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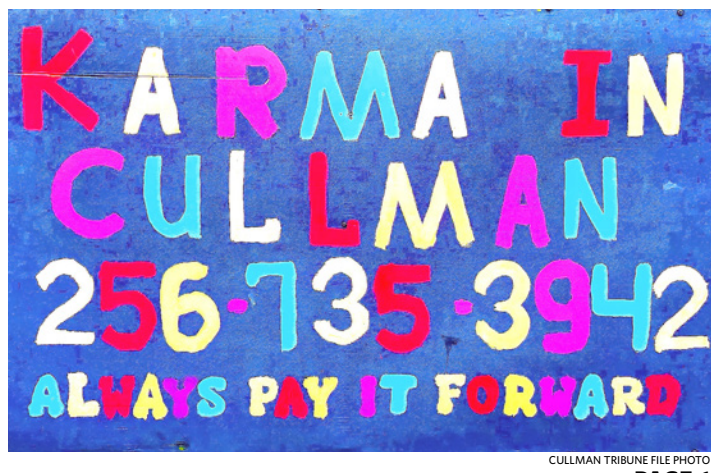
The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

VOL. 148 • 50¢ PER COPY | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 4

'The good in this world is still fighting strong'

Karma in Cullman works for change in a rapidly changing year



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

» PAGE 6

– FEATURE –

Remembering Wendell Guthrie



THE GUTHRIE FAMILY

Martha and Wendell Guthrie

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

BAILEYTON, Ala. – *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23-24*

These two verses, according to Wendell Guthrie's family, describe his life. A life spent each morning in devotion and each day living for God.

Guthrie was born in 1942 in Arab Hospital but was brought home » PAGE 5

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Baileyton council says toys stolen, equipment damaged

» PAGE 6

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Baileyton to make improvements to Parkside School parking lot

Town land to be open for bids



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Baileyton Mayor Windell Calloway (left) and Councilman Dewayne Sumner (right) are seen at Monday night's meeting of the Baileyton Town Council. » PAGE 6

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Holly Pond to continue providing free Wi-Fi at town parks



HEATHER MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Holly Pond Town Council is seen Monday night, Jan. 4, 2021. » PAGE 6

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Bill Smith
BUICK GMC
ALABAMA'S LARGEST BUICK GMC DEALERSHIP
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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Jan. 5

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Jan. 5, 2021. 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. 29
• fourth-degree theft of property; person; Dripping Springs Road NW; bicycle; $150

Jan. 1
• harassment; person; White Circle SW

ARRESTS
Jan. 4
Graves, Kevin D., 34
• criminal trespassing

Edge, Clinton A., 52
• third-degree criminal trespassing

Busby, Judith D., 59
• fourth-degree theft of property

Phillips, Shannon D., 41
• FTA- fourth-degree theft of property
• FTA- insurance violation
• FTA- expired tag

Akridge, Zachary J., 40
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance

Skinner, Cassondra L., 53
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance

Sanford, Christopher L., 36
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
• possession of drug paraphernalia

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No incidents or arrests reported.

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

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021 COVID-19 update from the Alabama Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Data and Surveillance Dashboard

• Total confirmed cases in AL: 305,090* (+3,604 since yesterday)
• Probable cases in AL: 74,503* (+1,894 since yesterday)
• Total confirmed deaths in AL: 4,266 (+7 since yesterday)
• Probable deaths in AL: 620
• Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co.: 5,187* (+26 since yesterday)
• Probable cases in Cullman Co.: 2,183* (+53 since yesterday)
• Total confirmed deaths in Cullman Co.: 61 (+0 since yesterday)
• Probable deaths in Cullman Co.: 17
• Total tested in Cullman Co.: 31,863
• Total tested in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 1,904
• Cases in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 926
• Total tested in Alabama: 1,910,881
• Cases in the last 14 days in Alabama: 50,692
• Total tested in the last 14 days in Alabama: 110,321
• Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 3,080
• Cumulative no. of hospitalizations in Alabama: 35,430 (not updated as of press time)
• Presumed recoveries in Alabama (reported weekly): 202,137

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

* ***Important Notice (01/05/21): Case counts reported on today's update are high. Today's increase represents a delay in testing and reporting to the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) due to the holiday weekends.***

STATE

ADPH: Test your home for radon during the winter months

Nick Swindall
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – Many Alabama residents are spending more time inside their homes because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This means children and adults are exposed to indoor air quality problems that include radon.

January has been designated Radon Action Month. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can cause lung cancer. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States and the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers. Radon claims an estimated 21,000 lives in the U.S. a year, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

"The best time to test for radon is during the colder months when your home is closed and radon levels are likely to build to their highest concentrations," David Turberville, director of the Office of Radiation Control, Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), said. "We encourage you to test your home by ordering a radon test kit."

Radon appears to occur most frequently in homes across the Tennessee Valley and in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains from Jefferson and Shelby counties through Cleburne County. High levels of indoor radon have also been found in other areas of Alabama. Because radon is a colorless, odorless gas that occurs naturally in soil and rocks through the breakdown of uranium, testing is the only way to know the radon level in a home.

Radon test kits weigh only a few ounces and cost about $25.

Testing for radon should be done on the lowest level of the home on which the occupants spend time, so a finished basement or a basement containing a workshop is a good place to test. Kitchens are not recommended testing areas.

"Testing directions are provided on the kit, and it only takes a few days to obtain a sample," Turberville said. "It is easy to perform a radon test on your home."

While radon test kits are available at many larger home improvement stores, Alabama homeowners can order kits online through the National Radon Program Services at https://sosradon.org/.A free test kit is also available from www.alabamapublichealth.gov/radon/radon-testing.htmlwhile supplies last.If test results are above the levels recommended by the EPA and the ADPH, homeowners should consider installing a radon remediation system. Systems generally cost between $1,500 and $2,500, depending on the square footage of the residence and the difficulty in finding a suitable pathway for a radon removal pipe. Homes with a crawl space, no gravel under the slab, or a completely finished lower level sometimes cost more.

More information about protecting yourself and your family is available from www.alabamapublichealth.gov/radon/ and from "A Citizens Guide to Radon," which is available at www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-12/documents/2016_a_citizens_guide_to_radon.pdf.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

PUBLIC NOTICE FROM CULLMAN COUNTY DISTRICT JUDGE CHAD FLOYD:
The traffic call dockets scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021 and Jan. 13, 2021 beginning at 8:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. will be combined with the March 3, 2021 traffic call docket.

PUBLIC NOTICE FROM CULLMAN COUNTY COURTS
Cullman County jury trials currently scheduled for Jan. 25, 2021 have been postponed until February.... Cullman Circuit and District courts will remain open and motions may still be filed in all cases either electronically or directly through the Circuit Court Clerk's Office. Virtual court hearings will be held for the remainder of January as a substitute for in-person proceedings, where feasible. In-person judicial proceedings will be held utilizing previously adopted COVID-19 safety measures, in cases where it is necessary to provide immediate relief in emergency circumstances and for all court hearings deemed so essential that a postponement is not appropriate.

PUBLIC NOTICE FROM THE CITY OF CULLMAN MUNICIPAL COURT
All cases set for Jan. 6, 2021 have been reset to Jan. 27, 2021 at 3 p.m. All cases set for Jan. 7, 2021 have been reset to Jan. 28, 2021 at 3 p.m. Reset court date notices will be mailed to each defendant. It is imperative that defendants ensure we have the correct address on file. To update your address, please call the court office at 256-775-7136.

Alcoholics Anonymous
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 ANOINTED PRAYER!
• Classes Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
• Wednesday, Jan. 6, "Events of the End Times: 2nd Half of the Tribulation" by Pastor Bobby Dodd
• 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
• Sunday, Jan. 10, Message-"Wake Up the Dry Bones" by Pastor Bobby Dodd
• Sunday, Jan. 17, The group PURPOSE will lead praise and worship and bring the message.

Free Community Dinner at Center Hill Baptist Church
• 5-6 p.m.- The first Wednesday of every month we will be offering a Free Community Dinner. Church members, community members, neighbors and friends are welcome. This will be takeout only. Please message or comment with how many plates you will need to help us prepare enough food for everyone. RSVP at http://bit.ly/centerhill.
• 13108 County Road 747, Hanceville, AL 35077

Miércoles de Despensas
• 6-7 p.m. ler. miercoles del mes, En Su Tierra Cullman FUMC
• Despensas para la comunidad. No requiere ID. Entrega en su vehículo. Por favor use mascarilla.

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.

LEGALS

PB WIL BK 99 PG 508 - 01/05/2021 12:41 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
ROBERT E. SHANNON, * **CASE NO.: PC2020-360**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Testamentary having been granted to JUDY S. SHANNON as Personal Representative of the Estate of ROBERT E. SHANNON, deceased, on the 5th day of January, 2021, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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 will be barred.

Judy S. Shannon
Personal Representative

Gay Blackburn Maloney
Attorney for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 1469
Decatur, AL 35602

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

Please publish the above Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

PB ADT BK 57 PG 756 - 12/29/2020 08:02 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF **CASE NO: AD-2020-079**

THE ADOPTION PETITION
OF REGINA HARVELL
FOR THE ADOPTION OF
C.A.C. A MINOR
D.O.B. 07-19-2012

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: MEGAN LESHAE DAWSON, BIOLOGICAL MOTHER
JOSHUA ADAM CAMPBELL, BIOLOGICAL FATHER

A Petition for Adoption was filed with the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Regina Harvell, Petitioner. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within Thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with Counsel for said petitioners, whose name and address are shown below, and with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 28th DAY OF December, 2020.

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

Kimberly H. Drake
Attorney for Petitioner
419 2nd Avenue SW, Suite A
Cullman, Alabama 35055

TO THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Please publish the above notice once a week for four (4) successive weeks and send an affidavit of publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Berlin council puts more than $6K toward weather radios for residents

Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

BERLIN, Ala. – After much controversy surrounding its decision not to repair or replace the town's tornado siren, the Berlin Town Council at a special meeting Monday night took the first steps toward obtaining weather radios for people within the siren's range.

Mayor Patrick Bates told the council that the news of the siren's retirement had been met with a few complaints. "We had some people call us (the town hall and the fire department) to complain about the siren being shut down, but for the most part those people had missed the part where we said we'd try to get radios for the people in the siren's range. That seemed to take the edge off for a lot of those callers," he explained. "We actually got a lot more complaints about the siren being operational! People don't realize that the EMA (Cullman Emergency Management Agency) makes the decision to set off the sirens, not us, and they set off all the sirens no matter where a tornado is in the county."

Bates presented the council with a proposed radio model - a Midland WR120 Weather Alert Radio. The radios have battery-powered backup systems in the event of a power outage and are programmable for a variety of weather alerts.

According to the information sheet provided at the meeting, the radios also include features such as:

- English, Spanish and French alert languages
- access to all seven NOAA weather channels
- stores up to 10 previously-received hazardous weather alerts
- time display and alarm clock
- choice of three warning systems: 90 dB Siren Alarm, Flashing LED or Voice Alert
- color-coded alert level indicators
- over 60 emergency alerts

Bates said he felt that these radios will be an improvement compared to the siren as people can program them to alert about tornado warnings in their specific area (or they can opt in to alerts about tornado watches as well) in addition to weather hazards that normally wouldn't set of the sirens.

"These sirens don't go off for severe thunderstorm warnings," Bates stated, "but when you look at all the damage we've had over the past couple of years, a majority of it was from storms that were ruled to be severe thunderstorms at first. Even when they were later found to be tornadoes, they were considered thunderstorms at first and so the sirens never went off. But with these radios, people can program them to go off for severe thunderstorms, so they'll get that warning."

Another advantage that the radios have over the siren is the presence of multiple failsafes if something happens to the Cullman signal transmitter.

"The sirens only have the one siren transmitter here in Cullman, but these radios can get signals from radio towers in Cullman, Oneonta, Arab and Huntsville," Bates stated. "In fact, when I tested it in my home earlier, I was able to configure my radio to get signals from both the Cullman tower and the Oneonta tower."

On the method for distribution, Bates turned to Berlin Volunteer Fire Department Chief Ralph Laney for his input. "We'll probably do something similar to when we got the grant to hand out the smoke alarms - we had people come to the station with their light bills and show proof that they paid dues to the Berlin fire department," Laney said. "We had some folks come up and show that they paid to Holly Pond or somewhere else, and we had to turn them away. Those folks got pretty mad, but we told them we could only provide to people who fell under our jurisdiction, and I think that the radio distribution will have to do something similar."



HEATHER MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Berlin Town Council voted to pay $6,225 toward the purchase of Midland WR120 Weather Alert Radios for residents.

This proposal will help distribute more radios to people within the siren's range, as the town council would only have been able to hand out radios to people living inside Berlin town limits, but the fire department can provide the radios to everyone in its coverage area.

On how many radios to purchase, Bates estimated that roughly 600-800 households might be within the siren's range. However, the fact that many households may already have radios of their own was brought up, in addition to the fact that some sirens overlapped the area of the Berlin siren. With just under 250 households in the town limits, the council settled on giving the fire department enough money to purchase 250 radios (an amount that came out to $6,225) with a request that the Cullman County Community Development Commission (CCCDC) match its payment, giving the fire department enough money for 500 radios to distribute to residents within its jurisdiction. The council and the fire department agreed that this number would be a good starting point, and more radios could be purchased in the future if needed.

EDUCATION

Cullman City Schools leaders hopeful for new year as 2021 kicks off

Cullman City Schools
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – There's no denying 2020 was one of the most challenging years in recent history due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but Cullman City Schools leaders are looking ahead to what's next in 2021 — and they have a few goals, hopes and plans for the back half of the current school year.

Superintendent Dr. Susan Patterson noted 2020 was unusual and difficult but said she has hope that 2021 can be a great opportunity for a comeback for students, staff and the community at large.

"We are blessed to live in a community that truly supports one another," she said. "I want to do everything possible to see our children return to the many things they have missed. We have a chance to ensure they have all we can give them in academics, extracurriculars and emotional well-being. I am honored to serve with our board of education and amazing staff and wish everyone all the best in 2021."

Cullman Primary School Principal Tricia Culpepper said despite the challenges of the pandemic, her school had a solid start to the year last semester and plans to keep that momentum rolling into 2021.

"In the first semester, our teachers continued to provide a high-quality educational foundation for our students in a warm, loving environment," she said. "We are looking forward to having a strong second semester filled with memorable events for our students."

At West Elementary School, Principal Dr. Jay Page said he's looking to the school's social media campaign — #westway — as an inspiration for the attitude they hope to adapt in 2021.

"The 'West Way' means to 'Be Smart,' 'Be Kind,' 'Be Respectful' and 'Have Fun,'" he said. "I think that this semester we want to emphasize 'Be Kind.'"

Cullman Middle School Principal Jake Johnson said he's excited about some new advancements at his school in 2021, as the staff will also be turning its attention to helping students prepare for the ACAP, a new statewide standardized test. Johnson said it will be interesting to see how CMS students compare to their peers across the state on the inaugural assessment.

"We're excited to complete the installment of SMART boards in all of our classrooms and library this month, and we are getting 60 additional Chromebooks so each teacher will have extras in their classrooms for students to use if they do not have a working device," he added.

With multiple COVID-19 vaccines developed and vaccinations underway across the state and country, East Elementary School Principal David Wiggins focused on the little things he missed with students in 2020, and he said he hopes they might begin to return by the end of the second semester.

"While I typically choose a resolution that is personal, like to read more or get in better shape, my 2021 resolution is more of a hope," he said.

"I hope that it won't be much longer until I can high-five my students, until we can sit together at the lunch table and visit with friends, until we can gather around a good book in the library."

Cullman High School Principal Kim Hall said she'll be turning to her faith to guide her through the new year, as we all face fresh uncertainties and challenges.


AUGUST 2020 CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

West Elementary Principal Dr. Jay Page

"I pray daily for the wisdom and understanding needed to lead, guide and protect the young people of our community. My prayer is that we learn to celebrate our uniqueness and relish in the small victories while respecting and protecting one another," she said. "If 2020 taught us anything, I hope we have learned to recognize and cherish the small moments in life which invoke grand emotion — and the small victories worth celebrating."





PREP BASKETBALL

Eagles, Lady Eagles down Vinemont at home

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. – Both the Vinemont Eagles and Lady Eagles traveled to Jesse George Gymnasium for a pair of varsity matchups with Cold Springs and it was the Eagles in blue that managed to come away with a pair of victories. The Cold Springs Lady Eagles outscored Vinemont 23-5 in the fourth quarter to pull away and take the girls' contest 64-34 while the Eagles put together a dominant defensive effort to defeat Vinemont 57-22.

Cold Springs 64 – Vinemont 34 (varsity girls)
Toni West knocked down a three-pointer to give Cold Springs an early lead but back to back buckets from Madysen Hacker on the other put Vinemont in front 4-3 with six minutes remaining in the opening period.

Lacey Rice buried a mid-range jumper to put Cold Springs back on top by one and after a Rice steal turned into an easy layup for AK Voce, the lead was up to 7-4. West added another three in the final seconds of the quarter to give Cold Springs a 10-4 advantage going into the second.

Maggie Burks drilled a shot from beyond the arc to cut the lead to three at the start of the second and Abby Young scored inside to make it a 10-9 game.

A three from Berkley Gable and another bucket by Hacker gave Vinemont a 14-10 lead midway through the second and another Burks score kept them in front 16-13 with three minutes to play in the half.

That's when Cold Springs responded, ending the half on a 12-3 run to take a 25-19 lead into the locker room at the break.

Cold Springs maintained its momentum to start the third quarter, stretching its lead with three-pointers from Rice and West to make it a 31-19 game. Another Young basket trimmed the lead to 32-21 with five minutes to play in the third but three-pointers by Rice and Brooke Crider on the other end extended the lead to 38-21 midway through the period. Burks drained another three-pointer for Vinemont to stop the run, but Crider answered with her second deep ball of the quarter and kept Cold Springs in front 41-27.

Vinemont was able to get on the board one more time in the third when McKenna Kline turned a steal into two points, but Cold Springs maintained a 41-29 advantage going into the final frame.

Cold Springs' offense came alive in the fourth quarter, starting with a three-pointer from Kyla Aaron and a pair of free throws from Voce that made it 46-29.

Back to back buckets by Shay Sellers added to the lead midway through the period and Aaron knocked down another trey to give Cold Springs a commanding, 54-29 lead with three minutes to play.

Crider dropped in another three-pointer to help Cold Springs continue to pull away and the hometown Lady Eagles were able to pull away and topple Vinemont 64-34.

The Lady Eagles used a balanced scoring effort to outpace Vinemont, led by Crider with 14. West finished just behind her with 13, followed by Rice with 11, Sellers and Aaron with nine and Voce with six.

Burks led the way for Vinemont with 14 points in the loss, followed by Hacker and Young with six and Gable with five.

Cold Springs 57 – Vinemont 22 (varsity boys)
Will Rhodes and Brody Peppers traded baskets to tie things up at 2 early in the game but it wouldn't stay close for long. Buckets by Adam Hill and Tanner Kilgo helped Cold Springs pull ahead 7-2 midway through the opening quarter and Hill added two more baskets, one just before the buzzer, to stretch the lead to 11-2 at the end of the first.

Cold Springs didn't slow down as back to back three-pointers from Seth Williams stretched the lead to 17-2 at the start of the second. Hill converted a three-point play at the free throw line to add to the lead and a steal by Roberto Ayala turned into an easy layup for Kilgo that made it 23-2 midway through the period. Cody Bales scored inside to add to the lead and Peppers collected a block on one end and a layup on the other put Cold Springs in front 27-3 with three minutes remaining in the half.

A Collin Teichmiller basket stopped the bleeding for Vinemont and trimmed the lead to 29-5 but Cold Springs ultimately went into the locker room with a commanding, 31-9 lead at the break.

A three-point play by Peppers and back to back treys from Ayala stretched the lead to 40-10 with just under five minutes to play in the third and another basket by Hill kept Cold Springs in front 42-12 midway through the quarter. Caleb Sharpe knocked down a jumper for Vinemont to cut into the lead and he and Teichmiller exchanged threes on the next two possessions to make it a 47-20 game late in the third. Brodi Williams laid one in build the lead up to 29 but Sharpe got another shot to fall just before the buzzer to make it a 49-22 game going into the fourth quarter.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cold Springs' Lacey Rice (11) makes a pass inside to Brooke Crider (10) during the Lady Eagles' 64-34 win over Vinemont Monday night.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cold Springs's Adam Hill led the Eagles with 15 points in their win over Vinemont Monday night.

After Hill went to the rack for two more baskets to start the final period, Cold Springs pulled ahead 53-22 and the running clock was activated. Brodi Williams and Kilgo each scored again for Cold Springs to help put things out of reach for Vinemont and the Eagles of Cold Springs were able to cruise to a comfortable, 57-22 win.

Hill led Cold Springs with 15 points in the win, followed by Peppers with 13, Seth Williams with nine, Ayala and Kilgo with six and Brodi Williams and Bales with four. Teichmiller led Vinemont with nine points in the loss. Sharpe posted seven, Curtis Kennedy added four and Rhodes finished with two.

Cold Springs will travel to Addison for a pair of varsity matchups with the Bulldogs tomorrow night while Vinemont returns home to take on Hanceville.

Mac Jones captures Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award

UA Athletics
Troy Athletics

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. – University of Alabama quarterback Mac Jones was named the winner of the 2020 Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award, the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Education Foundation announced Monday morning.

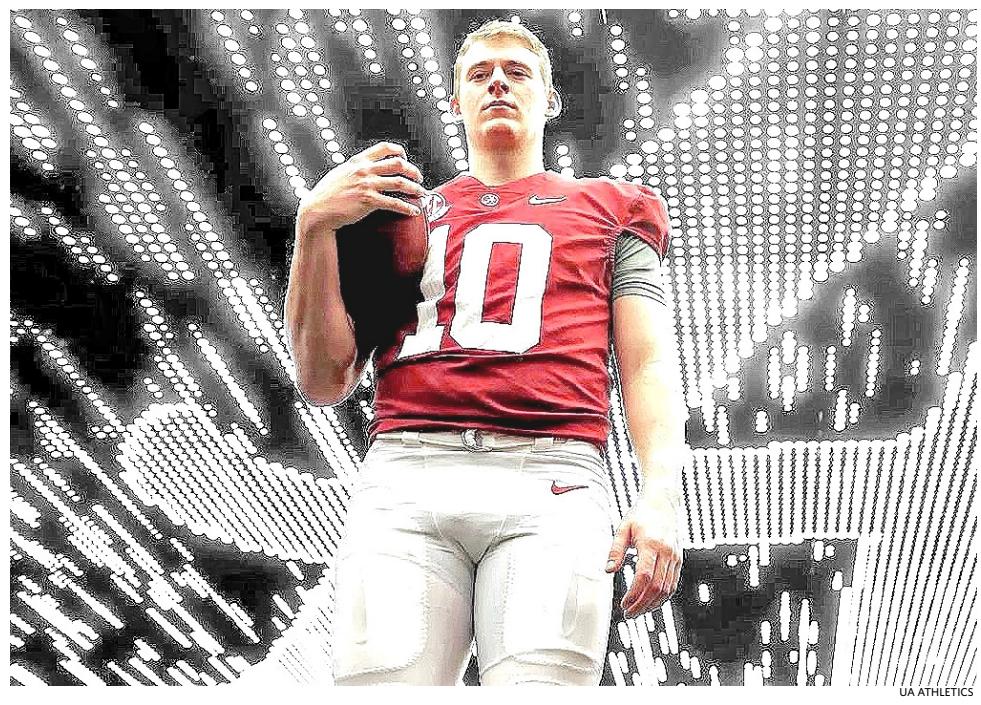
Jones joins Tide signal-callers AJ McCarron (2013) and Jay Barker (1994) as the only Alabama players to capture the award.

MAC JONES
Quarterback

- One of college football's top passers, Jones sports an NCAA-leading completion percentage (77.0), 203.3 passer rating and 95.8 QBR
- Totaled 4,036 passing yards to rank second in Division I while averaging 336.8 passing yards per game, good for fourth nationally
- Recorded four of the Crimson Tide's 10 400-plus yards passing performances in program history, the most by any one quarterback at UA
- Selected First Team All-American by the Associated Press, ESPN.com, Pro Football Focus, The Sporting News and USA Today
- Also a finalist for the Heisman Trophy, Davey O'Brien, Manning, Maxwell and Walter Camp Player of the Year

The Golden Arm Award is presented annually to the top upperclassman quarterback set to graduate with their class. The award acknowledges performance on the field, but it goes beyond completion percentage and touchdown strikes. The award values character, citizenship, integrity and those who honor the game. This year's presentation to honor Jones' achievements will be pre-recorded and released on Thursday, Jan. 7 on the Golden Arm Award social channels and shared by the University of Alabama.

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.



UA ATHLETICS

Alabama QB Mac Jones has been selected as this year's Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award Winner.

Alabama Offensive Line wins 2020 Joe Moore Award

UA Athletics
rolltide.com

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. – The Joe Moore Foundation for Teamwork presented the Alabama offensive line with the 2020 Joe Moore Award during a surprise virtual presentation in the Mal M. Moore Athletic Facility Monday afternoon.

Alabama previously won the award for the Most Outstanding Offensive Line Unit in College Football in its inaugural year in 2015, making the Crimson Tide both the first recipient and first two-time recipient of this prestigious award.

"I think this is one of the awards that I really cherish the most because it's one of the few that honors a group of players, and the offensive line is a special group of guys," Crimson Tide head coach Nick Saban said.

"They all seem to have similar personalities. They all have the same kind of competitive characteristics. They probably play more together as a unit and as a group in terms of how they communicate, how they combination block and all those things than any other group in football. I think this is a tremendous thing that they continue to do in Joe Moore's honor because it does mean a lot to our group, who has won it before."

Offensive Line

- Starting O-line has featured senior left tackle Alex Leatherwood (12 starts), redshirt senior left guard Deonte Brown (12 starts), redshirt senior center Landon Dickerson (11 starts), redshirt sophomore Emil Ekiyor Jr. (12 starts) and sophomore right tackle Evan Neal (11 starts), while redshirt senior Chris Owens has one start at center and one start at right tackle.
- Alabama's starting offensive line has only allowed quarterback Mac Jones to be sacked nine times in 12 games on 379 drop backs, or one sack per 42.1 drop backs, while Jones leads the nation in passing efficiency (203.0)
- The Crimson Tide ranks second nationally in rushing touchdowns with 35 (2.92 per game) while ranking fourth in the SEC in rushing offense (185.7 ypg)
- The Alabama offensive front has blocked for the nation's top-ranked Power Five scoring offense (48.2 ppg), the No. 1 pass efficiency offense (198.48) and No. 5 total offense (535.0).
- The Crimson Tide offensive line features consensus All-Americans and leading candidates for the Outland Trophy (Alex Leatherwood) and Rimington Trophy (Landon Dickerson)
- The veteran group boasts 126 career starts and their play has been the catalyst behind Alabama's three Heisman Trophy candidates Najee Harris, Mac Jones and DeVonta Smith

The Joe Moore Award voting committee judges solely on six criteria: toughness, effort, teamwork, consistency, technique and finishing and is the only award in college football that celebrates a group or unit.

The award is named after Joe Moore, widely regarded as one of the best offensive line coaches in college football history, most notably for his work at Notre Dame and the University of Pittsburgh. Coach Moore sent 52 players on to the NFL, including Bill Fralic, Mark May, Russ Grimm, Jimbo Covert and others.

The Joe Moore Award trophy, crafted by legendary sports sculptor Jerry McKenna, is the largest trophy in college football, standing at a height of six feet and weighing in at 800 pounds. The perpetual trophy is made available for display by the winning university until the conclusion of the following college football season.

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.



UA ATHLETICS

The Alabama offensive line has been selected as this year's Joe Moore Award winner for the nation's top college offensive line unit.

Auburn coach Bryan Harsin to instill 'fourth-and-1 mentality'

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. – Twice in his opening remarks after being introduced as Auburn's head football coach, Bryan Harsin referred to a "fourth-and-1 mentality."

"We can have a fourth-and-1 mentality every single day because there are no days off when you're trying to operate like that," Harsin said on Christmas Eve, describing the identity of consistent excellence he intends to build.

Harsin returned to that theme minutes later when discussing the similarities between success in football and life and the importance of development in both.

"We will develop our players," he said. "We will certainly do that every single day with that fourth-and-1 mindset."

Visiting with AuburnTigers.com five days after his Christmas Eve introduction, Harsin elaborated on what a fourth-and-1 mentality is, and why it's so important to Auburn football's future.

"If you think about that situation in football, fourth-and-1, we know how intense that can be and we know how execution in that moment is critical," he said. "To me, outside of that, not in the moment of the game but just the sense of urgency to make sure that you're prepared for a moment like that.

"Every day, when I talk about fourth-and-1, it's having that sense of urgency, having that plan and purpose for what you want to do that particular day to get better and improve.

"And then the daily execution. I don't think you're going to be successful in moments like that in a game if you're not doing it every single day and focusing on that. That mentality, that purpose, intentionally working on things to get better and doing it in a way where that focus in that moment becomes the most critical thing. I think that's an everyday way of living.

"In football when you're there and you're working on that, that's what you're focused on. When you're not, you're focused on being a student, you're focused on developing yourself as a person.

"When you put it in that context where fourth-and-1, everybody understands that the game of football in that moment while you're trying to get that 1 yard, it takes everybody to do that, it takes tremendous focus and tremendous discipline to make that happen.

"Part of that comes with your preparation that you do on a day to day basis. That's the message behind that: have a sense of urgency, be purposeful in everything that you do, and stay focused on the task at hand, so that you're going to make those necessary steps to be successful when it comes to moments like that."



TODD VAN EMST/AU ATHLETICS

Auburn head coach Bryan Harsin

Guthrie (from Front)

to Baileyton where he would live until his passing Dec. 18, 2020 from complications due to COVID-19. A 1960 graduate of Fairview High School, he married his true love, Martha, that following December. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary while Guthrie was in the hospital.

In their 60 years of marriage, Wendell and Martha Guthrie were never apart except for one week back when he was sent to a training class for King Edward Cigar Plant.

Son Benny Guthrie explained, "If he went to get gas for the lawnmowers, he would put the gas cans in the truck, and she would get in the truck and ride with him. They never left a morning without him saying I love you and kissing her bye.

"She got up every morning and cooked him breakfast- a biscuit, two pieces of sausage and a bowl of Crispix cereal with blueberries on it."

Guthrie went straight to work out of high school at King Edward Cigar Plant in Cullman. When King Edward closed, he went to work for C. Buck Walker at Walker Brothers in Baileyton. He worked there for going on 38 years until he tested positive for COVID-19.

Benny Guthrie said of his father, whom he calls "Pop," "He was saved and baptized when he turned 14 years old and he became a member of Baileyton Methodist Church and was a member there since then."

He said his dad volunteered at the Baileyton Volunteer Fire Department for a few years when it was founded.

Later, Guthrie was elected to the Baileyton Council, where he served for 16 years under Mayor Paul Bailey from 1996-2012.

"He loved the town, and he loved the community. He was involved in anything that went on. If the church doors were open, he was there," said his son.

"He had a love for that community that was just beyond. He and mom had a little yard Gator, and they would ride the side of the roads and pick up trash.

"The corner there at the school, he would get out and weed eat that corner just because he didn't like seeing it growed up."

Up until he got sick, each week Guthrie would help an elderly neighbor by taking her trash can to the road and back.

If there was an event in the community, at the school or at church, you could expect to see the Guthries there.

Said his son, "Chicken suppers, horse shows or anything, he was involved in." Guthrie knew everyone in the town of Baileyton and loved them all. "He was unique. He never met a stranger. It didn't matter where you went, if you had a doctor's appointment, he would go out and sit on the park bench. He was a people watcher and knew everyone. Part of the reason he stayed working up until his death was because he was a people person, and he loved the camaraderie. He was true! He was that one who didn't care to tell you if he didn't agree with you. He just wasn't rude about it or disrespectful. He didn't talk a lot. He just sat back and listened. We laughed because he was kind of like E.F. Hutton- 'When E.F. Hutton talks, people listen.' He was that kind of dad."

Wendell and Martha Guthrie loved visiting the Smoky Mountains and would take off to the mountains several times a year.

Said Bennie Guthrie, "They just drove the roads. They loved the country up there."

Guthrie loved his family and looked forward to Sunday dinner each week after church. He also enjoyed his dogs, being outdoors and working in the yard.

"He loved his rose bushes, flowers and feeding the birds. They were avid bird watchers and anything they could do together," said his son.

When grandson Cameron played basketball at Martin Methodist, his grandparents were at every game regardless of where the team played.

It was Nov. 9 when Guthrie tested positive for COVID-19.

The son explained his father's battle: "His oxygen level got really low and we took him and on the way he had a stroke.

"He actually beat COVID and came out of Cullman Regional COVID-free. He had a little COVID pneumonia left so we brought him home under home health and we had him at home. He was doing well. He was walking, eating, brushing his own teeth and talking to us. Everything was good. Seemingly, we were going forward.

"We had a problem with his sugar and a few days where he wasn't eating or drinking well. The home health nurse came out and she thought he was dehydrated and needed fluids. An ambulance came to take him to CRMC, and we thought it was just to get some fluids in him. The doctors came out and explained there was a bleed on the stroke and that he had had a mild heart attack. The doctors couldn't do anything there and dad would need to go to UAB.

"They were going to take him by ambulance and the ambulance would have to come out of Lawrence County. It was going to be almost four hours before they could get here to pick him up. This was all in the midst of COVID, because he tested positive again even though he was negative."

Benny Guthrie said he was told people can test positive for up to six months even with no signs or symptoms of COVID. Martha Guthrie was allowed to stay with her husband while Benny Guthrie and other family sat in the Cullman Regional parking lot.

That's when she remembered that she and her husband paid $35 a year for Air Evac coverage. The coverage allowed Guthrie to be transported to UAB in 35 minutes rather than waiting for hours.

Benny Guthrie continued, "Just for getting the care he needed, there's the 'golden hour' when stuff can happen, and the flight allowed him to get the treatment he needed then instead of waiting."

The Town of Baileyton pays for basic coverage for its citizens to use Air Evac in the case of an emergency. Because the Guthries live within the town's limits, they opted for the additional coverage in case they needed Air Evac when outside of Baileyton. Having that policy, said his son, secured Guthrie a 35-minute flight to UAB.

Once at UAB, Guthrie got well enough to be transferred to a rehabilitation center for physical, occupational and speech therapy. Benny and Martha Guthrie spoke to him on the phone while he was at rehab because family was not allowed inside.

"I called on a Monday and he wasn't very talkative. He was very whispery and said that he needed family and someone to talk to. It just broke my heart," said his son.

"On Tuesday, I called and he answered the phone and he said, 'Hello!' and I could hear him and he sounded great and I got mom on the phone. It was a great conversation and we let him go so he could eat his lunch."

A couple of hours later, Benny Guthrie received a call from the rehab nurse. They had discovered Guthrie unresponsive in his room after he aspirated on a piece of food. He was rushed to Grandview Hospital and was placed on a ventilator. The doctors were not very hopeful, and his blood sugar had dropped to 6.

Benny Guthrie continued through tears, "He was choking on that ventilator tube and the family made the decision to have it removed.

"He was moved to the ICU bed and physical therapy had actually gotten him up and walked him to the nurses' desk. Things were looking better, but he was unable to swallow. The feeding tube didn't work. The test came back bad. The flap in your throat that closes off when you swallow, that flap was not working. The only choice was a tube in his stomach. About two hours later, dad motioned and tried to take his oxygen mask off. He said, 'No more.' I said, 'Talk to me dad, what do you mean 'no more?'' He pointed to his stomach and I asked him if he wanted the stomach tube gone. He said, 'No more. I'm ready to go home.' He said that he was ready to go home with mom for a little bit and then ready to go home to be with his Lord."

Guthrie came home to Baileyton where he was able to say good-bye to his family. He died a day later.

"We knew time was short. We thought maybe three to four days. We didn't think the next day. I pointed at dad and said, 'I love you' and he said to tell all the grandkids that he loved them. He just went to sleep so peaceful and took his last breath. I was an EMT so I had a stethoscope, so I was listening for his heartbeat. I heard his last heartbeat, and that might sound a little morbid, but it was also very special," Benny Guthrie shared.

The family held a graveside service.

"They put the flags out. Dad loved the flags around the post office, and they put those out for him," said an emotional Benny Guthrie. "When we turned to go down the road by the building supply, Walker's had closed and every one of the employees were standing by the road. We turned into the cemetery and cars were everywhere. We guess maybe 150, but I don't know for sure. It was a testament to dad's life.

"He was ready and there is no doubt in my mind, mom's mind and Randy's mind. He was at peace and he was ready.

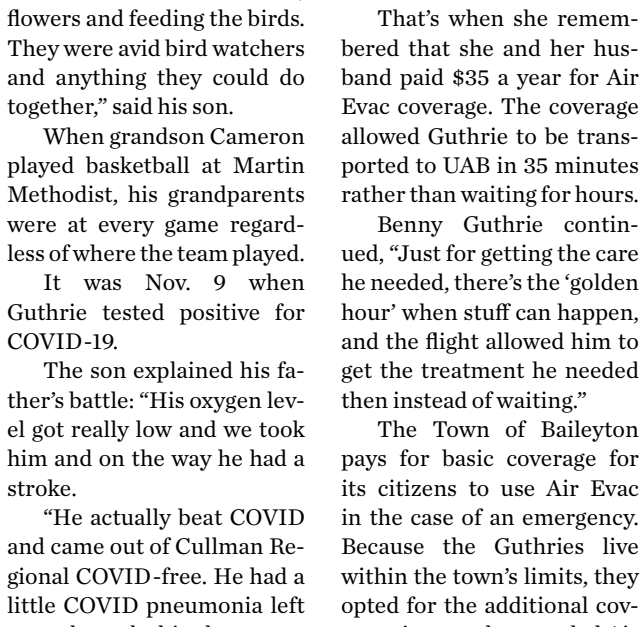
"The medical directors had ruled dad convalescent and moved him into a regular room at about midnight Dec. 2. Dec. 3 was mom and dad's anniversary. They were able to eat and drink and share that moment. If you don't believe in God, I don't know how you can't."

Guthrie is survived by wife Martha, sons Benny and Randy, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Benny Guthrie and the family thanked the many doctors and nurses, especially those at Cullman Regional and hospice for the excellent care Guthrie.

"Dr. (Adam) Harrison and Dr. (Bill) Peinhardt were dad's favorite doctors," said his son.

Wendell Guthrie died Dec. 18. He was 78 years old.

The Tribune is paying tribute to those in our community lost to COVID-19. If you would like to share your family's story, email Christy@CullmanTribune.com.





Holly Pond (from Front)

Heather Mann
heather@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. – The Holly Pond Town Council on Monday said free public Wi-Fi will be available for at least another 12 months in town parks (Governors and Lions Club Parks).

The council voted unanimously to renew the Town's agreement with JTM Broadband and enter a 12-month contract at $50 a month for the service.

Committee reports:
Parks: Some progress has been made on the retaining wall at Lions Club Park, but no report otherwise.

Sewer: The Town received an invoice for work done amounting to almost $1,300. Additionally, the Town received a quote for repairs to be done on a pump, though the recommendation was to run a bypass for as long as possible instead of replacing it.

Safety: The parts needed for the siren repair are still on their way due to the holiday delay.

Streets & Lights: Work on streets is on hold until the Town hears back about its application for Rebuild Alabama Act funds. As for lights, there are a few lights out around town, including some at the sewage plant. The council will talk with the workers at the plant about replacing them as well as adding lights around the area.

Beautification: The community Christmas tree in the park was a success this year, and the lights and decorations will be removed in the upcoming week. Additionally, Beautification Chair Julie Ray said she had a few ideas for the future about how to add on to the "Welcome to Holly Pond" signs on either side of town along U.S. Highway 278.

In old business, Mayor Carla Hart said meetings will start soon to work on the details of the new senior center project. A bush hog for maintenance has also been repaired and lights at Governors Park have been fitted with LED bulbs and globe fixtures on the poles.

The council approved the purchase of a new weed eater for use during the milder days of winter, voted to enter an agreement employing an interested party as park director, discussed attempting to start the ballpark program up again and heard Hart's announcement about the need for price estimates on larger trash cans for the park.

The council voted to proclaim January Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

The Holly Pond Town Council will meet next Feb. 1 at 6 p.m.

Equipment (from Front)

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

BAILEYTON, Ala. – It seems Baileyton has had a bit of a "Grinch" problem throughout the holidays. Each year, the Town hosts a community Christmas party. COVID-19 already caused several obstacles as town leaders explored safe ways to give back to the community, especially the children. They settled on a drive-through Christmas party and, they said, when they went to retrieve the toys collected over the year, they were gone!

The Baileyton Community Center has traditionally been where many have gathered prior to Christmas for a meal provided by the Town. Each year, the children of Baileyton beamed as they waited for a visit and photo with Santa. Tables full of new toys, stuffed animals, blankets, clothes and other gifts would showcase the generosity of the businesses and members of the community and each child could choose what he or she would like to take home.

Giant teddy bears and other large stuffed animals were raffled, and the raffle became the most anticipated event at the close of each party. Toys left over from the party and other toys donated throughout the year would then be locked in a storage building in preparation for the next year's party.

As organizers went to get the toys the day before the Dec. 12 Christmas party, they were shocked to find that all the toys for the children had vanished.

Mayor Windell Calloway said, "The toys and other stuff are now locked up in the mayor's office in the new town hall and I am the only person who has a key to that. If they get stolen there, somebody is going to have to knock the locks off or whatever. They are in there and all the stuff (Councilman) Benny (Guthrie) got ordered for us is in there and I locked it up."

One community member at Baileyton's Monday night council meeting was upset that someone would steal from the children of Baileyton, saying, "I just want to make sure that we've got everything locked up and that our locks and keys have been changed out because that bothered me that somebody would steal toys from our children."

Calloway assured her, "It bothered me greatly, too. If people hadn't donated, again I want to thank all the people who donated, and if they hadn't, we would have been in trouble. That is something that shouldn't have happened."

The building holding the toys still had a lock that was not tampered with and was still intact, the council said.

Despite the efforts to ruin Baileyton's Christmas, generous donations from members of the council, community, Wal-Mart and other organizations came through and the party was seen as a success. Families were able to receive to-go meals, fruit to take home and toys for the kids.

The stolen toys weren't the only strange occurrence. Calloway told the council, "Somebody cut all the wire on the 4-wheeler we use to drag the field with. It was locked up, but there is trash in the gas tank, and it ruined the fuel pump and other stuff."

Councilman Roy Shedd added, "That thing was sabotaged from one end to the other. All of our equipment is torn up and all the wrenches are gone. We don't have anything to work with. They were locked up in the shop and toys were locked up here."

The Town of Baileyton is the process of bolstering security while replacing the equipment that has been vandalized or stolen.

Improvements (from Front)

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

BAILEYTON, Ala. – The Baileyton Town Council on Monday night said the Town will make improvements to the parking area at Parkside School.

Mayor Windell Calloway explained, "Our plan is to go ahead and cut the curb loose there and fix the parking lot area. As long as there is one kid from our community that goes to that school, we can do it and donate that to them."

He said he hopes work on the project will begin this week.

Land owned by the Town of Baileyton will soon be open for bids for lease. The parcels include:

- 5.1 acres directly behind Kim's Parkside Catfish
- 9.6 acres behind Industrial Park at Red Hill and Oliver Road
- 10 acres on Fairview Road (left side)
- 8.3 acres on Fairview Road (right side)

Interested parties should contact Baileyton Town Hall for more information about the parcels. The council said it hopes to accept bids and open sealed bids at the next council meeting to allow time for fertilizing in preparation for spring planting.

Councilman Dewayne Sumner will assist Town Clerk Pat Gilbert with Town audits.

Said Calloway, "We got everything finally from 2015. We called the other day and they supposedly finished 2015 and will have it reviewed to check out everything. It's probably going to take a while because they got part of it in 2015 and didn't get anything else until we carried them what they needed- 2016 and 2017; it's there as soon as they finish 2015. (For) 2018, 2019 and 2020, my plan is to get to them as soon as possible."

A dead tree along Schoolhouse Road will be removed. Calloway said he hopes the Town can remove it, but the council did approve hiring a tree service if the job proved to be more difficult than expected.

The council is considering the purchase of a large smoker/grill for use at the community center, park and other community events. The Town currently borrows a smoker/grill from the Cullman County Sheriff's Office for events. Sumner will look into the details of the possible purchase.

The council also discussed the addition of a digital sign for the new town hall.

Calloway said, "I know some people later asked me about the Christmas drive-thru. A lot of people said they didn't know about it because we haven't got the newsletter out yet."

The sign is not in the budget so the council will need to vote on the purchase, but no action was taken Monday night. Sumner said he sees the sign as an additional way to clearly communicate to the community important information and events.

Repairs on the fence on the backside of Baileyton's park will soon be underway. An approximately 80-foot section of the fence has been down for some time.

"We will get that fixed," said the mayor, "and one of the things I would like to do is put a 4-foot gate in there so that the kids from school can come through easy."

Other improvements are being made and considered at the town's park. Dead trees have recently been removed and cleaned up. Calloway said he would also like to add cement curbs to the parking areas. More lights have been left on at the park recently to provide more security after a recent string of thefts and vandalism.

The council approved the purchase of two trailer locks and six loads of gravel to have on hand to use as needed.

Calloway thanked those who stepped up to make sure toys were available at this year's Baileyton Christmas Party. He thanked the Honor Network and Wal-Mart for their donations and grants for the food. He also thanked the CCSO for offering assistance as the Christmas lights were put up throughout the town.

The Baileyton Town Council will meet next on Feb. 1 at 7 p.m.

Karma in Cullman (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Karma in Cullman, a group that works toward making positive changes in our community through an array of means- from free community meals to a social media swap meet that only allows free items to be posted- faced off against COVID-19 in 2020, and found that, as needs increased, so did people's willingness to help.

Founder Rachel Fillmore told The Tribune, "How to wrap up the year of 2020 for Karma in Cullman? I mean I am sure everyone you ask that question will react the same. We will all pause a moment, take a deep breath, and either laugh or cry.

"Honestly, I think 2020 has been the year that has taught us many lessons. This year has been an eye-opening experience for many people not only in our community but in our country.

"This year we had people who had never had to reach out to a food bank or need to ask for help with rent suddenly found themselves in that position. We repeatedly had to assure them that this is why we were here, to help in an emergency like they were in."

Shutting down and ramping up
When the shutdown came in the spring, needs across the community were quickly on the rise. Faced with those needs and limited by cancelation of fundraising projects, Fillmore said she found two resources that could not be shut down: faith and the giving spirit of Cullman's people.

Said Fillmore, "As the year went on, we started off strong with our annual Valentine's Day Candy Bouquet fundraiser; however, as we started to prepare for our Easter Basket Fundraiser and spring and summer is when things went south, as we all know. Once the shelter at home orders were issued, we decided to follow those orders and close.

"We did decide to open up the food bank one day a week per the allowance of the order to continue serving the community even if in a limited capacity. Once things opened back up, we have still worked on a curbside pick only.

"As the year progressed, we just took it one day at a time. We proceeded with our Back-to-School Project, even when we were not 100% (sure) there would even be in-person classes. Again, we had people who had never needed assistance before come out and sign up because COVID-19 was still actively affecting their life.

"Then, of course, we chose to cancel our Suicide Awareness Walk, Trunk or Treat, as well as our Thanksgiving Dinner. These projects were dear to our hearts but we felt we could not put our members at risk, so they were cut pretty early on because safety was our priority.

"Of course, the biggest project for us is our Christmas Assistance, and this year was stressful. The fact that we could not have volunteers in a small space safely, due to lack of ability to do fundraising throughout the year, the lack of 'bargain shopping' which is a requirement to help the number of children we do each year, and knowing the need in the community would be overwhelming, I was not looking forward to the Christmas season. However, as I played with many ideas ranging from limiting spaces to even not doing the project at all, I did what I always do when I get stressed or worried: I prayed. I handed it over to God.

"I said I cannot do this alone, and the next day, He sent the sign that I wouldn't have to do it alone. We had two businesses in the community donate, and so many members of the community came forward and adopted children from our lists.

"We had more children adopted this year than ever before, which was amazing. Karma in Cullman ultimately helped over 1,000 people with everything ranging from basic hygiene supplies, furniture, clothing, school clothes, school supplies, Christmas trees and Christmas gifts, and everything in between.

"In 2020 our client numbers went down in some ways and up in some ways. The number went down I am sure because the shutdown kept us closed for so long and the lack of volunteers due to safety concerns, and just availability keeps us on a limited open basis.

"However, we have seen an increase in new clients this year. In years past it has been repeating clients but we have seen more new clients who are out of work or they are struggling from limited hours of work again due to COVID.

"I know it is so easy to look at social media and news outlets and see the ugly the world has to offer: the pain, the suffering, the hate, the disrespect and sadness. However, I want to share the good that comes from social media. Karma in Cullman does have an office, but we do most of our reaching out through social media.

"We had so many people who were struggling themselves this year but stepped up anyway and say, 'I want to help someone.' We had people who did not really have a lot of money, but they bought extra crayons or notebooks and would drop them off for our back-to-school project. I know families who chose to adopt a family for Christmas instead of buying presents for each other this year, because they were just thankful to be able to be together this Christmas. Every day I would receive messages from someone needing help, but I would receive two messages from people wanting to help."

The final word
Fillmore shared, "I can't remember a year when I have seen uglier behavior in the world, but I can assure you the good in this world is still fighting strong. The good in the world has not given up and as we move into 2021, I urge everyone out there: be the good you want to see. Find a charity, a nonprofit or an organization to support this year, and do not just support them financially but vocally and physically. There are so many good ones here in Cullman County to choose from, and I am sure I can speak for them when I say we all need your support. So as we move out of 2020, I urge us all to take the lessons we have learned this year, such as now people are really washing their hands, we know the true value is not money but toilet paper, that people can come together in agreement in large groups, gas was the cheapest we had seen in years, and we finally recognized true heroes aren't movie stars or sports stars but doctors, nurses, cashiers, stockers, restaurant workers, EMTs and other essential workers.

"We should leave behind the negativity, the hate, and the horrors we have seen this year. Instead, we move in the new year with our heads high, with the faith of better things to come and unity that the good will win. Wishing you all a brighter and healthier 2021."

For more on Karma in Cullman, visit http://karmaincullman.org or www.facebook.com/groups/1437544579798507, or call 256-735-3942.

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Obituary Announcements: Jan. 6

Audrey Mae Talley, 85, of Jones Chapel
Funeral services for Audrey Mae Talley, 85, of Jones Chapel will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021 at Jones Chapel First Baptist Church. Visitation will precede the service from 10-11 a.m. The Reverend Chris Chambliss officiating. The interment will follow at Central Baptist Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to service the Talley family. Mrs. Talley was born Nov. 17, 1935 to Raymond Issac and Eula Mae White Key. She passed from this life Jan. 3, 2021. She was a member of Jones Chapel First Baptist Church. She loved cooking, gardening, camping, and bowling. Mrs. Talley was preceded in death by her parents; husband Melvin Talley; grandchild Amanda Carlson; great-grandchild Jaylon Talley; sister Clura Quick; and brother Carl Baker. She is survived by her daughter Sharon (Andrew) Carlson; sister Betty Faye (Buford) Spain; grandchildren Heather Talley Fugate, David Turner, Lisa Talley, Ashley (Zac) Hayes, and Natalie (Michael) Evans; and 12 great-grandchildren. Family and friends may sign the guestbook at cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Rebecca A. Sumner
Rebecca A. Sumner was born Sept. 26, 1933 in Limestone County, Alabama to George Washington Tribble and Willie Pearl Tribble. She spent most of her childhood in Ardmore and Athens, Alabama before moving to Michigan where she met and married Gene Sumner in 1955. They began married life in Pontiac Michigan before relocating to Lake Orion Michigan. Upon retirement from the U. S. Postal Service in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, she and her husband moved to the Baileyton, Alabama area and became very involved within the community and the Baileyton Senior Citizen Center where she made lifelong friends whom she dearly loved. Rebecca was a lifelong member of the Eastern Star. Rebecca was survived by husband Gene Sumner; children Dewayne Sumner and wife Susan, and Michelle Fisher and husband Jim Fisher; one grandchild Michele Sumner; brother Ray Tribble and his wife Margaret of Cullman, Alabama; many nieces and nephews; and many grand-animals! She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter Deborah Sumner; and brother Douglas Tribble. There will be no service at this time and in lieu of flowers the family has asked that donations be made to Alzheimer's Research.

Beverly Frances Pullins, 72, of Arley
Beverly Frances Pullins, 72, of Arley entered into rest Monday, Jan. 4, 2021 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. Mrs. Pullins was born Dec. 9, 1948 in Cullman, Alabama. Beverly was a loving person who loved life, loved her family and she loved her Lord Jesus. Visitation will be held Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021 from 10:30 a.m.-noon at Nichols Funeral Home in Addison, where the service will begin at noon. Pastor Rodney Ridgeway and Dania Aderholt will officiate. Burial will follow in Valley Springs Cemetery in Good Hope. Beverly is survived by her husband Randy Pullins; daughters Amy Dail Brown and Amanda Williams; stepson John Rayford Pullins; mother Clarene Reid; brother Jerry Reid; and a host of grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her father Wallace Reid; brother Terry Reid; and sisters Betty Greene and Barbara Southwell.

Donald "Donnie" Royce Wisener, 64, of Blountsville
Donald "Donnie" Royce Wisener, 64, passed away peacefully at his home in Blountsville, Alabama Jan. 1, 2021. Donnie had a heart of gold and lived life to the fullest. He was an artist, storyteller, songwriter, and bird enthusiast. He loved spending time with his family and friends and raising his beloved chickens. He is preceded in death by his father Billy Royce Wisener; brothers Billy Michael Wisener and Louie Richard Wisener; and daughter-in-law, Dana "Lou" Rambo Wisener. He is survived by his mother Louie Frances Hernandez and Fernando Hernandez; wife Ruby Wisener; son Judd Wisener and Windy Boatright; daughter Misty Lane Wisener; sisters Nikki Snodgrass, Mia Wise, and Dianne Hafer; brother Randy Wise and Joyce Wise; grandchildren Emma Wisener, Champ Wisener, Adora Ralph, Drew Ralph, Levi Boatright, Tyler Boatright, and Blake Barnes; and great-grandchildren Maliah Coots, Riley Ralph, Selah Ralph, and Cora Eccles. His family will lay him to rest in a private burial at Holly Pond Cemetery. Obituary provided by the family. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Wisener family.

Hugh Battles Montgomery, Jr. "Bud," of Holly Pond
Hugh Battles Montgomery, Jr., known by most as "Bud," passed away Jan. 2, 2021. He was born July 20, 1949 in Jackson, Mississippi to Hugh Battles Montgomery, Sr. and Meta Perkins Hightower. Bud was a true patriot, having served in the Army, Army Reserve, and Army Guard. He retired from military service as a major, after 24 years of service and sacrifice, all of which he counted an honor. Bud's time in service took him many places in the world, but Bud found a "home" in Holly Pond. He was a firearms expert, and he enjoyed target shooting. Mr. Montgomery also enjoyed camping. But most of all, Bud loved his God and his family. Bud was a member of Crosshaven Church in Hanceville, Alabama, and was an active member as long as his health allowed. He was a husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, brother, and dear friend to many. Mr. Montgomery is preceded in death by his parents Hugh Montgomery, Sr. and Meta; brother George Hightower Montgomery; and sisters Meta Agnes Doran and Alice Montgomery Dorris. He is survived by his beloved wife, Susan Nichols Montgomery; daughters Amber Shockley and husband Matthew, Erin Kilgo and husband Chris, and Shelby Montgomery and Dalton Hicks; grandchildren Sydney and Cassidy Lister, Emma and Lane Kilgo, and Malyn Shockley; and a host of family and friends. Mr. Montgomery will be laid to rest in the National Cemetery in Montevallo Friday, Jan. 8, 2021. His family ask that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Bud's memory to the ALPHA-1 Foundation at www.alpha1.org. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Montgomery family and would like to extend our gratitude to the Montgomery family for their many years of service to our nation.

Nina Francine Hayes, 89, of Cullman
Nina Francine Hayes, 89, of Cullman passed away Jan. 2, 2021. She was born May 19, 1931 in Falkville, Alabama. Mrs. Hayes was a homemaker and she enjoyed needlepoint and well as cooking for her family. She was a member of Victory Christian Fellowship Church, in Holly Pond and treasured her church family. Nina was a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother and she enjoyed her family and any time spent with them. Mrs. Hayes is preceded in death by her parents; husband Jerome William Hayes, Jr.; son Jerome William Hayes III; and her brothers and sisters. She is survived by her children Rogene Hayes, Nina Jones (Blake), and Vickie Maull (Kimball); daughter-in-law Carol Hayes; a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and her pastor and his family, Jeremy, Christy, Seth, and Noah Collier. Funeral services for Mrs. Hayes are at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021 at Victory Church; Jeremy Collier and Kenny Baskins officiating. Burial will follow in Holly Pond Cemetery. Friends may visit with the family Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021 from 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home. The family would like to extend a special thank you Mrs. Hayes' niece, Ashley Hayes, for her care and compassion as Mrs. Hayes' caregiver. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Hayes family.

Jeremy Todd Sams, 43, of Cullman
Funeral services for Jeremy Todd Sams, 43, of Cullman will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021 at the Cullman Funeral Home Chapel. Visitation will precede the service from noon-2 p.m. Reverend Chris Chambless officiating. Interment will follow in the Jones Chapel Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Sams family. Mr. Sams was born Feb. 14, 1977 to Jerry Wayne and Linda Faye Brown Sams. He passed away Jan. 4, 2021 at the UAB Hospital. He was preceded in death by his grandparents Bernice and Audrey Sams and his father Jerry Sams. Mr. Sams is survived by his grandparents J. P. and Lorene Brown; mother Linda Sams; son Brody Sams; daughter Savana Sams (Delton Cooke); sister Lenisa (Stephen) Hutson; uncle and aunt Kenneth and Laura Brown; cousins Whitney and Matt Dyer and Fisher, and Cole Brown; uncles Ray and Nelda Sams, and Junior Sams; aunt Marie and Tillman Harding; and a host of cousins, family, and friends. Family and friends may sign the guestbook at cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Kennith Wayne Tubbs
Kennith Wayne Tubbs-May 13, 1959-Jan. 2, 2021-A celebration of life will be held at Moss Funeral Home Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021 at 2 p.m. for Kennith Wayne Tubbs who passed away Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021. The visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021 at Moss Funeral Home. The celebration of life will be available via Facebook Live Stream on the Moss Service Funeral Home Facebook page. Moss Service Funeral Home directing. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, masks will be required and social distancing is appreciated. Kenny was a master machinist who worked at Speedring for 31 years. While at Speedring he worked on the Hubble Space Telescope. Kenny loved his family with all his heart! He was a gentle giant who loved everyone, especially his family. He was a wonderful husband to me, his wife Cynthia, for 32 years. His smile and wink of the eye will remain in my heart always. His laugh echoes in my ears; what a laugh he had! He loved his children Rebecca, Sean and Sybil very much and would do anything for them. He was the best PeePaw to Breagan, Oaklan, Jordan and Bronco. He loved these boys with every ounce of his being. He was happiest with one or all his grandsons sitting in his lap watching their TV shows, playing guitar or out in the yard tinkering with Sean and Breagan. Kenny was preceded in death by his father Dwight Dwinen Tubbs, Sr. and his father-in-law William Charles Roberson, Sr. Survivors include Kenny's wife Cynthia Ann Tubbs; son Sean Wayne Tubbs; daughters Rebecca Ann Pope and Sybil Alivia Tubbs; grandsons Breagan Thomas Pope, Oaklan Wayne Tubbs, Bronco James Tubbs, and Jordan Lee Fullenwider; mother Barbara DeEtta Tubbs; brothers Dwight (Rhonda) Tubbs, Jr., Steve Tubbs, and Greg (Kay) Tubbs; sister Liz (Brad) Barrontine; and mother-in-law Sybil Juanita Roberson. Condolences and special memories may be shared with the family at www.mossservicefh.com.

Patricia Carol Cook, 70, of Hanceville
A memorial service for Patricia Carol Cook, 70, of Hanceville will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021 at Bangor Cemetery in Blount Springs, AL. Patricia is survived by her daughter Janet (Jonpaul) Bockman; grandchildren Cody Weaver, Nikki Weaver, Kaine Bockman, Lacey Bockman, and Lyla Bockman; great-grandchildren Sloan Weaver, Fletcher Weaver, and soon to be Riley Bockman; three brothers; and five sisters. Mrs. Cook was preceded in death by her parents Dewey and Dorothy (Quick) Swann.

Virginia L. Calvert, 88, of Doraville, Georgia
A graveside service for Virginia L. Calvert, 88, of Doraville, Georgia will be at noon Friday, Jan. 8, 2021 at Ryan's Creek Cemetery in Brushy Pond Community. Mrs. Calvert is survived by her husband Deltis Calvert; children Dede Ann Watson, Dale (Laura) Calvert, and Phillip Watson; grandchildren Emily Paige Calvert and Ryan Andrew Calvert; and a host of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents Eugene and Alice (Sherman) Stutz; and three brothers Robert, Richard, and Edward Stutz.

Barry Glenn Howse, 71, of Cullman
Barry Glenn Howse, 71, of Cullman passed away Dec. 4, 2021. He was born May 17, 1949 in Cullman County, to Elonzoe and Marzell Lovvorn Howse. Mr. Howse was a welder by trade, and he worked for Americold Industries for over 30 years. He enjoyed hunting and the outdoors, but his passion was Auburn football. Barry was an avid Auburn fan, but he enjoyed all SEC football. As much as he loved his Tigers though, nothing compared to his family. Mr. Howse was blessed with two daughters and four granddaughters and he loved spending time with all his girls. Mr. Howse is preceded in death by his parents Elonzoe and Marzell Howse and his daughter Rusty Howse McGuire. He is survived by his beloved wife Jean Howse; daughter Kacey Howse York (Kenny); granddaughters Jezzia Smith, Zoi Smith, Cora York, and Ada York; and a brother Michael Howse (Beverly). A time of visitation for friends and family will be held Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021 at the funeral home. Friends may visit with the family from 6-8 p.m. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Howse family.

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CCSO K9 Deputy Figo dies



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

End of Watch 01/05/21

Figo

Cullman County Sheriff's Office

CULLMAN, Ala. – Sheriff Matt Gentry and the Cullman County Sheriff's Office are saddened to report the passing of one of the CCSO's four-legged deputies. K9 "Figo" has passed away due to health-related issues.

Figo was the longtime partner of Deputy Adam Clark. Both Deputy Clark and Figo were injured in a vehicle accident last February. Lt. Matthew Bales, who is over the K9 program, has been working with Figo in an attempt to rehabilitate him since the accident.

Figo was a Belgian Malinois who has been with the sheriff's office for about three years. During that time, he and his partner were responsible for numerous arrests and for removing large amounts of narcotics from Cullman County. K9 Figo will be missed.

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