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HEALTH

Who can get a COVID-19 vaccine in Cullman County? And where?

Wendy Sack
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CULLMAN, Ala. – Alabama's COVID-19 vaccine rollout continues, and many readers have asked who is eligible and where vaccines are available in Cullman County. Here is what we know as of Feb. 9, 2021.

WHO is eligible for a vaccine in Alabama?
People eligible for a vaccine in the state of Alabama are those recognized in Phases 1a and 1b and parts of Phase 1c of the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) Vaccine Allocation Plan.

That includes:
- frontline health care workers
- nursing home residents
- law enforcement
- firefighters
- first responders
- people older than 65
- educators
- people living in congregate settings
- food and agriculture workers
- U.S. Postal Service workers
- manufacturing workers

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Dusty Baker leaving Commission on Aging

'It's bittersweet.'



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman County Commission on Aging, Director Dusty Baker

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – After six years leading the Cullman County Commission on Aging, Director Dusty Baker has stepped down. His last day will be Friday, Feb. 12, and he calls his decision "bittersweet." The Tribune sat down with Baker Tuesday to learn more.

Baker said his decision was based on his desire to move closer to family.

"We had a few options come up and we have decided to go to Florida. Going to the beach!" he said. "Jessica is looking forward to getting back closer to her family and I have family down there as well."

Dusty and Jessica Baker, along with their two daughters, are relocating to Lakeland, Florida.

"The kids are excited, and we are all going to miss our friends and family here. It's bittersweet because this has, by far, been the greatest job I have ever had. I love the people who I serve and the people who I work with. It's hard to let go of something so good, but at the same time, the Good Lord has opened some doors for

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FEATURE

'You've got to be thankful'

Cullman couple reflects on year since being quarantined on the Grand Princess



JUNE BROOKS

June and Len Brooks

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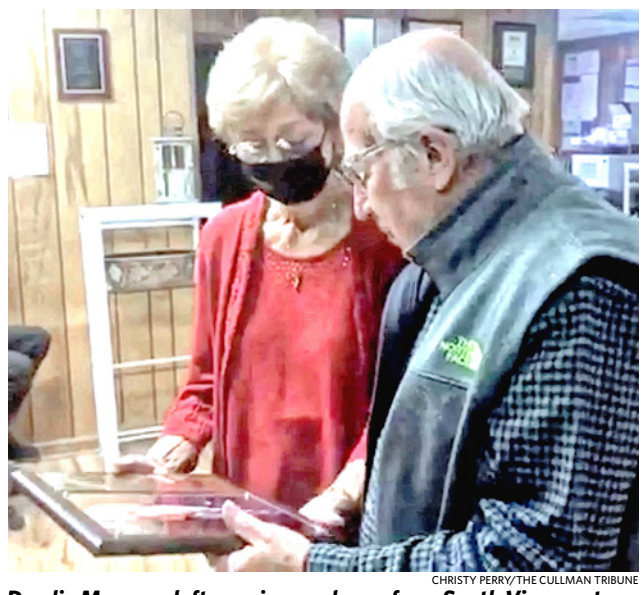
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Colony council talks fire, emergency response in community

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Vinemont honors late J.D. Marcum



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Deedie Marcum, left, receives a plaque from South Vinemont Mayor Radginal Dodson, right, Tuesday night in memory of her late husband, J.D. Marcum.

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WE'VE GOT A SWEETHEART OF A DEAL FOR YOU!
Bill Smith
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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Feb. 9

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Feb. 9, 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
Feb. 8
- fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; general merchandise; $137
- harassment; person

ARRESTS
No arrests reported.

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No incidents or arrests reported.

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

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2021 COVID-19 update from the Alabama Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Dashboard Hub

Case details
- Total confirmed cases in AL: 372,626 (+855 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in AL: 102,040 (+463 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in AL: 6,783 (+30 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in AL: 1,796
- Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co.: 5,958 (+9 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in Cullman Co.: 2,798 (+7 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in Cullman Co.: 105 (+2 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in Cullman Co.: 61
- Total tested in Cullman Co.: 35,823
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 3,304
- Cases in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 373
- Total tested in Alabama: 2,197,811
- Cases in the last 14 days in Alabama: 29,763
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Alabama: 217,565
- Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 1,441
- Cumulative no. of hospitalizations in Alabama (reported M-F): 43,499
- Presumed recoveries in Alabama (reported weekly): 252,880

Vaccine details (updated Monday-Friday)
- Doses delivered to Alabama: 954,225
- Doses delivered to Alabama providers: 862,575
- Doses administered: 497,705
- Doses delivered to federal Long-Term Care Program: 91,650
- Doses administered by the federal Long-Term Care Program: 58,632

Alabamians in Phases 1a and 1b, as well as people older than 65, are eligible to receive a vaccine.

View the Alabama COVID-19 Vaccination Allocation Plan at: www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine/assets/adph-covid19-vaccination-allocation-plan.pdf

Be aware that vaccine shortages remain
Many county health departments are no longer offering first doses of COVID-19 vaccines and are currently administering only second doses to those people at highest risk and whose shots are already scheduled. This is due to the limited supply of vaccine. Please be patient and wait to schedule your own vaccination appointment if you have no underlying health issues or have limited contact with other people. Showing consideration for others will allow your neighbors who may be at higher risk to schedule their COVID-19 vaccinations.

Large-scale mass vaccination clinics in 8 Alabama locations
Eight large-scale mass vaccination clinics started Feb. 8 throughout the state. Clinics are located in Anniston, Birmingham, Dothan, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, Selma and Tuscaloosa. The goal is for each location to give 1,000 vaccines per day, totaling 40,000 doses administered. Some sites require preregistration, and not all sites may have availability. Additional information about each location is available at www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine/mass-clinics.html.

We ask you to be patient and thank volunteers
Please be patient as you participate in mass vaccination clinics taking place throughout the state. The vaccination efforts are being supported by volunteers that are working hard to take care of their communities. We ask that you understand that patience is needed as they work to vaccinate thousands of people throughout the week.

Vaccination eligibility check and scheduling portal
Visit www.alcovidvaccine.gov to schedule available vaccine appointments, access a map of drive-thru and walk-in locations, and sign up to be notified as new priority groups are available to receive vaccine.

See more details at https://bit.ly/3iVJwXK or www.BamaTracker.com.

Vinemont (from Front)

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

SOUTH VINEMONT, Ala. – The South Vinemont Town Council honored the late J.D Marcum Tuesday evening. Marcum, who served as a council member and was a former mayor, died in November 2020 at the age of 85. His widow, Edith "Deedie" Marcum, was present to receive a plaque given by the Town in appreciation of her late husband's contributions to the community.

Mayor Radginal Dodson thanked Deedie, saying, "He was one fine gentleman-one fine gentleman." She accepted the plaque through tears while Dodson also thanked her for her many years of dedication to both her husband and the Town of South Vinemont.

Two new council members, Chris Thompson and Charlotte Cosper, were not at Tuesday night's council meeting. They were attending Alabama League of Municipalities courses for new elected officials.

Councilwoman Sonya Copeland opted to abstain from a vote to accept the council's January financial report. Her decision to abstain and the absence of Thompson and Cosper resulted in not enough votes to accept the report. The item will be added to the agenda for next month's meeting.

Asked at the conclusion of the meeting why she opted to abstain, Copeland said, "I don't agree with the way they do financials, and there are discrepancies. I've been fighting with them for months trying to get answers, and I am not going to agree with something I don't agree with."

Copeland said she raised concerns during the council's January meeting and claimed, "I got yelled at and everybody yelled at me. There are things that are missing and things that don't add up."

When asked for examples, she referenced the closing of a Town bank account and produced a paper showing that an account through Premier Bank had been closed due to a clerical error during in January 2021.

Copeland said of other claimed discrepancies, "They have uncleared balances that are clearing for a different amount. It's only off by a dollar or some change here and there, but still there should be no reason why. Beginning balances and ending balances are like the same for three months straight. Exactly the same. How is it exactly the same if you have outgoing money and incoming money every month? It's little things like that that makes no sense."

A frustrated Copeland remarked, "I just want some answers, and they act like I am trying to accuse them of stealing money, but I am not. Little weird things. And I am new so of course I am trying to do what I am supposed to do. That's part of my job to look into that and they don't like it."

When asked about the closed bank account and other matters Copeland mentioned, Dodson and Public Works Director Mike Graves pushed back.

Graves, explaining the discrepancies Copeland mentioned, said, "For years, the previous clerk and (Town Clark) Kayecea (Sasser), all they knew was to give them a reconciliation. That's what she was giving them. What reconciliation does is, it's like balancing your checkbook. If there is a mistake in there, you go back in and fix it. That's all this whole thing is about- a reconciliation report. Back in July, Kayecea went in to reconcile the checkbook because there was a $31 dollar payment, and it was taken out twice. She went back in to reconcile it and when she did, it changed the date on the top date of the page, but it didn't change the date of the reconciliation down here. She tried to correct it with QuickBooks- and there are other clerks with the same problem- but you can't go in there and put everybody's dates ahead, so it made it look like everything was in advance. That's all there is to that. It's just a reconciliation page."

Added Dodson, "It was just a date on the piece of paper. It didn't have anything to do with the list of the checks and balances."

According to Dodson and Graves, Copeland has spoken to the auditors, and the audits are good.

As for the closed bank account, Dodson said it was re-opened after a deposit of $1 was made, sharing, "They opened an account that didn't have any money in it so Kayecea had to give them a dollar to keep the account open. That's all that is in that account right now."

Graves added, "It's an account for the (Rebuild Alabama Act funds), and we got a grant to build that road (Park Drive). We had to open an account for that road only because you can't commingle those funds. So that's a separate account for the road going into the Shaddix place (The Shaddix Company)."

In other business, the council did approve the following items:
- $5,800 payment to Larry Cooke for audit. The bill will be split into two payments to be paid in February and March.
- A new floor to be installed in the upstairs of the ballpark's concession stand. It has budgeted $2,500 for the project with the work to be done in-house. Flooring, other than water board, has never been installed there.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Alabama Beta Delta Teachers' Sorority Annual Chocolate Tasting Extravaganza Canceled
With regret, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Alabama Beta Delta Teachers' Sorority Annual Chocolate Tasting Extravaganza, has been canceled for this year. Thanks to the community's support for the past 13 years. Through your support, we have been able to award college scholarships to students majoring in education. We hope to see everyone back next year!

Baileyton Bargain Days
- First and third Saturday of each month from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the old Baileyton fire station next to the town's park
- The Town of Baileyton has partnered with Wal-Mart to receive pallets of merchandise which is unable to be placed on the store's shelves due to barcode errors.
- Beauty and health products, toys, home goods, pet items, food and many everyday items
- A donation of $20 will allow a shopper to fill up a bag, and for $40 a shopper can fill a large box. Some of the items of greater value will require a larger donation. There will be some restrictions and product limits on the items. Cash and checks accepted.
- Proceeds will be used for park improvements and capital improvements for the town.

Scholarship Opportunity
The Cullman County Soil & Water Conservation District is now accepting applications for a $500 scholarship sponsored by the Alabama Conservation District Employees Association. Applicant must be a U. S. citizen, high school senior and living in the state of Alabama. Applications may be picked up at the District office located 501-B Fourth St. SW, Cullman, AL 35055. Deadline to receive completed applications in the District office is March 12, 2021. For more information, contact Kathy Holmes at 256-734-1431or kholmes@cullmanswcd.com.

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. Come and pray with us for our church, nation, healing, etc. or come to receive prayer.
- Ladies' exercise classes- Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Children welcome.
- Classes- Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Children and youth classes.
- Sundays at 9 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points area. Call 256-841-2060 for pickup. Small group classes for adults, children and youth at 10 a.m. Praise and worship and message at 11 a.m.
- Mondays-Fridays- Our 5 Points Ministry provide free hot meals for children and elderly 3:30-5 p.m. at the Cullman Housing Authority Community Center 1545 Vine Circle SW Please call Aimee at 256-841-2060 to register or for more information. Eat in or take out. Kids' activities are available. Sponsored by Kids Loving Kids, Raising Arrows Ministry and Spirit Life Church.
- Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. Devotional and "Financial Prep for Taxes" by Ellen Hulgan, C.P.A.
- Friday, Feb. 12 at 10:30 a.m. Elderquest/Adult Luncheon and Games. Bring a dish. Enjoy a meal and play games such as "Michigan," dominoes, etc. Everyone welcome!
- Saturday Feb. 13 at 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast-Dutch treat. Meet at Jack's on West Main. Afterward-Axe Throwing Contest. Fees paid by Men's Ministry.
- Sunday, Feb 14 at 11 a.m. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd- "Go in the Strength You Have."
- Sunday, Feb. 14 at 5 p.m. Valentine's Banquet $10 per person. Dinner, entertainment and fun! To reserve your tickets, call Amy at 256-736-4657 Venmo @AMYNCANTER
- Kids Loving Kids Birthday Blessings serves children ages 1-18 in need of assistance to celebrate their birthday. Register your child and pick up a birthday box with cake mix, icing, sprinkles, decorations, and toys! Pick up is the last weekend of the month. Saturday-Jasper 5100 Curry Hwy Suite 100-B Jasper, AL 35504 from 3-5 p.m. or the last Sunday of the month at Spirit Life Church Cullman from 12:30-1 p.m. Birth certificate is required at the time of box pickup. Register at https://form.jotform.com/203435614640045. For more information, text or call 205-717-7478.
- Upcoming Revival- Feb. 21 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. by Evangelist Dr. Arvind D'Silva, and nightly Feb. 22-27 @ 7 p.m. Dr. D'Silva hears from the LORD and flows in a mighty anointing. Do not miss what GOD has for you during this event!

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.

Alabama Cooperative Extension Virtual Caregiver's College- "Love Yourself" Webinar
- Wednesday, Feb. 10 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. There will be presenters on the following topics: Senior Rx, Medicare Part D, Estate Planning/Wills/Taxes, Identify Theft and Nutrition.
- This is the first virtual Caregiver's College. This program will be presented by ZOOM. This is a great opportunity for seniors and senior caregivers to gain resources and education and not have to leave the house if they have internet access.
- This event is free, but registration is required. Register by emailing jns0030@aces.edu or by calling the Dekalb County Extension office at 256-845-8595.
- Virtual attendees can ask to receive a goody bag for their attendance at this event. When you call or email, ask for the free goody bag.
- The speakers for this event are very knowledgeable experts and specialists in their fields. Please share half a day with us to learn more about how important caregivers are and how to "Love Yourself."

Cullman Education Retirees Association Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021 at 11 a.m. at Stone Bridge Farms. Our program this month will be a COVID Impact Panel with Dr. Shane Barnette, Dr. John Waggoner and Tim Compton, explaining the impact this pandemic has had on our area. Following the program, we will have a short business meeting and then enjoy lunch together. All education retirees are invited to attend. We will practice CDC guidelines, including wearing masks and social distancing.

Lunch with the Calhouns
A fundraiser to help Jerry, Ramona and Shannon Calhoun whose home burned last Tuesday will be held Thursday, Feb. 11 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church. Their home was a total loss. Help them get back on their feet and enjoy a delicious lunch at the same time! Grab & Go a large serving of chili with cornbread, brownie and canned drink, $10 each for yourself or your office! 100% of the money received will go to the Calhouns. Pick up in the parish hall found through the breezeway on the Arnold Street side of Grace Church. Please email your orders to TheRedDoorCullman@att.net by Wednesday, Feb. 10 with 1) Number of lunches, 2) Your pickup time and 3) Name of person or business picking it up.

Hanceville City Council Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 11 at 5:30 p.m. at Hanceville City Hall

Dodge City Town Council Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 11 at 6 p.m. at Dodge City Town Hall

North Alabama Agriplex Living Landscapes Presents Raised Bed Gardening
Thursday, Feb. 11 from 6-8 p.m. on Zoom. This virtual class will cover everything you need to start your own raised beds, from bed types, to soil mixes, pest control and more. You can access this class through our events tab on Facebook or at http://bit.ly/3oEUgef.

Succulent & Perennial Plant Sale
- Friday, Feb. 12 from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Cullman County Public Library
- Great idea for Valentine's Day!
- All proceeds benefit the Cullman County Public Library.

Tree Giveaway
The Cullman Forestry Committee will not be having its normal Arbor Day Tree Sale, but the Alabama Forestry Commission has provided a small number of trees we will give away to anyone on a first come, first served basis. The tree species we will likely have are Redbud, Grancy Grey Beard (Fringetree), Dogwood, Wild Persimmon, Red Mulberry, Bald Cypress and White Oak. You will be limited to 1 tree of each species until they are all gone. Come to the North Alabama Agriplex at 1714 Tally Ho St. SW, Cullman (across from the Cullman Bowling Center) on Feb. 17 beginning at 8 a.m. We will stay until the trees are all gone, but come early for best results. The distribution will be drive-thru so you can stay safely in your car. Circle the shrub bed that takes you to the front door.

North Alabama Agriplex Pruning Fruits Lunch & Learn
Wednesday, Feb. 17 from noon-1 p.m. on Zoom. Join local expert Tony Glover as he walks us through how to properly prune our fruit trees for best overall plant health and production. Access the class at http://bit.ly/3jaLqUt or through our events tab on Facebook.

BUSINESS

Axe marks the spot!

Axe throwing comes to Cullman's west side

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Axe throwing, once the sport of lumberjacks and buckskinners, has found its way into the mainstream over the last few years and, this past Friday, into Cullman as the German Axe Throwing Company (GATCo) opened its doors at 419 Main Ave. SW on Cullman's west side. After an unpublicized soft opening for family and friends last week to work out bugs, GATCo's official opening night was packed, drawing visitors from Fultondale to Huntsville and delighting co-owners Dalton Woodard, Devon Woodard, Jarrid Hancock and Nichole Hancock.

The Tribune sat down with Dalton Woodard Saturday afternoon to find out more.

Woodard said, "We originally went axe throwing for ourselves in Huntsville. And you know, there's nothing to do in Cullman, for the most part. I've lived here my whole life, and other than bowling- we've had Fun Zone come and Fun Zone left, and the go-carts and the putt-putt- but as far back as I can remember, there (hasn't) been a whole lot to actually go and do unless you're on a sports team or something like that.

"And axe throwing's growing as a sport itself, so it's like you've got the WATL (World Axe Throwing League) which we actually play on our TV out there, and they're on ESPN.

"We went through and we were like, it's something we think we can do, is open a venue in Cullman. It's a lot more simplistic than a restaurant, because there's so much more that goes into opening restaurants or certain businesses where you've got to have merchandise and stuff like that.

"It just seemed like it was something that was enjoyable, that we could also actually go out and do."

For first-time throwers

Everyone has to start somewhere, and GATCo welcomes newcomers to the sport, which is not as difficult as some might think.

Said Woodard, "We'll see people come in, and they throw, and they have- like us the first time, we had no idea how to get it to stick- and within an hour, they're hitting the bullseye nearly every throw . . . Once you figure out how to do it, there's nothing to it."

Once they get off the ground, Woodard and his partners hope to link GATCo to one of the major axe throwing leagues.

Woodard concluded, "We put a lot of effort into it for the people, and that's the biggest thing: we're not doing this to get rich.

"We're not doing it to even be business owners. We just wanted the opportunity to bring something to Cullman to actually participate in."

GATCo is a veteran-owned business with five throwing lanes open to throwers age 10 and older, as well as darts and cornhole. The venue can supply axes, and throwers can bring their own, within limits: bring your hatchet or tomahawk and leave the big lumberjack gear at home. One hour costs $22 per person; 30 minutes is $15.

Schedule:

- Monday-Wednesday, 4-8 p.m.
- Thursday, 4-10 p.m.
- Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-midnight
- On Sundays, the facility is available for rent.
- For more information, visit www.facebook.com/GERMANAXETHROWINGCO/.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

German Axe Throwing Company Co-Owners (left to right) Dalton Woodard, Devon Woodard, Nichole Hancock and Jarrid Hancock at the boards Friday night, Feb. 5, 2021

EDUCATION

Hanceville's Carl Quist named to Holy Cross fall 2020 Dean's List

Nicoleta Jordan
Contributor

WORCESTER, Mass. – Carl Quist of Hanceville was named to the College of the Holy Cross fall 2020 Dean's List. A member of the Class of 2023, Quist is majoring in Classics.

Quist was among more than 1,453 students named to the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the fall semester of the 2020-21 academic year.

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

About Holy Cross

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition.

Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.



CONTRIBUTED

College of the Holy Cross

EDUCATION

Local students named to Dean's, President's Lists at UA

Melissa Parker
Contributor

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. – A total of 13,128 students enrolled during the fall 2020 term at The University of Alabama made the Dean's List with academic records of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale), or the President's List with academic records of 4.0 (all As).

The UA Dean's and President's Lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

Below are the names of the local students who made the lists.

PRESIDENT'S LIST

Arab
- Jonathan Blanks
- Tabetha Marsh
- Kelsey Neal
- Daniel Ryan
- Zachary Stewart

Baileyton
- Alyssa Wooten

Cullman
- Paden Adams
- Lauren Agnello
- Mya Agnello
- Nicholas Braswell
- Sara Caves
- Noah Haynes
- Aladie Howse
- Elizabeth Jones
- Laura Powers
- Leslie Pruitt
- Joshua Raney
- Carmen Tizapa-Zamora
- Tylor Trimble
- Austin Weaver
- Morgan Yglesias
- Kennedy Cooper

Hanceville
- Mallory Harper
- Seth Self

Holly Pond
- Javier Figueroa

Logan
- Candace Barley
- Rachel Haynes

Vinemont
- Daniel Roberts

DEAN'S LIST

Addison
- Reagan Smothers
- Trace Thompson

Arab
- Samuel Chance
- Ian Martin
- Bailey Maze
- Anna Mulford
- Nicholas Rodgers
- Morgan Smith
- Lindsey Stewart

Arley
- Austin Bowling

Bremen
- Camille Marsh
- Avy Whaley

Crane Hill
- Natalie Conlon

Cullman
- Samuel Arzola-Ramirez
- Morgan Bowman
- Brooklin Bradley
- Kirsten Campbell
- Taylor Cox
- Dawson Drake
- Morgan Dyer
- Niklas Fondren
- William Hicks
- Amanda Hill
- Millennia LaGanke
- Laura Lindsey
- Leahrose Mami
- Joseph McCarthy
- Samuel Mcguire
- Jonathan Peyton
- Benjamin Pruitt
- Kylie Ritchie
- Dawson Shugarts
- Lauren Wright
- Valarie Yarbrough

Hanceville
- Garrett Cornelius
- Townley Cornelius
- Morgan Goodwin
- Jacob McAfee

Vinemont
- Emily Dyer
- Aubrey Guess
- Alaina Jones
- Joseph Pasquinilli
- Bailee Ponder



CONTRIBUTED

University of Alabama

About The University of Alabama

The University of Alabama, the state's oldest and largest public institution of higher education, is a student-centered research university that draws the best and brightest to an academic community committed to providing a premier undergraduate and graduate education. UA is dedicated to achieving excellence in scholarship, collaboration and intellectual engagement; providing public outreach and service to the state of Alabama and the nation; and nurturing a campus environment that fosters collegiality, respect and inclusivity.





PREP BASKETBALL

Addison falls at Falkville 69-61

Todd Walker
Tribune Correspondent

FALKVILLE, Ala. – The Addison Lady Bulldogs, the third seed in the area, visited the no. 2 seed Falkville for the opening round of the area tournament Monday night and came out on the short end of a 69-61 loss. Addison's season comes to an end with the loss but there is much to be hopeful for in the future for this program. More on that later.

Addison came into the game as the underdogs due to Falkville beating the Lady Dawgs twice this season. The first period, actually the first half in general, was a run and gun offensive showcase for both teams. Both teams were playing well, and all the ladies were hustling and diving all over the place. At the end of the first frame, Falkville led 21-17. Addison's "Magic" Molly Gilbreath led the Lady Dawgs with six points in the period. Falkville was led by their talented senior center, Mackenzie Veal who had eight points. Addison had no answer for the Veal in the first period. Addison also had trouble with the Lady Devils and their 12 fast break points.

The second period was played at even a faster pace, if that was possible. Addison continued to press and this period, the pressure seemed to rattle the Lady Devils and allowed Addison to outscore Falkville25-18 to take a 42-39 lead into the half.

Addison was led by Gracie "Bug" Manley with 11 points in the half. Anna Grace "The Glove" Luker had probably her best half of the season with seven points, three boards, five steals, three assists and two blocked shots. Falkville was led by Veal's 13 points and six boards in the half. Falkville freshman Ellie Kate Hill had three bombs in the half to give her nine points.

Addison Coach Bailey West had to be proud of how her Lady Dawgs played in the half as they had taken the lead against the favored Lady Devils.

The second half had both teams come out flat and play sloppy. There were unforced errors, forced errors and just plain bad shots by both teams. The first half pace, which was very well played, seemed to take a little out of the ladies' legs for both teams.

At the end of the third period, Falkville had outscored Addison 11-8 to tie the game at 50. The crowd was going wild on both sides and the game appeared to be anyone's to win.

The fourth period began with both teams trading buckets. With five minutes to go in the game, Addison took the lead, 59-57 on a Hadley "Shooter" Butler three. That's when the senior leaders of the experienced Lady Blue Devils took charge and took advantage of the youthful Bulldogs. Falkville went on a 12-2 run to end the game and came away with a 69-61 win.

Falkville will move on to play Cold Springs in the area tournament championship game Thursday night.

Falkville was led by senior Mackenzie Veal with a game high 24 points and a game high nine rebounds. Senior Savannah Fowler had 13 points, four boards and two assists. Senior Sydnee Fitzgerald had 13 points and five boards. Freshman Ellie Kate Hill had 12 points, four boards and six steals.

Addison was led by "Magic" Molly Gilbreath with 14 points and two boards. Hadley "Shooter" Butler had 14 points, two assists and three steals. Bracey "Tiny" Rodgers had 13 points, four boards, five assists and five steals. Gracie "Bug" Manley had 11 points, eight boards, five assists and four steals. Anna Grace "The Glove" Luker had nine points, three boards, three assists and eight steals. Lydia "Barbie" Ergle had four points and a block. Addyson Smothers had three boards and a steal.

After the game, Addison Head Coach Bailey West was proud of the way her team battled during the game and is excited to see what this group of girls can accomplish next season.

"I know I have said it all season, but I am so proud of my girls. They have played so hard for me and each other this year. They left everything they had on the floor tonight.

"I mean it would have nice to continue on playing but Falkville did a little more than us tonight and came away with the win. I told the ladies in the locker room after the game that they have improved so much from the beginning of the year," West said. "This team has everyone coming back next year and we are loaded with potential. I just need to get the girls to realize how good that they can be if they continue to work hard and keep improving. I think they were beginning to see that they can be a good team by the end of the year. I am excited to be the ladies' coach here at Addison and I am happy where we are as a program at this moment.

"We finished 12-13 and yes, the record is not where we want to be, but we will improve on that. I am so lucky to have a very special group of girls to coach here at Addison and they will always be special to me because they are my first team in my coaching career. I think we can compete for our area next year if we continue to improve individually as well as a team."

Coach West has a lot of young players set to return next season, so the future is bright for the program at Addison.

WSCC ATHLETICS

No. 20 Volleyball remains perfect after sweep; No. 14 Softball notches wins over Pearl River, Chipola

Russell Moore
WSCC Athletics

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – Wallace State's 20th-ranked volleyball team remained perfect this season with a pair of wins Sunday against Coastal Alabama-East and Northwest Mississippi Community College.

The Lions are 8-0 overall and 5-0 in Alabama Community College Conference action.

In the 25-9, 25-16, 25-16 win over Coastal Alabama-East, Harlee Kate Reid had 11 kills and five digs for Wallace State, while fellow sophomore Anna Renshaw registered 10 digs and seven kills.

Savannah Rutledge finished with 38 assists, eight digs and three kills for the Lions, Temperance Chatman had 19 digs and Mattrice Harris added 10 kills and three blocks. Tori Walker had five digs and three kills and Haven Hall five kills.

Against Northwest Mississippi (25-11, 25-15, 25-10), Reid had 17 digs and 12 kills, Renshaw had 10 digs and five kills and Rutledge added 37 assists, five digs and four kills.

Chatman racked up a team-high 30 digs, Harris finished with 10 kills, Walker had eight digs and two kills, and Hall notched seven kills.

Reid leads the conference with 83 kills, including 3.61 kills per set. Harris (82) and Renshaw (68) are second and third respectively in the conference in kills.

Harris leads the ACCC with a .579 hitting percentage, Chatman is tops in the conference in digs (129) and Rutledge in assists (254).

Wallace State continues conference play at Gadsden State on Thursday. The Lions return home Feb. 28.

Renshaw discusses Wallace State's fast start to the season at www.facebook.com/wsccathletics/videos/414741676449184

Wallace State softball sweeps weekend doubleheader

Wallace State's 14th-ranked softball team defeated Pearl River (Miss.) CC and preseason No. 2 Chipola College on Sunday, moving to 4-0 on the young season.

Wallace State had 10 players register at least one hit in the 10-1 victory over Pearl River.

Sophomore Brantly Bonds was 3-for-3 with a double, three RBIs and two runs scored, Felicity Frame was 2-for-2 with two runs scored, Madisen Adams had a pair of hits, including a double, and Erin Chambliss contributed two singles and had an RBI.

Freshman Gracie Benton tallied her first collegiate homer, Kelsey McPeters had a single and two RBIs and Morgan White and Andrea Harbin each had a double. Jaiden Farnetti and Abigail Beech added a single apiece.

Sophomore Haylee Folds (2-0) was the winning pitcher for Wallace State. She struck out seven hitters over four innings, allowing only one run on two hits.

In a 5-4 win over Chipola, Wallace State surged to a 5-0 lead in the early innings and withstood a late rally.

Benton slugged her second homer of the day and Morgan White added a three-run blast for the Lions.
Frame and Bonds each had multi-hit games and McPeters had a single and scored a run.

Josie Thompson (2-0) was the winning pitcher.

Wallace State coach A.J. Daugherty, in his fifth season, believes his team can rely on its depth both in the lineup and on the mound in 2021.

Through a small sample size, Wallace State's pitching staff has yielded only six runs in four games this season.

"I expect our pitching staff to be a strength. We have seven pitchers who are all capable of winning games for us.



WSCC ATHLETICS

Wallace State's Tori Walker (5) prepares to record one of her five digs in a match against Coastal Alabama-East.

"Our lineup has the capability to have a lot of firepower. We should have pop in the middle," Daugherty said.

"We learned last year (through the pandemic) to never take a day or inning for granted.

"The season is a marathon, not a sprint, and we must see which ingredients give us the best chance to win. We're constantly working to see where all the pieces fit into the puzzle."

Wallace State welcomes Wabash Valley College to Bobby McCracken Stadium on Wednesday at noon for the home-opening doubleheader. It was originally scheduled for Thursday.

For more information about Wallace State athletics, visit www.athletics.wallacestate.edu or the athletics Facebook page at www.wallacestate.edu/athleticsfb.

No.7 Alabama suffers 1st SEC loss at No.17 Missouri, 68-65

UA Athletics
rolltide.com

COLUMBIA, Mo. – The No. 10/7 Alabama men's basketball team fought until the end but fell just short at No. 18/17 Missouri, falling 68-65 on Saturday afternoon to suffer its first Southeastern Conference defeat of the season.

The Crimson Tide (15-5, 10-1 SEC) trailed the Tigers (13-3, 6-3) by 21 points, 60-39, with just over 10 minutes remaining. However, Alabama was able to mount a huge comeback by outscoring Mizzou 26-6 over the next 9:13 to cut the lead to one, 66-65, with 1:11 left to play.

UA was able to get back-to-back stops on the defensive end but could not convert, forcing the Tide to foul Missouri's Xavier Pinson with 4.2 seconds remaining. Pinson drained both free throws and a last second three-pointer by Jaden Shackelford was just off the mark, resulting in the final score.

Shackelford led four Crimson Tide players in double figures with 15 points, while Keon Ellis (12), Jahvon Quinerly (12) and John Petty Jr. (11) all reached double digits. Petty also led UA with six rebounds, four steals and two blocked shots.

Missouri was led by Dru Smith's game-high 16 points on the night.

Coach Nate Oats Postgame Comments

"Our first SEC loss and obviously our guys are disappointed and I'm disappointed. I thought we gave ourselves a chance there to win it at the end. I didn't think we played like we need to in the first half. We have to find a way to get our guys started better in these Saturday morning games.

"I give our guys a ton of credit. We were down 22 with 13 minutes to go in the game and had multiple opportunities to take the lead late in the game. I couldn't ask for a better effort over the final 13 minutes. If we get that same type of effort for 40 minutes, then we probably win the game.

"We missed some free throws early and finish 12-of-21 from the free throw line, 11-of-24 at-the-rim shots and shoot 33 percent from the field – we just have got to play better. That's the bottom line."

Team Stats

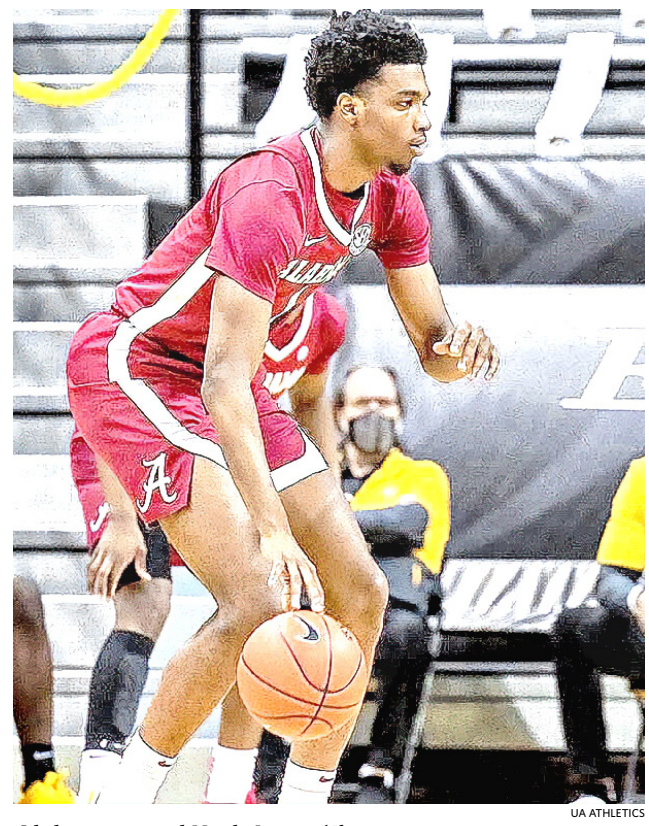
- The loss marks the first for the Tide in conference play, snapping its 10-game winning streak which was the best start to league play in 65 years, dating back to the 1955-56 season
- Alabama shot 33.3 percent from the field and knocked down 9-of-25 (36.0 percent) from three-point range while Missouri shot 45.2 percent from the field and but was held to just 3-of-20 (15.0 percent) from beyond the arc
- Mizzou won the battle of the boards with 45 rebounds to Alabama's 43 and outscored UA in the paint 46-22
- The Alabama reserves outplayed the Mizzou reserves, scoring 29 points to the Tigers nine
- Jaden Shackelford led the Tide with 15 points on 4-of-12 shooting, knocking down six-of-seven free throws and grabbing four rebounds in 32 minutes of action

First Half

- After being tied at 7-7, Missouri used a 16-6 run over a span of 5:04 to go up 23-13 midway through the first half
- Mizzou extended their lead to pull ahead of the Tide 32-18 with 8:19 remaining in the opening stanza
- The Tide used a 7-2 run to trim Mizzou's lead to 37-26 with 2:37 remaining in the first half
- Mizzou closed out the final 2:37 with a quick 7-2 scoring spurt to take the 44-28 lead into the locker room
- Alabama shot just 31.3 percent from the field in the first half and turned the ball over eight times while Mizzou shot 54.3 percent with six turnovers

Second Half

- Mizzou started the second half with an 8-3 run to extend their lead to 52-31 with 16:30 left in the second half
- The Tide responded with five straight points before the Tigers answered right back with a 6-0 spurt to take its largest lead of 22 points, 58-36, at the 12:43 mark
- Trailing 62-42 at the 9:44 mark, Alabama used a 9-0 run to cut Missouri's lead to 11 points at 64-53 with 3:46 left in the second half
- After a pair of Missouri free throws, the Tide used a quick 12-0 run to cut the lead to a single point, 66-65, with 1:14 left to play, setting up the dramatic finish



UA ATHLETICS

Alabama guard Herb Jones (1)

Up Next

- Alabama will conclude its two-game road swing when it travels to Columbia, S.C., to take on the South Carolina Gamecocks on Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 5:30 p.m. CT on SEC Network.

For all the latest information on the team, follow AlabamaMBB on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. General athletic news can be found @UA_Athletics on Twitter and Instagram and Alabama Athletics on Facebook.

PREP BASKETBALL

Good Hope races past Hanceville 76-38 to advance to area championship, Adams wins 100th game

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. – Area tournament action resumed across the state Tuesday night and a pair of local squads clashed in this year's Class 4A, Area 11 bracket. The Hanceville Bulldogs made the quick trip over to Good Hope High School for the opening round of area tournament play and after jumping out to a big lead in the first half, the Raiders pulled away to defeat Hanceville 76-38 and secure a spot in Friday night's area tournament finals. The win not only secures a spot in the area championship game and the sub-regional round for the Raiders, but it was also Head Coach Drew Adams' 100th win in his tenure at Good Hope.

Good Hope got the game started with a Lawton Farr steal that quickly became a Tanner Malin layup and after a free throw from Noah Barnette, another Malin basket gave the Raiders an early, 5-2 lead. Zach Campbell laid one in for the Bulldogs to cut into the lead but a three-pointer by Farr on the other end kept built the lead back to 11-4 with three minutes to play in the first.

Malin scored a transition basket and K'mal Bell laid one in as well to stretch the lead to 13-4 later in the period. Malin collected another steal and Barnette laid it in to make it 16-4 and Malin buried a three with just over a minute remaining in the first to make it a 19-4 game. Campbell managed to get to the basket and score again in the final minute of the quarter, but the Bulldogs went into the second trailing Good Hope 19-6.

Bell and Carson Garrett traded baskets to make it 21-8 at the start of the second quarter and another score by Bell put the Raiders in front 23-8. Campbell banked in a three on the other end for Hanceville to trim the lead to 12 but Colton Lindsey responded later in the period with a three of his own to extend the lead to 28-11. Charlie O'Neil knocked down a three-pointer to make it a 20-point game midway through the second and after Garrett and Eli Pugh traded scores, it was 33-13 with three minutes remaining in the half. Malin laid one it to give Good Hope a 35-13 advantage and Farr drilled a three-pointer to make it 38-15 later in the period. Barnette got an acrobatic layup to drop through the net in the final minute of the quarter and the Raiders went into the locker room leading Hanceville 40-15.

Campbell and Lindsey traded baskets to start the second half and after Farr and Izayah Glenon each scored on the ensuing possessions it was a 44-19 game. Farr scored another basket inside to put Good Hope in front 46-19 early in the third and Barnette buried a three to stretch the lead to 51-19 midway through the period and Farr converted an and-one play at the line to stretch the lead to 35. Back to back Campbell buckets on the other end cut the lead to 54-23 but Lindsey responded with a pair of scores for the Raiders to give them a 58-23 lead with two minutes to play in the quarter. Barnette laid one in late in the period to make it 60-23 and we went to the final frame with Good Hope on top 60-25.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Good Hope's Tanner Malin (11) takes a steal the other way during the Raiders' 76-38 win over Hanceville Tuesday night.

Tristan Herrera knocked down a jumper to start the fourth quarter and Izayah Glenon scored a pair of baskets early in the period, but the Raiders continued to come up with answers on the other end. Bell drilled another corner three to make it a 65-29 game and Good Hope's younger group finished things off. Tyler Cone and Konner Stevens each scored to extend the lead to 73-36 late in the game and Tucker Malin drained a corner three just before the buzzer to give the Raiders an impressive, 76-38 win on their home floor.

Good Hope used a very balanced scoring attack in its win over Hanceville. Farr led the Raiders with 13 points, followed by Malin with 12, Lindsey with 11, Barnette with 10, Bell with nine, O'Neil with seven and Pugh with six. Campbell led the way for the Bulldogs with 18 points in the loss. Glenon added 10 and Garrett posted six.

Good Hope will be back home Friday night to play for the area tournament championship against either Oneonta or Curry.

Thankful (from Front)

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – It has been almost a full year since former three-term (1987-2005) Cullman County District Attorney Len Brooks and his wife, June Brooks, the former chair of the Wallace State Community College Paralegal and Political Science Departments, walked off the Grand Princess cruise ship in Oakland, California into a new reality. Now, both have had their first doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

The pandemic was just gaining a foothold around the world, and June Brooks said she remembers hearing of one case in the Washington state, when the couple departed Feb. 21, 2020 on a cruise to Hawaii.

"Len, in 2019, he had been diagnosed with melanoma, and he had had to have some surgeries," said June Brooks. "I'm thinking, 'He needs to just get away,' so I picked up that cruise to Hawaii thinking, 'That's great.' It's not to China. The virus is in China. I think by the time we were going to go there was one guy out in the state of Washington that had had it. We had heard of that, and I thought, 'That's not too bad...we should be fine. It shouldn't be a problem,' and boy, surprise!"

She continued, "When we got on the ship, the risk was very low. We only knew of that one person at that point."

She said everything was great at first. Len Brooks took ukulele lessons, and she was taking hula lessons. The couple saw the whales in Hawaii and took a helicopter tour over a volcano.

It wasn't until they were on the ship on the way home when they first knew something was wrong. They received a letter from the ship's chief medical officer March 4, 2020.

"It was on the way back that we found out somebody on the ship had COVID," said June Brooks, who said they were told a person who got off the ship back on Feb. 21 in San Francisco had gotten sick and had been hospitalized with COVID. "As far as we know, the ship found out the day we got the letter."

She said the letter asked people to report to the ship's doctor if they had symptoms or felt sick.

"They lowered, from a helicopter, down a rope, they lowered these guys from the CDC. It was pretty wild!" she remembered.

At the time, NBC News reported, "The California Air National Guard delivered 46 tests to the Grand Princess, which has been offshore since Wednesday. Of the 46 passengers tested, (Vice President Mike) Pence said 21 people, 19 employees and two passengers, had tested positive. Twenty-four tested negative, and one was inconclusive, Pence said."

June Brooks said they weren't able to leave their room on the ship, but they had a balcony, which they would go out on for fresh air. They couldn't open their room door with being masked. The couple watched a lot of television.

"We were doing a holding pattern off the coast of California, because San Francisco wouldn't let us dock, so we were out there going around in circles.

"We had a balcony. I'm out the balcony and it hit me, 'You know what? Even if we get home- at that point we didn't know if we would or not- even if we get home we're still going to be in quarantine until they get a vaccine, and that could be years!"

It was during that quarantine time onboard the ship, she said, when the couple watched a program on public television about Messenger RNA (mRNA) technology in vaccines.

"I told Len, I said, 'Wow. They need to do that this with COVID, which is exactly what has come to pass!" she exclaimed. "We have these mRNA vaccines for the first time. I didn't think that it would be possible that it would be this fast, that within a year we would have a vaccine, so we're pretty excited about it."

The ship circled off the coast of California for several days before it was allowed to dock in Oakland March 9, 2020.

"It was kind of spooky," said June Brooks. "They put us on a bus, and we had blue lights, escorts...law enforcement. They took us right out on the tarmac, and we got right on a plane, and they wouldn't tell us where we were going. We were on the plane with our masks, and once we got in the air, they told us we were going to San Antonio."

When the passengers arrived in San Antonio, they were taken to Lackland Air Force Base.

"We had a one-bedroom apartment, and all the people in our group- there were about 100 people in our group- they were all assigned these one-bedroom apartments on a military base," she said.

"We could walk around, but we couldn't get near anybody. We had to stay socially-distanced, but we could walk around in the parking lot. They had put chain-link fence all around this complex, and there were armed guards outside the fence. We'd never been in a situation like that, you know?"

The Brookses were at Lackland for two weeks before coming home to Cullman, where, upon arrival they said, the change in protocols was frightening.

"It was frightening to us; it was scary," said June Brooks.

"We had been where everybody was masked and everybody social distanced. So when we came here and saw there were people walking around without masks on it was scary. We stayed home most of the time."

Said Len Brooks, "It was scary. After having been through what we went through- that real strict regimen they put us under- we figured that's what everyone was going to be acting like when we got back. Frightening is a good work. And shocking."

"We felt like we had to stay home to stay safe," said June Brooks. "We haven't been inside a store or eaten in a restaurant. We've both learned to shop online. We cook a lot here."

Laughing, she said they've given each other haircuts. On a more serious note, she shared the family did not do Thanksgiving or Christmas. They're planning to celebrate both, along with Easter, this spring.

The couple said they've known members of the community who have been sick or died from COVID-19, but their family has stayed relatively safe.

"We have been blessed, fortunately, that our family has been relatively safe," said June Brooks. "One of my nephews and his family had it, and they recovered, but the rest of the family has been safe.

"The gamble is you don't know. We might get it and be fine, but we might get it and be one of those on a ventilator and die. It's scary, and I'm just not that big a gambler; I've never been that lucky. We've just taken all the precautions. It's very, very disturbing to see any kind of an illness as widespread as this, and the devastation it's caused. It's so sad, in our community, some of the people who have passed and some way too early. It's just heart wrenching."

The couple is now feeling a sense of relief after getting the first doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine on March 29 at the Cullman County Health Department. They get their second doses Feb. 26.

"We're very thankful to be where we are now, as far as the process" Len Brooks said. "Even though we were on the ship when it broke out and in quarantine, and throughout the whole year, you've got to be thankful because in that time they have developed a vaccine, and they've made it available, and we now have a scientifically-based national plan. We've been fortunate enough to get the vaccine and to be in a position that we do, hopefully along with everyone else, follow the guidelines, and do everything we're supposed to do to eliminate the pandemic."

June Brooks said passengers from the Grand Princess stay in touch in a Facebook group. She said of the 3,533 passengers, 131 tested positive. Five of those died.

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- public transit workers
- judiciary
- clergy/ministers
- state legislators
- supreme court and appellate judges
- constitutional officers
- cabinet agency heads

View the allocation plan at www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine/assets/adph-covid19-vaccination-allocation-plan.pdf.

WHERE in Cullman County can an eligible person receive a vaccine? (Please note there is a limited supply of vaccine statewide.)

1. Cullman Regional
Sign up on the waiting list for the hospital's Community COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic by visiting https://cullmanregional.com/coronavirus-2/community-covid-19-vaccination-clinics/.

According to Cullman Regional Vice President, Marketing & Public Relations Lindsey Dossey, the hospital schedules vaccine appoints based on a weekly allocation of "approximately 1,950 that we hope we get."

She said the waiting list has a total of about 10,000 names. Minus the 1,000 who signed up who are from "significantly outside our area," approximately 3,500 are older than 75 and have already been contacted.

Approximately 4,000 are older than 65, and the hospital is in the process of contacting them.

"We've called at least 1,500 of those to schedule or they have already received their vaccine.

"We have approximately 3,500 left on the list; approximately 200 of those have either been scheduled as essential employees or are scheduled, leaving approximately 3,200 (some of which will be essential employees that we are working to get scheduled ASAP)," Dossey said.

Cullman Regional has administered approximately 8,000 total doses of the vaccine. "Some are first doses, but some are first and second doses."

Said Dossey, "We're administering based on the ADPH Allocation guidelines. We are moving through our list based on date of birth as that is how the allocation list has been segmented by the State Department of Health, not by who signed up first. We are currently administering to Phase 1b, as well as community members over the age of 65.

"We've worked with local school systems and community college- public and private- as well as several childcare facilities that have reached out regarding vaccinations.

"We are working with all entities deemed 'essential' to get their team members scheduled as quickly as possible.

"The best and fastest way for employers in the essential category to get their teams scheduled is to assign one point person for their business.

"That person should contact Cullman Regional Occupational Health Manager Amanda Satterfield via email at amanda.satterfield@cullmanregional.com or get additional information by phone by calling 256-735-5033.

If you are 75 and older, you can walk in for a vaccine at the hospital.

"Anyone over the age of 75 that has not yet received their vaccine is invited to walk in for a vaccine. We've called everyone on our list; however, some of them we were unable to get in contact with for various reasons – phone numbers incorrect, no ability to leave a message, etc. They are welcome to come to our vaccine clinic without an appointment," Dossey said.

Cullman Regional's Community COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic is located in the Colonel Cullmann Room in Professional Office Building II, and is held Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

"Again, we want to assure the community members we serve that we are working as quickly as possible to get everyone in for a vaccine that wants one as quickly as possible," said Dossey.

"We understand the process seems long and daunting, but we want to get people vaccinated as quickly as they want to be vaccinated, but also as safely as possible.

"We understand the stress of waiting for a call can seem overwhelming; therefore, we appreciate everyone's patience with this process."

2. Cullman County Health Department
The Cullman County Health Department offers appointment-only vaccinations but is booked through the month of February with appointments for people receiving second doses.

The health department will begin taking appointments for first doses again March 1.

It is located at 601 Logan Ave. SW in Cullman.

Other providers enrolled with the ADPH to administer vaccine* are:

3. Cullman Family Practice, 408 Clark St. NE, Cullman

4. Southview Medical Clinic, 222 Arkadelphia Road NE, Hanceville

5. ABC Family Medicine, 24 County Road 262, Hanceville

*These providers are enrolled, but that does not mean they have received vaccine allocations from the ADPH, as vaccine supply remains limited statewide.

Appointments with enrolled providers and the Cullman County Health Department can be made in the COVID-19 Vaccination Eligibility Check and Scheduling Portal at www.alcovidvaccine.gov/. As of Tuesday evening, Feb. 9, no appointments were available.

Please note!
If you have had COVID-19 in the past 90 days, you are only eligible to receive the vaccine if:

- You were NOT hospitalized for COVID treatment.
- You did NOT receive convalescent plasma treatment for COVID.
- You did NOT receive a monoclonal antibody infusion treatment for COVID.

Anyone who had COVID in the past 90 days and had any of the above treatment must wait 90 days before receiving the vaccine.

See more details at https://bit.ly/3iVJwXK.

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LEGALS

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Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JAMES HESTER LANCASTER, Deceased. * CASE NO PC-2021-022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Administration having been granted to Kelly Cornett, as Personal Representative of the Estate of James Hester Lancaster, Deceased, on the 1st day of February, 2021, by Tammy Brown, Probate Judge. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claim against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Kelly Cornett
Personal Representative

G. Edward Coey
Attorney for Personal Representative
PO Box 834
Hanceville, Alabama 35077

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

PB MIN BK 194 PG 222 - 02/09/2021 12:25 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JAMIE LYNN DEGRAAF, Deceased. * CASE NO PC-2021-052

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Administration having been granted to Phyllis B. Hain, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Jamie Lynn deGraaf, Deceased, on the 9th day of February, 2021, by Tammy Brown, Probate Judge. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claim against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Phyllis B. Hain
Personal Representative

Beverly Paschal Poston
Attorney for the Estate
200 1st Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

PB MIN BK 194 PG 232 - 02/09/2021 12:37 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF GREGORY SCOTT PRIVETT, Deceased. * CASE NO PC-2021-011

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Administration having been granted to Beverly Paschal Poston, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Gregory Scott Privett, Deceased, on the 9th day of February, 2021, by Tammy Brown, Probate Judge. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claim against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Beverly Paschal Poston
Personal Representative

Beverly Paschal Poston
Attorney for the Estate
200 1st Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

PB WIL BK 99 PG 963 - 02/02/2021 11:41 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF HILDA JEANETTE TODD, Deceased.) CASE NO PC2020-367

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: HELEN JOHNSON, MARGIE CORDES, TINA SPEEGLE AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN OR INTEREST PARTIES

The Petition of Rose Edmonson Langston to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Hilda Jeanette Todd, deceased, has been set for hearing on the 4th day of March, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

All persons in interest residing or being without the state are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Done this the 2nd day of February, 2021.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper

Shelbie G. Hankey
Attorney for Petitioner
412 1st Ave. SE, Suite 100
Cullman, AL 35055
256-736-8744

PB WIL Bk 100 PG 162 - 02/09/2021 10:45 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of ARCHIE L. PERSALL, Deceased. * CASE NO. PC 2020 - 350

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE: Letters Testamentary having been granted to Darla LaShay Persall as Executrix of the Estate of ARCHIE L. PERSALL, deceased, on the 9th day of February, 2021, all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Darla LaShay Persall
Executrix

Gaynor St. John
Darla LaShay Persall

Attorneys for Executrix

ST. JOHN & ST. JOHN, LLC
108 3rd Street SE
Cullman, AL 35055
Telephone: (256) 734-3542

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Probate Judge

PB WIL BK 99 PG 955 - 02/02/2021 08:59 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF THELMA J. ARNOLD, Deceased. * **CASE NO.: PC202-337**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Testamentary having been granted to DOUGLAS ARNOLD as Personal Representative of the Estate of THELMA J. ARNOLD deceased, on the 1st day of February, 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.

Douglas Arnold
Personal Representative

Pamela E. Nail
Attorney for Personal Representative
200 Second Avenue, Southwest
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-3342

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

DOCUMENT 6

ELECTRONICALLY FILED 1/19/2021 2:52 PM 25-CV-2021-900022.00 CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA LISA MCSWAIN, CLERK

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NO.: CV 2021 - 900022

ROGELIO SOTELO,

Plaintiff,

v.

Lot(s) 2, Block A, according to the survey of Smith's Lake Catalina Cove subdivision as recorded in Map Book 6, pages 107-112 in the Office of the Probate Judge of Cullman County, Ala.
Parcel ID: 21-08-34-2-000-012.008; PIN: 4932; Account Number: 209264,

AND

Those Fictitious Parties A-Z, whose identities are currently unknown and who will be added to this Complaint by amendment when ascertained, including any persons claiming any present interest therein and including any persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in the above-described property,

AND

BILL CUNNINGHAM,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

TO: Bill Cunningham, and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in said lands, whose names and whereabouts are unknown.

You are hereby notified that on the 19th day of January, 2021, a Complaint to quiet title in rem to the above-described real property was filed in the Circuit Court of Cullman County, Alabama, by Rogelio Sotelo against Bill Cunningham, and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in said lands, whose names and whereabouts are unknown, whose names and whereabouts cannot be ascertained after exercise of due diligence and who are believed may claim some right, title, interest, or claim in and to the above-described real property. All persons having an interest in said lands or any portion thereof, claiming any title thereto or encumbrance or lien thereon, are hereby directed to plead, answer, demur, or otherwise respond to the complaint on or before the 1st day of April, 2021, else at the expiration of thirty (30) days thereafter suffer a judgment by default to be rendered against them, it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Hon. Lisa McSwain
Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cullman County, Alabama

Plaintiff's Attorney:
Shay Persall
ST. JOHN & ST. JOHN, LLC
108 3rd Street SE
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-3542

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of publication to the Circuit Clerk.

Hon. Lisa McSwain
Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cullman County, Alabama

DOCUMENT 6

ELECTRONICALLY FILED 1/19/2021 3:20 PM 25-CV-2021-900023.00 CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA LISA MCSWAIN, CLERK

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

CASE NO.: CV 2021 - 900023

ROGELIO SOTELO,

Plaintiff,

v.

Lot 1, Block E, according to the survey of Smith's Lake Catalina Cove subdivision as recorded in Map Book 6, pages 107-112 in the Office of the Probate Judge of Cullman County, Ala.
Parcel ID: 21-08-34-2-000-024.000; PIN: 13021; Account Number: 217556,

AND

Those Fictitious Parties A-Z, whose identities are currently unknown and who will be added to this Complaint by amendment when ascertained, including any persons claiming any present interest therein and including any persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in the above-described property,

AND

LOIS JINWRIGHT,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

TO: Lois Jinwright aka Lois Jinright. and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in said lands, whose names and whereabouts are unknown.

You are hereby notified that on the 19th day of January, 2021, a Complaint to quiet title in rem to the above-described real property was filed in the Circuit Court of Cullman County, Alabama, by Rogelio Sotelo against Lois Jinwright, and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion, or other interest in said lands, whose names and whereabouts are unknown, whose names and whereabouts cannot be ascertained after exercise of due diligence and who are believed may claim some right, title, interest, or claim in and to the above-described real property. All persons having an interest in said lands or any portion thereof, claiming any title thereto or encumbrance or lien thereon, are hereby directed to plead, answer, demur, or otherwise respond to the complaint on or before the 1st day of April, 2021, else at the expiration of thirty (30) days thereafter suffer a judgment by default to be rendered against them, it being intended that this notice shall be used to perfect service against all parties who cannot be personally served with a copy of the Complaint.

Hon. Lisa McSwain
Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cullman County, Alabama

Plaintiff's Attorney:
Shay Persall
ST. JOHN & ST. JOHN, LLC
108 3rd Street SE
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-3542

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of publication to the Circuit Clerk.

Hon. Lisa McSwain
Clerk of the Circuit Court
of Cullman County, Alabama

Baker (from Front)

us, and I am looking forward to the new adventure."

Baker said he is not able to announce at this time what opportunities await him in Florida, smiling, "It's hard for me to keep secrets!"

He began his tenure at the Commission on Aging a little more than six years ago.

When asked what he is most proud of, he said, "We accomplished so much in these six years, and it's not one person or me. It took a total team effort. We rebranded the Commission on Aging. That's one of the first things that we did because every time I would speak to somebody or a group, not everybody had heard of the Commission on Aging or they didn't know what we did, so we launched a new rebranding campaign. We got a nice logo so people could associate with the Commission on Aging."

He is also proud of the new centers and renovations that have taken place over the past six years.

"Fairview has a new senior center. Holly Pond is getting a new one. Hanceville is getting a new one. We've got the one out at Crane Hill that's basically the sheriff's office and we've also renovated some of our existing centers. We've taken advantage of a lot of grant money that we've been fortunate enough to get and pump it into the Commission on Aging to sustain us," said Baker. "I always said I wanted to leave it better than I found it. That's my philosophy, and I feel we have done that."

In his time working with Cullman County seniors, there were many memorable moments for Baker.

What will he remember the most?

He said with a laugh, "I will always remember the seniors and how they don't have a filter. I appreciate that because sometimes it's not what you want to hear, but you know it's honest and comes from a good place. It's funny, the way they cut up, dance and laugh. I especially remember the ones that aren't with us anymore."

COVID-19 has severely limited the Commission on Aging's services for almost a full year. The senior centers remain closed, and that is something Baker hopes will change soon.

He explained, "I don't know which is worse for them, COVID or the isolation. Routine is very important to seniors and that routine and social aspect of everything keeps them active and going and looking forward to something."

In a normal year, the Commission on Aging would look forward to the many large senior events scheduled throughout the year. Under Baker's leadership, new events were added, and yearly traditions were enhanced.

"We built upon things that were already here, but we also came up with some readjustments," he said. "We had the Senior Shindig, and the City (of Cullman) was also competing during the same timeframe with the Strawberry Festival. We said, 'Hey, let's get together and do one big event and call it the Senior Shindig at the Strawberry Festival.'"

The Senior Christmas Party, Senior Fishing Days in Hanceville and Senior Days at Cullman Oktoberfest and the Cullman County Fair are other events that are normally held each year for not only Cullman County seniors, but also other senior groups from around Alabama.

"Anything we could do to celebrate and get seniors out laughing and enjoying themselves and having fun, we would do it," said Baker. "It's something I dearly missed this past year."

Baker was clear that the obstacles and frustrations of the past year had no influence on his decision to leave, saying, "It didn't influence my decision because this has been the greatest job I have ever had, and I love the job. I absolutely love the people I serve and the people I serve with. This opportunity is more about reconnecting with some family I have been away from, and my wife is reconnecting with her family. We are embracing the change a little bit. It's tough what we are going through, and we are constantly trying to coordinate stuff because nothing is routine during this time."

The Cullman County Commission has not selected a new director for the Commission on Aging, but Baker said he feels confident it will select a person with a "big heart for seniors." He said, "I have total faith in them, and they have been nothing but great to us. They have supported our vision and what we have wanted to do. I am sure they will continue to do that."

Baker said one of the hardest parts of saying goodbye is not being able to say good-bye to the seniors he loves.

"We'll be back and forth, and I will definitely come back and visit. When things do open back up, I am going to make a special point to come back and hug some necks," he smiled. "I miss Friday mornings; they had a big gospel singing next door and I miss hearing that on Fridays. I looked forward to that and sometimes I would go next door and sing with them. They would absolutely raise the roof. It was such a blessing to hear and see and be a part of. A lot of little things like that will stick with me forever. This job is so rewarding, and I have always said, 'You find true joy when you are able to serve others.' That's exactly what this job brought to me-true joy. I love our seniors and I have a heart for seniors. I will always cherish the moments I have had the past six years here. It developed me as a person."

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Obituary Announcements: Feb. 10

William David Duke, 64, of Cullman (updated)
William David Duke of Cullman, Alabama passed away Feb. 4, 2021 at the age of 64. He was born April 21, 1956 in Cullman to Argus and Hollie Wilbanks Duke. He is preceded in death by his father. Graveside services are Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021 at 11 a.m. at Mt. Zion Cemetery on Hwy. 31 North in Cullman. He is survived by his wife Sandi Duke; mother Hollie Duke; daughters Delia (Levi) Collins and Amanda Duke; sons Colby (Kim) Duke and Josh (Rebekah) Culwell; brothers Jimmy (Diane) Duke and Pete Duke; and grandchildren Thomas, LahKierra, Macine, Sophia, Olive, Simon, and Micah. The family will receive friends at the cemetery Wednesday. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to The Disabled Veterans Program. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Linda Stone, 65, of Bremen
A graveside service for Linda Stone of Bremen will be at noon Friday, Feb. 12, 2021 at Valley View Cemetery in Arkadelphia, AL. Reverend Ricky Adams will be officiating. Mrs. Stone is the daughter of Milford and Ila Mae (Tucker) Rouse and was born April 14, 1955. She died Feb. 8, 2021 at the age of 65 in Birmingham, Alabama. Linda is survived by her sons Lawrence R. (Karla) Stone, Jr., Ronald A. (April) Stone, and Jonathan E. (Jenny) Stone; grandchildren Kayla D. Stone, Lawrence R. (Kayla) Stone, III, Taylen Stone, Miranda E. (Kody) Lee, Heather E. Stevens, Leathel Drake (Taylor) Stone, Emma (Jake) Robertson, Olivia Farris, and John Cade Stone; great-grandchildren Kollins, Karolina, Lawrence R. IV, and several others; her mother Ila Mae Rouse; two sisters; and two brothers. In addition to her father, Mrs. Stone is also preceded in death by her husband Lawrence R. Stone, Sr.

David Earl White, 71, of Cullman
David Earl White, 71, of Cullman died Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2021. He is survived by his wife Claudette G. White; sons Daniel White (Rick) and Dustin White; stepsons Christopher Gentry (Belinda) and Kevin Gentry (Kelley); brothers James LeRoy White (Joyce) and Franklin Horn White; nephews James Roy White, Bobby Wagner, and Jason Wagner; and a niece, Holly White. The family will receive friends Friday, Feb. 12, 2021 from noon until the celebration of David's life that will be begin at 1 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel. Please visit www.mossservicefh.com to leave condolences for the family. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Kathy Ann Welch, 58, of Hanceville
Graveside services for Kathy Ann Welch, 58, of Hanceville will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12 at Shelton Grove Cemetery in Hanceville. Reverend Ray Ponder will be officiating. Mrs. Welch is survived by her children Ashley Welch and Amanda Welch; granddaughter Ryleigh Welch; sister Linda Candill; brothers Mike and Bob Maupin; and a host of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Cecil Welch; granddaughter Kameren Cunningham; and parents Ralph and Reathel (Allums) Maupin.

Charles Harbison, 72, of Logan
Charles Harbison of Logan, AL, passed away peacefully at his home Feb. 6, 2021 at the age of 72. Charles was preceded in death by his daddy Chalmer Harbison. Charles is survived by his wife of 41 years, Patricia Ann Tucker Harbison; his daughter Hollie Nicole (Brandon) Elliott; his son Patrick Charles (Candace) Harbison; granddaughters Emma and Lena Elliott and Scarlett, Savannah, Georgia Belle, and Magnolia Harbison; his mother Vera Mae Guthrie Harbison; his sister Charlene (Dennis) Jordon; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews. Charles was a loving son, husband, daddy of two, and Pee Paw of six beautiful granddaughters. Charles was a Vietnam veteran with the U.S. Army where he received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He was a retired truck driver from ABF Freight in Birmingham, AL. Charles loved to watch Alabama Crimson Tide football and basketball along with Atlanta Braves baseball. Charles never got the grandson that he so much wanted, but he was proud of his granddaughters and loved them that much more. He bragged and told everyone about his "buddies." A graveside service is scheduled for 11 a.m. Feb. 11, 2021 at Shady Grove Methodist Church Cemetery in Logan, AL for family and friends. A viewing at Moss Service Funeral Home for the family preceding the graveside service will be from 9:30-10:30 am. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Shady Grove Methodist Church and Cemetery. Donations may be sent to 425 County Road 846, Logan, AL 35098.

Harry Elzy Bivins, 70, of Cullman
Funeral services for Harry Elzy Bivins, 70, of Cullman will be at noon Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021 at Mt. Olive Church with Bobby Bentley officiating; interment in Mt. Olive Cemetery. Visitation will be from 10 a.m.-noon prior to the service. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Bivins passed away Monday, Feb. 8, 2021 at Cullman Regional. He was born July 9, 1950 to James and Clovis Bivins. He was preceded in death by his parents and three sisters. Survivors include his wife Mavolene Bivins; daughters Tracy (Jason) Pylant, Elizabeth (Derrick) Pylant, and Hannah (Nic) Nunnelley; grandchildren Andrew (Ondreya) Pylant, Alyssa Grace Pylant, Autumn Pylant, Alivia Pylant, Brandy Pylant, Aynsley Pylant, Braylon Pylant, Caibry Pylant, Boston Nunnelley, and Beckitt Nunnelley; one sister; and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

Wynelle Duke, 91, of Holly Pond
Wynelle Duke, 91, of Holly Pond, passed away Feb. 8, 2021. She was born March 21, 1929 in Blount County to Thomas William and Ada Little Duke. Miss Duke was an elementary school teacher. Her teaching career spanned 44 and a half years, with much of that time spent teaching the youngsters of Holly Pond. Miss Duke was dedicated to her students and she made certain that the basic skills a young student would require were learned before leaving her classroom. Miss Wynelle also made sure that life skills were learned in her classroom as well. Miss Duke was active in the community and returned to the school often after she retired. She supported the teachers and students there for many years and attended school functions as long as she was able. Miss Wynelle had an amazing ability to recognize a former student regardless of the years that had passed since they had been in her classroom. She was always interested in the places life had taken you and the achievements you had made. Miss Duke was a longtime resident of the community as well as a longtime member of Holly Pond First Baptist Church. In her retirement, Miss Wynelle enjoyed tending to her flowers and shrubs with the same care and dedication she gave to her students. Miss Duke is preceded in death by her parents; her brother Billy Duke; and her sister Betty Duke. She is survived by a brother Charles Duke; sister Lucille Edwards; a host of nieces and nephews; and many grateful students. Funeral services for Miss Duke are at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021 in the chapel of Holly Pond Funeral Home, with several of her former students officiating. Burial will follow in Holly Pond Cemetery. Friends are invited to visit with the family for an hour prior to services, beginning at 10 a.m. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Duke family.

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Colony (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

COLONY, Ala. – The Colony Town Council's Tuesday meeting became an informal referendum on the community's volunteer fire service, with officials and audience members sharing concerns about an apparent lack of response to emergency calls by the department.

When Councilwoman Ethel Alexander pointed out that Colony 911 calls go to Blount County dispatch (Town Clerk Patricia Ponder specified in later discussion that land line calls go to Cullman dispatch while cell phone calls go to Blount) and recommended that Colony get a well-equipped first aid kit to keep at town hall and call on medical professionals in the area to volunteer their services to be on call for emergencies, Councilwoman Jasmine Cole countered that the Colony Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD) is supposed to have the first aid items Alexander was recommending. Alexander stated that the department is difficult to contact and seems to be dealing with internal issues that prevent it from functioning as it should. Police and Fire Committee Chairman Sam Ashford told the council that he had spoken with a CVFD representative and had planned on having someone from the department at Tuesday's meeting, but none was present.

Volunteer fire departments across the country have, in recent years, seen a decline in new recruits as regulations have increased the amount of training and certifications required, and many younger people have shown less willingness to volunteer free service in dangerous fields like firefighting.

Mayor Curtis Johnson told the council and audience that he was once the CVFD chief and talked about the amount of training the firefighters go through, before recommending that those present encourage the department to recruit younger people to serve. Alexander told the council that it needs to find out just what the CVFD is capable of doing at present.

Audience members, who have been quite vocal during recent council controversies, addressed the emergency response problem as well.

One member, responding to council discussion about things the CVFD could do, said bluntly, "Don't be ashamed to admit that we don't have a practical fire department."

Audience members called on the mayor and council to rebuild their relationships with fire departments in surrounding communities like Arkadelphia and Dodge City, both of whose departments have recently responded to calls in Colony, and to find out from the CVFD what resources that department actually has.

Ponder told the council and audience that the community needs to reach out to its department, attend department meetings and offer encouragement to both potential recruits and current members.

Ponder also offered a piece of practical advice to anyone calling 911 on a cell phone: Specify that you are calling from Cullman County. An emergency call to Blount County dispatch will be routed to Cullman immediately if the dispatcher knows that the call came from this county.

Other council business

The council tabled three agenda items:

- A proposed resolution from Councilman Eric Carwell that would change council meetings from twice to once per month with the other meeting time reserved for council committee meetings. Johnson argued that the resolution should not be on the agenda since it was presented by an individual council member and not a committee.
- A proposed resolution, also by Carwell, that the council take action to control spending, as the Town has very limited financial resources. Johnson raised the same objection.
- A petition placed on the agenda by Johnson to review the Town's expired contract with Verizon. The council decided in discussion to look into other possible plans including a phone/internet bundle, since Ponder reported that town hall's current internet is unreliable. Cole said that she would contact AT&T, which already provides phone and internet service to the community.

In discussion, Cole pointed out the $12,000 grant received by the Colony Public Library this week from the Cullman County Community Development Commission and said that she would talk to the library board about its plans for the grant. The application submitted to the CCCDC stated that the money would be used for "IT equipment and furniture."

The Colony Town Council meets for work sessions at 5 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at Colony Town Hall, with regular meeting following immediately. The public is invited to attend.



Bill Smith
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