel Paige, 8-Philip Johnson, 9-Tom Hanks, 10-Arthur Ashe, 11-E.b. White, 12-Henry David Thoreau, 13-Harrison Ford, 14-William Hanna, 15-Clement Moore, 16-Will Ferrell, 17-Phyllis Diller, 18-Red Skelton, 19-Howard Schultz, 20-Carlos Santana, 21-Robin Williams, 22-Freddie Prinze, 23-Alison Kraus, 24-Jennifer Lopez, 25-Maxfield Parrish, 26-Sandra Bullock, Gracie Allen, 27-Bugs Bunny, 28-Jim Davis, "Garfield," 29-Ken Burns, 30-Lisa Kudrow, 31-Andy Macdonald, Skateboard Champion

August
1-Jerry Garcia, 2-James Baldwin, 3-Tony Bennett, 4-Jeff Gordon, 5-Neil Armstrong, 6-Lucille Ball, 7-Garrison Keillor, 8-Esther Williams, 9-Betty Boop, 10-Jimmy Dean, 11-Hulk Hogan, 12-Pete Sampras, 13-Annie Oakley, 14-Steve Martin, 15-Julia Child, 16-Madonna, 17-Mae West, 18-Patrick Swayze, 19-Ogden Nash, 20-Eero Saarinen, 21-Wilks Chamberlain, 22-Dorothy Parker, 23-Gene Kelly, 24-Dave Chapelle, 25-Leonard Bernstein, 26-Will Shortz, Crossroad Puzzle Guru, 27-Paul "Pee Wee Herman" Reubens, 28-Scott Hamilton, 29-Michael Jackson, 30-Molly Ivins, 31-Buddy Hackett

September
1-Lily Tomlin, 2-Romare Bearden, 3-Shaun White, Snowboarder, 4-Beyonce' Giselle Knowles Carter, 5-Bob Newhart, 6-Jeff Foxworthy, 7-Grandma Moses, 8-Patsy Cline, 9-Adam Sandler, 10-Arnold Palmer, 11-Julia Reed, 12-Jesse Owens, 13-Don Ho, 14-Jeremy Dunham, Video Game Designer, 15-Robert Benchley, 16-David Copperfield, 17-Hank Williams, 18-Lance Armstrong, 19-Adam "Batman" West, 20-Dale Chihuly, 21-Billy Porter, 22-Ted Williams, 23-Ray Charles, Bruce Springsteen, 24-F. Scott Fitzgerald, 25-Will Smith, 26-Jack Lalanne, 27-George Gershwin, 28-Al Capp, 29-Jerry Lee Lewis, 30-Truman Capote

October
1-Donny Hathaway, 2-Groucho Marx, 3-Chubby Checker, 4-Buster Keaton, 5-Neil Degrasse Tyson, 6-Carole Lombard, 7-Yo-Yo-Ma, 8-Cece Winans, 9-Jackson Browne, 10-Helen Hayes, 11-Snl Premieres (1975), 12-Dick Gregory, 13-Lenny Bruce, 14-Ralph Lauren, 15-I Love Lucy Premieres (1951), 16-Andre Leon Talley, 17-Evel Knievel, 18-Chuck Berry, 19-Peter Max, 20-Lewis Grizzard, 21-Carrie Fisher, 22-Jeff Goldblum, 23-Johnny Carson, 24-Moss Hart, 25-Katy Perry, 26-Seth Mcfarlane, 27-Fran Lebowitz, 28-Jonas Salk, 29-Fanny Brice, 30-Charles Atlas, 31-Juliette Gordon Low

November
1-Kinky Friedman, 2-Richard Serra, 3-Roseanne Barr, 4-Will Rogers, 5-Roy Rogers, 6-John Philip Sousa, 7-Billy Graham, 8-Bonnie Raitt, 9-Carl Sagan, 10-Sinbad, 11-Jonathan Winters, 12-Grace Kelly, 13-Whoopi Goldberg, 14-P.j. O'rourke, 15-Georgia O'keefe, 16-George S. Kaufman, 17-Rupaul, 18-Mickey Mouse, 19-Calvin Klein, 20-Dr. John, 21-Goldie Hawn, 22-Rodney Dangerfield, 23-Bruce Vilanch, 24-Dale Carnegie, 25-Joe Dimaggio, 26-Charles Schultz, 27-Bruce Lee, 28-Jon Stewart, 29-Garry Shandling, 30-Mark Twain

December
1-Richard Pryor, 2-Gianni Versace, 3-Andy Williams, 4-Jay-Z, 5-Walt Disney, 6-Steven Wright, 7-Louis Prima, 8-James Thurber, 9-Emmett Kelly, 10-Emily Dickinson, 11-Marge, Cartoonist Of "Little Lulu," 12-Frank Sinatra, 13-Taylor Swift, 14-Spike Jones And His City Slickers, 15-Tim Conroy, 16-Bill Hicks, 17-John Kennedy Toole, 18-Steven Spielberg, 19-Cicely Tyson, 20-Elsie De Wolfe, 21-Ray Romano, 22-Lady Bird Johnson, 23-Madam C. J. Walker, 24-Howard Hughes, 25-Helena Rubenstein, 26-David Sedaris, 27-Marlene Dietrich, 28-Mary Tyler Moore, 29-Paula Poundstone, 30-Lebron James, Tiger Woods, 31-John Denver, Donna Summer



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Auburn concludes season with Vrbo Citrus Bowl defeat

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics

ORLANDO, Fla. – Auburn completed the 2020 season Friday with a 35-19 loss to No. 15 Northwestern in the 75TH Vrbo Citrus Bowl at Camping World Stadium.

The Tigers played without leading rusher Tank Bigsby and several other offensive and defensive starters.

Auburn quarterback Bo Nix completed 25 of 42 passes for 292 yards and a touchdown.

Linebackers Owen Pappoe and Zakoby McClain led the defensive effort with 11 tackles each. Jamien Sherwood added 10.

After Pappoe's sack helped force a Northwestern punt, Nix connected down the sideline with Elijah Canion, who stiff-armed a defender for 20 yards on his way to his first Auburn touchdown, a 57-yarder that trimmed Northwestern's lead to 14-13 in the middle of the third quarter.

Jaylin Simpson's open-field tackle on fourth down regained possession for Auburn, but the Tigers were forced to punt.

The Wildcats added to their lead on quarterback Peyton Ramsey's 30-yard touchdown run to go ahead 21-13 late in the third quarter.

Northwestern (7-2) tackled Nix short of a first down on fourth-and-inches at midfield, then drove 50 yards for a touchdown to take a 28-13 lead.

The Tigers were 2 of 13 on third down and 1-for-3 on fourth down while the Wildcats combined to go 10-for-22 on those downs.

After Nix exited with an injury, Auburn fumbled two plays later at its 24-yard line, with Northwestern connecting on an 8-yard touchdown pass on third-and-7 to lead 35-13 in the middle of the fourth quarter.

Nix returned, leading Auburn on a 10-play, 75-yard touchdown drive. D.J. Williams capped the drive with a 2-yard TD run. Auburn's two-point attempt failed to convert.

Auburn trailed 14-6 at halftime after Ramsey threw touchdown passes on the Wildcats' first two drives for a 14-0 first-quarter lead.

The Tigers outscored the Wildcats 6-0 in the second quarter on a pair of Anders Carlson field goals.

After Carlson got Auburn on the board with a 50-yarder with 6:03 left in the half, the Tigers' defense forced a punt after one Northwestern first down.

Auburn drove 72 yards in 15 plays with Carlson connecting from 27 yards out with 17 seconds remaining.

In the first half Nix completed 14 passes to 10 receivers on 25 attempts, netting 118 yards.

Auburn held Northwestern to 21 rushing yards on 20 attempts in the first half. Smoke Monday had two tackles for loss and Jaren Handy added one. Auburn concludes the season with a 6-5 record. New head coach Bryan Harsin assumes leadership of the program after being hired on Dec. 22.

TEAM NOTES

- Captains: Big Kat Bryant, Bo Nix, Shaun Shivers
- Coin Toss: Auburn won the toss and deferred
- First-time starters for Auburn: Marco Domio, Zykevious Walker, Dre Butler
- Auburn has scored in 104 consecutive games, the second-longest streak in school history

INDIVIDUAL NOTES/OFFENSE

- Elijah Canion's 57-yard touchdown reception was his first career score and Auburn's third-longest pass play of the season. That TD pass by Bo Nix moved Nix into the Auburn top 10 for career TD passes with 28, tied with ben Leard (28 from 1997-2000). It was Nix' 12 TD pass of the season
- Nix records his seventh 200-yard passing game this season; he has 11 for his career
- D.J. Williams scores his third rushing TD of the season and fifth of his career
- Seth Williams now has 2,124 career receiving yards, ranking 4th among Auburn career leaders, passing Courtney Taylor (2,098 from 2003-06)
- Eli Stove is tied for 5th in Auburn career receptions with 136, tied with Tyrone Goodson (136 from 1993-97). Seth Williams ranks 7th with 132
- Eli Stove ranks 24th in Auburn career receiving yardage with 1,194 yards, passing Clifton Robinson (1,167 from 1997-2000)
- Bo Nix to Seth Williams is now the third-most prolific pass-catching combo in Auburn history with 105 receptions; next ahead is Pat Sullivan to Terry Beasley (140 receptions from 1969-71)>

INDIVIDUAL NOTES/DEFENSE

- Owen Pappoe recorded his fourth sack of the season and sixth of his career
- Pappoe recorded double-figure tackles in a game for the fifth time in his career; Jamien Sherwood recorded double-figure tackles for the fourth time in his career
- Smoke Monday now has 108 tackles for his career; Jordyn Peters now has 100 career tackles.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES/SPECIAL TEAMS

- Anders Carlson is now 5th in career scoring at Auburn with 275 points, passing Bo Jackson (274 from 1982-85); next is Carnell Williams (276 from 2001-04)
- Carlson is now 6th in career PAT made at Auburn with 116; next is Damon Duval (125 from 1999-2002)
- Carlson is 3rd in Auburn career field goals made with 53; next is Wes Byrum (60 from 2007-10)
- Anders and older brother Daniel Carlson have now scored the most points (749) of any brother combination kicking at the same college, passing Kris and Drew Brown of Nebraska (743 points from 1995-98 and 2014-17)
- Carlson's 50-yard field goal in the second quarter was the fifth of his career and second this season of 50 yards or longer

Auburn drops SEC opener, Johnson scores career high

AU Athletics
auburntigers.com

AUBURN, Ala. – Jamal Johnson scored a career-high 21 points but Auburn fell to unbeaten Arkansas 97-85 Wednesday in the SEC opener at Auburn Arena, snapping the Tigers' five-game win streak.

"Arkansas was fast and quick and we just couldn't keep them in front," Auburn coach Bruce Pearl said.

"We did not do a very good job with our individual defense and struggled to turn them over."

Arkansas (9-0, 1-0) used a late 10-0 run to take control after a pair of Allen Flanigan free throws tied the game at 74-74 with 7:30 to play.

Flanigan scored 19 points and grabbed a career-high 10 rebounds.

Johnson made 5 of 7 3-pointers, besting his previous career mark of 18 points.

"Our main goal is to win the SEC regular season championship," said Johnson, one of only two juniors in Auburn's 10-player rotation.

"The career high was great, but I want to win, our whole team and our coaching staff want to win."

Devan Cambridge made 5 of 6 3-pointers to account for his season-high 15 points. Jaylin Williams also reached double figures, scoring 13.

Justin Powell distributed nine assists, half of Auburn's total, while adding six rebounds.

Powell assisted on consecutive baskets – a Dylan Cardwell dunk and a Johnson 3-pointer – in a 5-0 run that trimmed Arkansas' lead to 71-69.

JT Thor assisted on Cambridge's fifth 3-pointer to again pull the Tigers within two points before Flanigan's game-tying free throws.

Auburn turnovers were costly down the stretch as the Razorbacks pulled away.

The Tigers committed 19 turnovers while forcing only 10, leading to a 27-11 Arkansas advantage in points off turnovers.

"They took better care of the basketball than we did and that's why they got out of here with a win," Pearl said.

"It's great to have the size and the length that we have, but only if you can utilize that size and length by blocking shots or helping more defensively.

"We do know what's ailing us. We've got to get guys to rotate over and help each other, take charges and block shots, strip and rip and make plays defensively."

Auburn trailed 47-41 at halftime after making 9 of 17 3-pointers in the first half.

The Tigers were 15-for-29 on 3-pointers for the game, a 51.7 percent clip.

Arkansas led 32-22 with 9:30 left in the half before Auburn went on a 14-2 run.

Cambridge and Powell made 3-pointers, and Powell passed in transition to Williams for a dunk before Johnson's 3-pointer from the top of the key tied it at 34-34.

Arkansas then used a 7-0 run to reclaim the lead. Desi Sills led all scorers with 23 points for the Razorbacks.

The Tigers (6-3, 0-1) travel to College Station, Texas, Saturday at 2:30 p.m. CT to face Texas A&M in Auburn's first conference road game.

"We've got to get a lot better to be able to win SEC games," Pearl said. "But I think we learned a lot."

Troy set to open 2021, Sun Belt play at App State

Troy Athletics
troytrojans.com

TROY, Ala. – The Troy men's basketball program opens 2021 and Sun Belt Conference play Friday and Saturday afternoon at App State. Tip-off Friday afternoon is set for 5 p.m. CT, while Saturday's game will tip-off at 3 p.m. CT.
Both Friday and Saturday's contests will be streamed live on ESPN+ and live stats will be available on Troystats.com.

New for the 2020-21 season, the Sun Belt Conference has switched to divisional play, with the 12 teams being split into the east (Appalachian State, Coastal Carolina, Georgia State, Georgia Southern and Troy) and west (Arkansas State, Little Rock, Louisiana, UT Arlington and ULM). Instead of facing the 11 other SBC teams, the Trojans will instead play two, two-game series against Appalachian State, Coastal Carolina, Georgia State and Georgia Southern. To round out the 18-game slate, Troy will place South Alabama just twice (once home, once away).

Following this weekend's games at App State, the Trojans will return action next weekend when Georgia State visits Trojan Arena. Tip-off is set for 6 p.m. Friday and 4 p.m. Saturday.

HOW TO FOLLOW (Friday):
TROY (5-4) at Appalachian State (6-3)

- Date: Jan. 1, 2021
- Location: Boone, N.C. (Holmes Convocation Center)
- Time: 5 PM CT
- Live Video: Watch
- Stats: Stats
- Listen: Radio

HOW TO FOLLOW (Saturday):
TROY (5-4) at Appalachian State (6-3)

- Date: Jan. 2, 2021
- Location: Boone, N.C. (Holmes Convocation Center)
- Time: 3 PM CT
- Live Video: Watch
- Stats: Stats
- Listen: Radio

THE WEEK THAT WAS (Troy: 5-4):
The Troy Trojans returned to action Monday night after a nearly 10-day break, dropping Carver College 88-35. In that contest, three Trojans reached double-figures led by senior Nick Stampley who scored 16 points and grabbed 17 rebounds in just 20 minutes of action. Junior Zay Williams added 15 points, while Kam Woods scored 13 to tally his fifth game with at least 10 points. After allowing Carver to hit a 3-pointer to go up 3-0, the Trojans used a 15-0 outburst to grab control of the game. The Trojans led 43-15 at the half and allowed just 35 points in a game for the first time since 1960 (Jax State, 35).

THE WEEK THAT WAS (App State: 6-3):
The App State Mountaineers will return to the court for the first time in nearly 10 days, Friday. The Mountaineers enter the weekend with a record of 6-3 overall after falling back on Dec. 22 to Auburn (67-53). Despite the loss, App State closed its non-conference slate with its best record since 2006-07. The Mountaineers are 4-1 this season at Holmes Convocation Center, but all four wins were against teams that do not compete in D-I. After starting the season with back-to-back wins over South Carolina State and Carver, the Mountaineers fell to Bowling Green 78-76 in overtime. After App State dropped NC Wesleyan, they earned an impressive 61-57 victory at Charlotte. After falling 79-38 at No. 10 Tennessee, the Mountaineers returned home for a pair of contests against Greensboro and Columbia International. So far this season, a pair of App State players are averaging in double-figures led by Adrian Delph (12.0 points). Donovan Gregory is the other App State player to average in double-figures (11.0 points).

STORYLINES:
IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY
Troy has completed its nine-game non-conference schedule and will now turn to the 18-game Sun Belt slate. Following this weekend's series at App State, the Trojans will return home to Trojan Arena for a series against Georgia State.

LEAVING HIS STAMP
Senior Nick Stampley is averaging 15.3 points and 10.7 rebounds in Troy's last three games. After turning in a 17 point, 12 rebound and five blocks, Stampley scored 13 points at Auburn. On Monday night, Stampley scored 16 points and grabbed a career-best 17 rebounds.

LET'S MAKE HISTORY!
With a victory over Appalachian State either Friday or Saturday, Troy would record the first win at App State in school history. Troy is 0-5 in Boone all-time with two of the five losses coming by less than five points. Troy's average margin of defeat in Boone is just seven.

BLOCK Parties ARE COVID SAFE!
The Trojans have recorded 16 total blocks the last four games. After recording seven against Central Baptist on Sunday, the Trojans turned in six blocks Wednesday night against Samford. Senior Nick Stampley had five of the Trojans six, including his second half block that appeared on the SportsCenter Twitter account.

ROARING WATERS
Senior Khalyl Waters continues to impress this season. The combo guard is averaging 9.3 points this season and is shooting an impressive 38-of-41 (92.7%) percent from the line. Waters has recorded at least 20 points in two of his last four games. Waters scored a career-best 21 against Samford on Dec. 16. Waters missed Monday's contest against Carver with a stomach virus but is expected to play this weekend.

SAY ZAY!
Junior Zay Williams continues to be a force for the Trojans inside. Williams is averaging 12.4 points and 7.9 rebounds a game this season. The forward has scored at least 10 points in six of Troy's nine games and has scored 82 points in his last six games. Troy is 3-12 the last two seasons when Zay doesn't play (11-15 when he does). Troy is 5-1 when Zay scores at least 10 points.

DEFENSE HAS LED To WINS
The Trojans were 7-1 last season when they held teams to 65 points or fewer. Troy's lone loss when holding a team below that mark was at Texas A&M (56-52, loss). The Trojans were also 8-1 last season when holding an opponent to less than 40 percent shooting. Wednesday's win over Samford is the first time that Troy won when a team shot better than 40 percent from the field and scored more than 65 (1-3). So far this season Troy is 4-0 when holding a team below 65 points and 4-0 when holding teams below 40 percent shooting.

REP THE 'T'
Head coach Scott Cross preaches the mantra that the toughest team always wins. So far this season Troy has taken 26 total charges in nine games. The Trojans have taken at least two charges in every game except the UNCW game where they failed to take one. Troy took 80 charges in 31 games a season ago. Nick Stampley took 32 of those 80 (40 percent).

Y-2K
Friday's Contest against App State will Troy's 2,000th game in program history (D-I and D-II).

LEGALS

ADVERTISEMENTS FOR BIDS

CITY OF CULLMAN
LWCF PROJECT NO. 18-LW-1053

Separate sealed bids for the Nesmith Park Renovation Project will be received by the City of Cullman, at Cullman City Hall in the Auditorium, 204 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, AL 35055 until 11:00 a.m. CST, on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at which time all sealed bids will be opened and read aloud.

The Information For Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Specifications, and Forms of Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Payment Bond and other contract documents may be examined at the following: City of Cullman, Cullman, AL and at the office of Renta Urban Land Design.

All bids must be submitted on bid forms provided by the Engineer. Bids must be submitted to the City of Cullman in a sealed envelope marked "Nesmith Park Renovation Project –LWCF Project No. 18-LW-1053". The Bidder's name and address shall appear on the outside of the sealed bid and the Bidder's General Contractor's License shall be listed on the outside of the sealed bid. The Owner reserves the right to wave any informalities or reject any or all bids.

Each bidder must deposit with his bid, security in the amount, form and subject to the conditions provided in the information for bidders.

Attention of bidders is particularly called to the Land and Water Conservation (LWCF) federal grant requirements.

Bidders may contact Renta Urban Land Design at 205-545-7639 to obtain a bid package electronically.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within 30 days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Woody Jacobs, Mayor
1/2/2021

PB WIL BK 99 PG 452 - 12/30/2020 10:49 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
FLOYD T. BURNETT * CASE NO.: PC-2020-352
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Testamentary having been granted to BARBARA BURNETT BEARDEN as Personal Representative of the Estate of FLOYD T. BURNETT, deceased, on the 30th day of December, 2020, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

Barbara Burnett Bearden
Personal Representative

Tonya C. Palmer
Palmer Law Firm, LLC
Attorney for Personal Representative
1939 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055
Telephone: (256)246-9600

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

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

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

Fight (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – For Good Samaritan Health Clinic, a charitable medical group serving the uninsured of Cullman County, life could only get busier as 2020's COVID shutdown reduced people's incomes or put them out of work altogether. According to executive director Jolanda Hutson, massive community support and new approaches to patient care have kept the organization moving forward with minimal disruption.

BY THE NUMBERS

From January through November 2020, Good Samaritan Clinic:
- Served 1,967 total patient visits including medical, dental, hearing, social services and labs
- Accepted 164 new patients
- Referred 337 patients to a specialist
- Had 436 total hours volunteered directly at clinic
- Dispensed 13,663 prescriptions having a retail value of $3.9 million

COVID-19 protocol timeline:
- March 16 - Implemented telehealth visits and curbside prescription pickup
- April 1 - Began receiving new patient applications via curbside
- May 13 - Began seeing new patients in-clinic
- Aug. 5 - Began seeing patients with complicated issues in-clinic, including diabetic foot exams

COVID impact
Hutson told The Tribune, "In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Good Samaritan patients continue to receive care. The uninsured in our community living with chronic conditions make them some of the most vulnerable to this virus. For those we serve, the consequences are devastating. Many were already behind the curve and these uncertain times have caused them greater anxiety and distress. Many are dealing with job insecurity as a result of COVID-19 which further depletes their already limited resources.

"During these months, we have continued to adjust our service protocol to deal with limiting disease exposure and safer at home orders while making sure our patients continue to have access to the care they need. Beginning mid-March, we began telehealth visits and curbside prescription pickup. Our patients have been able to keep their appointments by speaking with our nurse practitioner on the phone during their scheduled appointment time. This allows for assessment and treatment while hopefully keeping them out of the emergency room.

"Regarding the impact of COVID on our patient numbers, new protocol resulted in a decrease in in-clinic patient visits, but the number of patients requiring phone consultations more than doubled in 2020. Thankfully, with the continued support of the Cullman community, we've remained accessible to our patients, many of which were struggling before this pandemic began."

Hutson shared examples of how new patients found their way to the clinic:
April was experiencing mild symptoms and decided to go to the health department to be tested for COVID-19. A few days later she was notified of positive results. She managed her symptoms at home and believed she was on the road to recovery. A few days later, she felt incredible pain and pressure in her chest. She went to UAB where she was admitted and diagnosed with three blood clots. After being discharged, she needed to find a place to receive follow-up care and get her medications. Having worked with a local ministry who referred clients to Good Samaritan, April decided to apply for care through the clinic. April says, "I don't know what I would have done without Good Samaritan Clinic. I have no insurance and no family here to help me. Having the clinic to come to took such a weight off of me." April was particularly impressed with the demeanor of the staff. "They are some of the nicest people I've ever met. On my first visit, Ms. Patricia (the clinic CRNP) handled everything that I needed." April is grateful the clinic is here for people who need it. She says, "I'm glad people saw fit to place the clinic in Cullman. I wish there were a clinic like this everywhere." April is thankful for those who donate to the clinic because "they are donating to something that is really benefitting people. I had serious medical issues and needed the clinic to be there for me." April appreciates the care she's received through the clinic and the donors who really are "helping sustain people's lives."

Another patient:
Melanie has asthma and had been struggling to breathe for several days. "If it hadn't been for the clinic, I would be in a big mess! I would have had no choice but to go to the ER and hope that they would be able to help me." Melanie is thankful to get the help and medication she needed through Good Samaritan Clinic in such a timely manner. She feels very blessed to continue to get the care she needs at Good Samaritan, especially now with all the uncertainty around us.

COVID-19 impacts fundraising efforts
Hutson said, "As a nonprofit, the success of the clinic and our ability to meet the needs of the uninsured in our community depend on the Cullman community. In July, we made the difficult decision to cancel our signature fundraising event, the Caring for Cullman Concert benefiting the Good Samaritan Health Clinic. This would have been our sixth year to host the event which accounted for 11% of the clinic's revenue in 2019. But, as a healthcare provider, we wanted to do our part and encourage others to do their part to limit disease exposure and spread within our community and throughout the state as many concert attendees come from outside of our immediate community.

"We are incredibly thankful for the businesses and individuals who typically sponsored our event for choosing to donate to the clinic even in the absence of the event. In 2020, we saw an 82% increase in contributions from individuals alone, which helped make up for the decline experienced in other funding sources. The clinic has also been blessed with funding from additional sources that have enabled us to remain accessible to those who need us most. We are grateful to those in our community who continue to support our efforts even in the midst of hardship. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our patients and in our community."

"Wow" stories of 2020
As part of its end of year series, The Tribune asked organizations to share their "wow" stories of 2020, and the clinic had no shortage.

Said Hutson, "As of July 2020, Good Samaritan patients now have access to mental health counseling services through Haven Counseling Services of Cullman. This has been made possible thanks to the Stephen K. Griffith Memorial Fund established by the Griffith Family. To qualify for mental health counseling through this newly formed partnership, individuals must first apply and qualify for services through Good Samaritan Health Clinic. Then, if our nurse practitioner deems a referral is necessary for mental health counseling, the clinic will schedule the initial appointment for the patient with Haven Counseling Services.

"Just in this short period of time, counseling services are already having a positive impact. One patient shares, 'The Good Samaritan Clinic and Haven Counseling entered my life at a very crucial time. Through the guidance and therapy that I have been given, I truly find more meaning, value and happiness in life. This is a complete contrast to my perspective before and I truly believe that, in some way, I have been given a second chance at life.'

"In the midst of hardship, we are grateful to the following businesses who have made a difference in the lives of our patients directly: Earlier this spring, Rumors Deli and AVW Technologies, a Virginia-based defense contractor, partnered to provide 100 box lunches to Good Samaritan patients. We enjoyed having the opportunity to serve our patients in this less customary way.

"For the months of July, August and September, Cullman Savings Bank provided $25 Wal-Mart gift cards to the first 10 new patients each month who qualified for services through Good Samaritan Health Clinic. In addition, they provided a $50 gift card to an existing clinic patient who referred a friend or family member during the month. We know word of mouth is the primary way patients hear of the clinic, so we appreciate Cullman Savings Bank helping us encourage referrals.

"For Thanksgiving and Christmas, Lowe's Home Improvement provided pre-cooked turkeys and hams along with all the fixings for seven of our patients' families.

"Cullman is known for coming together during times of crisis, and this year has been no exception.

"Good Samaritan Health Clinic earned a 2020 Gold Rating from the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics' Quality Standards Program demonstrating its commitment to providing quality care to its patients. The mission of the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (NAFC) is to ensure the medically underserved have access to affordable health care. The NAFC and its members are dedicated to ensuring that patients receive quality health care. Good Samaritan Clinic was able to achieve this prestigious recognition from the NAFC thanks to its leadership during the past 16-plus years and the incredible donors and community partners who have faithfully believed in and supported our mission. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve those in need in our community and are committed to providing our patients with quality continuity of care."

Community support
Hutson told The Tribune, "It is through generous donations, grants and the support from local organizations, churches and businesses in the community that we are able to provide healthcare services at no cost to our patients. Many local businesses donate products and services on a routine basis that allow us to use our financial resources for more direct patient care. We certainly could not provide the services we do each day without the overwhelming support of the Cullman community.

"Cullman Regional provides invaluable support to the clinic. Cullman Regional provides not only monetary support, but also in-kind services for our patients including ED visits, lab analysis, diagnostic/imaging exams, inpatient care, surgical services as well as coordinating care for our patients who need more specialized services than we can provide.

"USA Healthcare and EconoMed faithfully support the clinic. USA Healthcare has graciously provided the clinic's space rent-free since the clinic's inception in 2004. In addition, they provide utilities, garbage disposal and medical waste management each month.

"We are thankful to be one of 19 United Way partner agencies. Not only does this relationship provide us with much needed funding, but also allows us to partner with other like-minded charitable organizations to meet the diverse needs in our community. One example of these collaborative efforts is the opportunity the clinic has to provide basic health screenings to adult clients of the United Way Food Bank/Cullman Caring for Kids on designated food distribution days. In addition, the Commission on Aging and the Cullman County Center for the Developmentally Disabled donate in-kind products and services to the clinic on a regular basis. We are grateful for all the many collaborative partners we have in the Cullman community.

"We are grateful to the City of Cullman, the CCCDC (Cullman County Community Development Commission), CAPNA (Community Action Partnership of North Alabama), The Daniel Foundation, Cullman County municipalities, Alabama Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (AAFCC), as well as the numerous businesses, churches, civic organizations and individuals who faithfully support our mission.

"We are incredibly grateful for the many specialists, dentists, RN volunteers and other medical professionals and non-medical volunteers who support our efforts. Each one of them plays a critical role in us meeting the medical needs of the uninsured in our community. In 2020, the clinic was blessed with 34 physicians (including our Medical Director, Dr. Jeremy Stidham), 15 nurses (including CRNPs who practice with specialists and RNs who volunteer directly at clinic), 11 dentists, one audiologist and 10 non-medical volunteers who volunteered their time and talents for the benefit of our patients. And, last but certainly not least, a huge thank you to the clinic staff who provide excellent care to our patients each and every day."

Plans for 2021
According to Hutson, the clinic's plans include a continuation of telehealth services as appropriate.

Said Hutson, "In implementing new protocols, we've discovered telehealth visits are an effective and preferred manner of treatment in many instances. For example, many of our patients do not have the advantage of PTO days or even transportation and/or gas money to go to their clinic visits. For them, telehealth visits with our nurse practitioner are more efficient and many times just as effective to review lab results, monitor medications and treat other less acute needs.

"In looking for the silver lining in the midst of this chaos, we've discovered this new opportunity of telehealth for our patients. So, when we are on the other side of the pandemic, we plan to continue telehealth visits when appropriate so that we can treat our patients in a manner more conducive to their needs while continuing to provide them with quality continuity of care."

Hutson also said that the clinic's fundraising concert is, for now, back on. The sixth annual Caring for Cullman Concert benefiting Good Samaritan Clinic is tentatively set for October 2021. Look for more details coming in early 2021.

The final word
Hutson said, "I am thankful for God's faithfulness, provision and abundant blessings in the midst of all the challenges of 2020. The clinic's ability to meet the needs of our uninsured depends on the faithful support of the Cullman community who understands the value and need for our services and supports our efforts in countless ways. I am thankful for our faithful donors, specialized network of physicians and dentists, dedicated staff, selfless volunteers and benevolent community partners for choosing to invest in the lives of our patients. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our patients and in our community."

About Good Samaritan Health Clinic
Good Samaritan Health Clinic offers primary health and wellness care to uninsured residents of Cullman County between the ages of 19 and 65 who meet the income requirements. (Household income of less than 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.) The clinic offer care for routine illnesses as well as comprehensive care for patients with chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, high cholesterol and COPD.

Good Samaritan operates as a primary care clinic providing a full range of services including medications, lab draws, referrals to specialists, dental extractions, hearing evaluations and hearing aids, select vision services for high risk patients, social services, community health screenings as opportunities arise, and its most recently added service, mental health counseling.

Clinic eligibility criteria and applications are available at the clinic or online at www.goodsamaritancullman.com. For questions about qualifying, contact the clinic at 256-255-5963. The clinic receptionist can answer questions regarding the application process and can schedule a time for someone to assist anyone who needs help with the application. The clinic is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Thursday from 8 a.m.-noon, closed daily from noon-1 p.m. for lunch.

Medical Director - Jeremy Stidham, MD

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Good Samaritan Health Clinic is located at 401 Arnold St. NE, Suite A, Cullman, AL 35055.

Donations may be mailed to the above address or at www.goodsamaritancullman.com.

For more information on the clinic's services and how to qualify, visit the website or call 256-255-5963.

To stay up to date on clinic happenings, visit www.facebook.com/goodsamaritancullman or https://twitter.com/samaritancullmn.

Obituary Announcements: Jan. 2

Graveside services for Betty Jo Cowart Harbison, 84, of Cullman will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3, 2020 at Graham Cemetery in Mt. Olive, Alabama. Rev. Terry Harbison, Jr., Bro. Wade Maynard, and Bro. Keith Warden will be officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mrs. Harbison passed away Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020 at her residence. She was born April 26, 1936 to Jess P. and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Abbott Cowart. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Billy Harbison; son Terry Harbison, Sr; and infant son and daughter. Survivors include her daughter Vickie Hicks; sister Hattie Holmes; grandchildren Melissa Thompson, Laura Beth (Tim) Martin, Terry (Cerri) Harbison, Jr., Matthew (Kristin) Harbison, and Jason Harbison; great-grandchildren Cole Thompson, Caleb Thompson, Mackenzie Martin, Gage Martin, Abel Harbison, Abigail Harbison, and Ezra Harbison; and family and friends. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests making donations to The Caring Center of Northbrook Baptist Church or Gideons International.

Graveside services for Agnes Irene Garrett, 92, of Cullman will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 4, 2020 at Concord Baptist Cemetery, Rev. Steve Rodgers officiating. Visitation will be at the funeral home Monday from 9-10:30 a.m. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mrs. Garrett passed away Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020 at The Folsom Center. She was born Sept. 7, 1928 to Barney Clyde and Vada Estes Cook. She was a member of Concord Baptist Church. She also wrote short stories for Yesterday's Memories magazine. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband Jonnie Garrett and a grandson, Jeremy Nunnelley. Survivors include her daughters Joyce (Danny) Presley and Jeanette (Billy) Nunnelley; grandchildren Daniel (Aleisha) Presley, Kim Gann, Jacky Nunnelley, and Josh (Brandy) Nunnelley; numerous great-grandchildren; and family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

William David Cook, 76, passed away Dec. 28, 2020. He was born April 23,1944 to William and Tessie Mays Cook. William was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Millard Cook, Grover Cook, and Homer Cook; and sister Helen Sizemore. William is survived by his brother Cecil (Joy) Cook; his sons David (Lora) Cook, Buddy (Lesia) Cook, Wayne Cook, Earl Cook, and Scott (Sarah) Cook; his daughter Becky (Joey) Hinkle; his grandchildren Jeremy Cook, Colby Hinkle, Karlie Hinkle, Katie Grace Cook, Byram Cook, Matte Cook, and Sayde Cook; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

A private graveside service for Bernie Dean Herfurth, 84, of Cullman will be held for the family. Mrs. Herfurth passed away Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020 at her residence. She was born Wednesday, Oct. 14, 1936 to Bernie Oneal and Vera Whaley.

Douglas Dale Roden, 74, of Arley entered into rest Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020 at his residence. Mr. Roden was born Sept. 15, 1946 in Haleyville, Alabama. He loved his family and his life revolved around his children and grandchildren. He also loved golfing, fishing and Alabama football. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Douglas is survived by his sons Doug Roden and Pat (Tonya) Roden; daughter Amy (Dawn) Hendricks; grandchildren Lexie, Trey, Courtney, Elle, Emmah and Madison; great-grandchildren Kailee Grace and Hudson; sister Shelby Jean (J.B.) Parker; the mother of his children, Emily Roden; and two granddogs Kimber and Sophie. He was preceded in death by his parents Richard J. and Hazel Loraine Roden; father and mother-in-law Luck and Geraldine Giddy; and nephews Steve Parker, Keith Parker and Tim Parker.

Graveside services for Patricia Marie Sullins, 77, of Center Hill will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4, 2021 at Fairview West Cemetery in Hanceville. Mrs. Sullins died Wednesday at her residence after an extended illness. She was a longtime employee of Merchants Bank before retiring. She is survived by her husband Larry; sons Greg Brown, David Brown and Tommy Cost; step-son Dewayne Sullins; step-daughter Deneta McGowin; 10 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and sister Ellen Frasier.

Marjorie Ann Wix of Bethsadia passed away Wednesday Dec. 30, 2020 at the age of 78. The family will receive friends at Moss Service Funeral Home Saturday, Jan. 2, 2020 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. followed by a graveside service at Bethsadia Cemetery at 11 a.m. Moss Service Funeral Home directing. She attended and worked at the Margaret Jean Jones Center for several years. She always enjoyed being involved and attending activities at the center. She loved watching soap operas and doing needlepoint. Marjorie was preceded in death by her birth mother Chloe Calvert Wix; father and mother Herschel Lewis and Helen Guthery Wix; and brothers Franklin Wix and Rickie Joe Wix. She survived by sister-in-law Brenda Wix; nieces and nephews Anthony (Terri) Wix, Paige Kennamer, Shantel (Ron) Creech, Amerette (Bo) Shirley, Brian Wix, Joshua Wix, and Andrea Wix Gray; and a host of great nieces, nephews, and cousins. Condolences and special memories may be shared with the family at www.mossservicefh.com.

Funeral services for Joey Dale Graves of Bremen, who passed away Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020 at the age of 64, will be at Livingston Chapel Monday, Jan. 4, 2021 at 1 p.m.; Brother Patrick Watson and Brother Ron Collett officiating. His family will receive friends at the church from 11 a.m. until service time. Burial will follow at Cold Springs Baptist Church Cemetery. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, masks will be required, and social distancing appreciated. The service will be available via live stream on Moss Service Funeral Home's Facebook page. Moss Service Funeral Home directing. Joey was born in the small town of Bremen, also known as Cold Springs. There he would build a legacy that will live on with many. He graduated a Cullman County basketball champion from Cold Springs High School in 1974. He worked at Dayton Superior and later found his place as the Cold Springs janitor and maintenance guru. He passionately worked at all hours making sure the school was in running order. With his wife as a co-worker, they built a life of love and sacrifice. He proudly held his position for 25 years until needed retirement due to his health. Along with his wife and daughters, he built a beautiful life in the Cold Springs community. Loving his bride, they stuck by each other and then was promoted to grandparents. Pawpaw Joey was his most treasured role who would've roped the moon had they ask. His favorite hobbies included racing, being an unknown, unpaid coach & devout fan of the Crimson Tide, a dedicated fan of anything Cold Springs, collecting and fixing up junk (treasures in his eyes), and taking care of his family, friends, and community. He had a heart to help all and his family and friends are forever moved. Joey will be deeply missed by all. He was preceded in death by his parents Olvin and Martha Graves and father-in-law Marion "Little John" Williams. His survivors include his wife of 48 years, Deb Williams Graves; daughters Shannon (Jason) White and Kaci (Brett) Williams; grandchildren Rilee (Noah Henderson) White, Brodi Williams, Zeke White, Joci Williams, and Joli Williams; brother Micheal (Anice) Graves; mother-in-law Clothell Williams; a host of family and friends; and the Cold Springs community. Condolences and special memories may be shared with his family at www.mossservicefh.com. The family wishes to extend our thanks to our family, churches, and community. Your outpouring of love will stay with us always. Also, thank you to the staff of Cullman Regional who loved our Joey as their own.

Graveside services for James Donald Bagwell, 76, of Cullman will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, 2020 at Ebenezer Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Bagwell passed away Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. He was born May 21, 1944 to James and Mabel Bagwell. He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers. Survivors include a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

A private family funeral service for Herman Ellis Thompson, 84, of Battleground will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4, 2021 at Blair Congregational Methodist Church with interment in the adjoining cemetery; Rev. Tim Holder officiating. A private family visitation will be from 1-2 p.m. at the church prior to the service. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Thompson passed away Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020 at Decatur Morgan Hospital. He was born Jan. 5, 1936 to Robert Henry and Nettie Laney Thompson. He was a dedicated member and deacon of Blair Congregational Methodist Church. He was a poultry farmer for many years. He loved his wife, kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids. He will be dearly missed. He was preceded in death by his parents; infant sister Fannell; and sister Wanda Marsh. Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Carolyn Thompson; sons Rickey (Peggy) Thompson, Robert Thompson, Michael (Jennifer) Thompson, and Mitchell Thompson; daughters Carol Thompson, Cheryle (Roger) Terry, and Donna (Tim) Kelly; brother Ivan (Sue) Thompson; grandchildren Justin (Amanda) Kelly, Erica (Aaron) Sweatt, Kristi (Daniel) Williams, Richard (Angel) Thompson, Elizabeth Thompson, Jessica (Jason) Hurt, and Cody (Blair) Thompson; great-grandchildren Kylee Thompson, Jack Kelly, Colt Kelly, Audrey Kelly, Cooper Hurt, and Harleigh Thompson; and family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Memorial service details for Edward Eugene Myers, 87, of Cullman are incomplete at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Myers passed away Dec. 30, 2020 at his residence. He was born May 30, 1933 to Arthur G. and Mary Marie Newhouse Myers. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife Virginia L. Nunley Myers. Survivors include his two daughters Angie Kreimer and Karen Monico; brothers Arthur G. Myers, Jr., Thomas R. Myers, Larry Myers, and Fred Myers; grandchildren Melissa Kreimer, Allison Kreimer Carpenter, Joe Monico, and Anthony Monico; great-grandchildren David Carpenter, Caleb Carpenter, Dominic Monico, and Mackenzie Monico; and family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

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A different kind of New Year's Eve

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The New Year's Eve celebration at Goat Island Brewing was noticeably different this year with many people opting to stay home due to the pandemic. Gone were the large crowd and champagne toasts. With everyone adhering to social distancing, the typical embraces among partygoers were also absent. The smaller crowd was full of talent, though, as the popular venue ushered in 2021 with a night of karaoke with Danny Frazier Entertainment.

It was hard to tell if patrons were more focused on welcoming 2021 or more relieved to say "good riddance" to 2020.

Either way, these karaoke regulars were determined to make the most of the evening.

The mask- and social distancing-conscious crowd managed to have a good time while following recommended safety measures.

"Table One," as the staff of Goat Island calls its most faithful karaoke regulars, sang a variety of country and classic rock favorites.

By the end of the night, almost everyone in the crowd of approximately 30-35 had taken at least one turn on the Goat Island stage and received well-deserved cheers and applause.

"We really appreciate those guys we call 'Table One,'" said head bartender Brett Carter. "They are always here for karaoke, no matter what, and they are always great."

Even with the beer, vocal performances and enthusiasm for the new year, there was the obvious "elephant in the room."

The exhaustion of 2020 could be felt, as well as not just a hope but a determination to make 2021 better.

The carefree jubilation of a typical midnight countdown was replaced with a countdown that carried a distinct weight.



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

"Table One," as the staff of Goat Island calls its most faithful karaoke regulars, consists of, standing left to right, Lee Holder, Michelle Holder, Stacie Wren, Mark Dryer, Jennifer Laney and Glen Laney. In front is Danny Frazier.

The celebration was uniquely different but seemed much more significant than past parties.

Social distancing could not erase the connectivity felt between each person in the room and the shared desire for a return to whatever can be considered normal at this point.

There was no need for hugs or crowded dancefloors for everyone to feel close. We all survived 2020, and that was enough.



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