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HEALTH

'I think we are going in the right direction'

USA Healthcare CEO Frank Brown addresses COVID-19 and area long-term care facilities

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey on Thursday extended the state's Safer at Home Order until April 9, with a few changes for hospitals and nursing homes. The updated order information sheet states, "Subject to reasonable restrictions, patients and residents will be allowed visits from as many as two caregivers (up from one) or as many as two visitors (up from one) at a time." The Tribune sat down with the CEO of USA Healthcare, LLC, Frank Brown, to find out how the new order will affect the nursing home and assisted living facilities the company operates.

USA Healthcare operates several facilities in Cullman, including Cullman Health & Rehab Center, The Folsom Center, Woodland Village, Woodland Haus Assisted Living and The Sanctuary at the Woodlands. In addition to Ivey's modified Safer at Home Order, USA Healthcare is required to adhere to all federal guidelines set by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Those guidelines regarding indoor visitation state:

- Have no new onset of COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days and not be currently conducting outbreak testing.
- Limit the number of visitors per resident, limit the number of visitors in the building at one time and limit visitors' movement inside the building.
- Visitors must wear a mask that covers their mouth and nose and practice social distancing while visiting their loved one during their entire visit.
- Even if the nursing home meets these criteria; it can't allow indoor visitation if the county COVID-19 positivity rate is greater than 10%.
- CMS allows nursing homes to require additional infection control measures such as COVID-19 testing or proof of a recent negative test.

The Alabama Nursing Home Association (ANHA) shortly after Ivey addressed the state Thursday morning issued a press release stating, "Alabama nursing homes are experiencing a dramatic improvement in » PAGE 8

OUTDOORS

Controlled burns top tool for wildlife, land managers



STEVEN MITCHELL

A drip torch is used to set a fire line on a section of land scheduled for a controlled burn.

David Rainer
Ala. Dept. of Conservation and Nat. Resources

Social media has been filled with smoke and fire lately as many land managers, like the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR), conduct controlled burns to enhance the flora and fauna throughout the state.

Steven Mitchell, the ADCNR's Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) Division upland bird coordinator, said the Department, along with other land managers, often takes advantage of the downtime and prime weather conditions between the end of the white-tailed deer season and the opening of turkey season to conduct controlled (prescribed) burns throughout the state.

Mitchell said the WFF's wildlife management areas (WMAs) are given a great deal of flexibility in their burn programs.

"For those WMAs that have the ability to apply prescribed fire, our staff has an established burn regime and is actively applying fire to the landscape for managing habitats," Mitchell said. "When the weather conditions fit the burn prescription, our biologists and wildlife technicians work to conduct the fires within those parameters for a safe and effective burn. Our cooperative partners, the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, work diligently as well on the National Forests and National Wildlife Refuges, respectively, to plan, implement and manage the prescribed burning efforts on those lands, some of which host WMAs. While we would like to only burn in the non-hunting months to not hamper hunters, limited weather conditions often require our staff, as well as other land managers, to take advantage of optimal conditions to burn when conditions are available. We do our best to communicate these efforts with our hunters and advertise on www.outdooralabama.com and our Facebook page when we're conducting controlled burns."

Mitchell said burns are conducted mainly during the time when plants are dormant, but, to achieve certain habitat objectives, many of our burns occur when plants are actively growing, termed a growing-season burn.

"Dormant season, winter and early spring, is when most of our burning occurs, but, at times where control of woody plants is desired, a growing-season fire is utilized as you get a different effect than in the dormant season," he said. "You get a lot more control of woody vegetation with a growing-season fire, and it has the effect of opening the » PAGE 4

– FEATURE –

'Horticulture is my true love'

Cullman County Extension Coordinator Tony Glover set to retire



TONY GLOVER

Cullman County Cooperative Extension Office Coordinator Tony Glover stands near a grove of his favorite native trees, the bald cypress.

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – After almost four decades with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), Cullman County Extension Coordinator Tony Glover is hanging up his hat. Glover has served ACES for 37 years and has led the Cullman office for the last 10.

In his final monthly newsletter, he wrote, "I am proud to have had the opportunity to work for and with the hard-working farmers across Alabama and especially Cullman County." Glover said he plans to continue sharing his expertise in horticulture in different ways post-retirement.

Glover will work until the last day of March, marking exactly 10 years in Cullman.

"I started right before the tornadoes in 2011," he recalled.

After graduating from Auburn University, where he studied horticulture, Glover went on to work for ACES in Jefferson County.

"I started in Jefferson County and I worked out of Auburn as a state specialist for three years," he said. "Then, I went » PAGE 3

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported March 5

Cullman Tribune Staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported March 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

March 2

• unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle; person; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

March 4

Buchanan, Brad L., 52

• fourth-degree theft of property (7 counts)

Cox Jr., Larry W., 56

• public intoxication
• obstructing governmental operations
• resisting arrest

Williams, Kimberley A., 53

• public intoxication

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No incidents or arrests reported.

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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Road Closure Alert

• The Cullman Police Department on Saturday, March 6 at approximately 9 a.m. will close all four lanes (both directions) of US-278 and all four lanes of AL-157 from Yutaka Technologies to US-278, and County Road 719 will be closed at US-278.
• The Cullman Police Traffic Homicide Unit will be drone mapping this intersection for the investigation into the fatal crash that occurred Feb. 20, 2021.
• This area should be closed for approximately two hours.

Berlin Residents

The Town of Berlin will be handing out Midland WR-120 Weather Radios Saturday, March 6 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Berlin Community Center. Citizens are asked to bring their current electric bills that show they are paying fire dues to the Berlin Volunteer Fire Department, along with a photo ID.

"Come to the Well" Community Women's Bible Study

• Tuesday mornings at 10 at the Hebrews Cafe at East Side Baptist Church, 1111 Third St. SE in Cullman
• Please wear a mask/face covering.

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
• 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.

Cullman County Soil & Water Conservation District 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 256-734-1431 or 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 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. Adult class, "The Phases of Armageddon" by Pastor Bobby Dodd
• Sundays at 9 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points area. Call 256-841-2060 for pick-up. 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. Kids do not have to come to the center to get a free meal. Adults can list the names of the children and do takeout meals. Sponsored by Kids Loving Kids, Raising Arrows Ministry and Spirit Life Church.

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.

Farm Kids "Goats"

Saturday, March 6 from 9-10:30 a.m. Come & meet our playful goat friends! We will learn all about goats and their many uses on the farm. $5 per child, $10 family max. This event will be held outside under the pavilion so please dress appropriately, the Agriplex will be following all state mandated guidelines. Register at Agriplex.org.

Cullman Education Retirees Association Meeting

• Thursday, March 11 at 11 a.m. Stone Bridge Farms
• The program will be our Memorial Service in which we honor members and other education retirees who passed in 2020. We will also have a business meeting before enjoying lunch. All education retirees are invited to attend. We continue to practice CDC guidelines such as wearing face masks and social distancing.

Cullman High School Band MPA Performance

• Thursday, March 11 at 7 p.m. at Cullman High School
• Free tickets will be available soon. Check www.CullmanBand.com.

Heritage Skills "Natural Beauty Care"

Thursday, March 11 from 6-8 p.m. Join us & local herbalist DeAnn Duke, along with daughter Mary Beth as they cover natural beauty care. In this Heritage Skills class, we will cover toxic ingredients to avoid and learn how to replace them by making our own simple alternatives. Not only we will learn about lowering our toxic intake, but how to beautifully benefit our skin & hair naturally. This class will be held under the pavilion (outdoors), so please dress appropriately. The Agriplex will be following all state mandated guidelines. Register at Agriplex.org.

Little Farmers "Birds of a Feather"

Friday, March 12, from 10-11 a.m. Explore the world of birds with hands-on crafts, snacks and feathers, of course! Ages 3-5, $5 per child/$10 family max. Program will be held outdoors under the pavilion so please make sure your little farmer is dressed appropriately! The Agriplex will be following all state mandated COVID-19 guidelines. Register now at Agriplex.org.

Jay's Legacy Shoe Drive BBQ

• Saturday, March 13 at noon at J&S Karaoke, 10303 Hwy. 31 S, Hanceville
• Jay's Legacy is hosting a BBQ/ party and all we ask is that you bring two pairs of shoes to attend. We will have music, food, games and more. We will be selling food plates as well. We are inviting everyone in the community to come out and be part of the cause. Suzette Kendall will also be giving a speech on distracted driving, and how it impacted her life.

Zoom Lunch & Learn Pruning Ornamentals

• Wednesday, March 17, noon-1 p.m.
• Join Tony Glover for this free online class as he covers why, when and how to prune ornamentals. Register at Agriplex.com.

St. Paul's Spring Flea Market

• St. Paul's Lutheran School will host a Spring Flea Market fundraiser Saturday, March 20 from 8 a.m.-noon. Vendors will be located inside the gym and in the front parking lot of the school. Spaces are limited. Interested vendors should contact Emily Trahan at emilytrahan@stpaulscullman.com. Find out more at www.stpaulscullman.com.
• St. Paul's is located at 510 3rd Ave. SE, Cullman, AL 35055.

Good Hope High School Pageants

Saturday, March 20 in the school gymnasium. The Good Hope High School Fair Queen Representative Pageant will begin at 4 p.m., and the Miss Good Hope Heritage Princess and Miss Good Hope Heritage Pageants begin at 5 p.m. Admission is $7.

Food Drive with Comedian Darren Knight

• Wednesday, March 24 from noon-3 p.m. at Cullman Caring for Kids, 402 Arnold St. NE Cullman
• Join us for a day of fun, laughter and a mission to help feed hungry children.
• Darren Knight (known as "Southern Mama") will be accompanied by fellow comedians "Red Squirrel and Gary Cargal."
• For every 20 cans of food donated, you can have your photo made with them!

Heritage Homeschool Attracting Butterflies

• Thursday, March 25, 9-11 a.m.
• We will cover the importance of our native butterflies and how to help create the perfect habitat for them in your own yard. Register at Agriplex.com.

Senior Easter Egg Hunt

• Friday, March 26 at 10 a.m. at Sportsman Lake Park Veterans Memorial, 1544 Sportsman Lake Road NW, Cullman
• Sponsored by the Cullman County Commission on Aging. FREE admission, and lunch provided by the Cullman County Sheriff's Office.

le petit Fashion Show

• Saturday, March 29 at 2 p.m. in the garden at Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St. NE, Cullman
• A BD Ballet Academy scholarship & performance fund evet
• Tickets are $10. For reservations, call 256-338-6401 or email brooke.desnoes@gmail.com.

Annual Spring Clean-up for City of Cullman Sanitation Customers

• March 29 – April 2, 2021
• Place your old unwanted appliances, furniture, mattresses, and other large items curbside on MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2021. Crews will be picking up these items throughout that week (separately from your regular garbage and recycling). This is a service provided to our customers at NO EXTRA CHARGE!
• There are some things we can't pick up, though. We CANNOT pick up rocks, dirt, bricks, concrete, construction materials, hazardous materials or tires. And due to the large volume of items to be picked up, we will not be picking up brush, tree limbs and other yard waste during the week of March 29-April 2, 2021.
• If you have any questions, please contact the City of Cullman Sanitation Department at 256-737-7560 or cityhall@cullmanal.gov.

Holly Pond Community Easter Egg Hunt

• 2 p.m. Saturday, Apr. 3 at 2 p.m. at Governor's Park
• Children are encouraged to bring their own baskets, but some baskets will be available for kids who do not have one of their own.

The American Hero Music Festival

• Saturday, April 24 at Camp Liberty, 15719 Alabama Highway 157 in the Battleground community west of West Point- Gates open at 9 a.m., with the show going from 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
• The event will feature headliner Black Oak Arkansas along with Blackbird Anthem, Billy Don Burrs, Rowdy Johnson, Michelle Leigh, Mercy Shine, Dawn Rix, Dee Rock and Kris Rowdy, as well as speakers Billy Howell, Jr. (veteran of the Special Forces unit that was the subject of the 2018 film "12 Strong"), Navy Rear Admiral Kent David and Dan Robinson.
• Activities consist of an Airsoft shoot house, zip lines, food, vendors and giveaways, with the grand price being a Smith & Wesson M&P AR15 style rifle.
• Lodging available through Camp Liberty (cabins, camping/RV, and bunk rooms)
• Get tickets at http://bit.ly/2NLka3a.

Obituary Announcements: March 6



Barbara Jane (Glover) Chaffin, 79, of Crane Hill
Barbara Jane Chaffin of Crane Hill passed away March 3, 2021 at the age of 79. She was born Feb. 5, 1942 in Cullman to Enus and Avie White Glover. She Is preceded in death by her parents, brother Wesley (Bernice) Glover, and sister Pauline (Maurice) Burks. Graveside services will be held Sunday, March 7, 2021 at 2 p.m. at Jones Chapel Cemetery. Rev. Delbert Freeman will be officiating. Survivors are husband J.W. Chaffin of Crane Hill; daughters Pam Mack of Crane Hill and Debra (Mancel) Kilgo of Cullman, Alabama; sister Bernice Harding of Sardis, Alabama; brother Chesley (Vivian) Glover of Hanceville, Alabama; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Visitation will be Sunday, March 7, 2021 at Moss Funeral Home from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.mossservicefh.com. Following the COVID-19 guidelines, we ask that you practice social distancing and the use of a mask. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

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Glover (from Front)

to Montgomery as a regional specialist for a couple of years. Then I went to Mobile for several years and then to DeKalb County as a coordinator for a short tenure."

Glover said he stepped away from his position at the Extension for eight years to help with his father's business, Glover's Produce, but in 2006, he returned

He explained, "I went back to Jefferson County at the Botanical Gardens office. I did that for five years before the Cullman coordinator position opened up."

Glover described his journey as coming "full circle." A native of Cullman, he will end his career in his home county.

One of the programs Glover is proudest of being a part of is the Alabama Master Gardeners.

"The Master Gardener program in the state of Alabama started in 1981 and I started in 1984, so it was a real new program. It had only existed for one year in Jefferson County, where I had my first job. I worked with that program in that position and then I went to Auburn as a state specialist; my primary job was to grow the Master Gardener program statewide."

Glover said he focused much of his time developing and growing the program and when he moved to Mobile, he introduced the program there.

"When I came back to the Extension, I was running the Master Gardener program at the Botanical Gardens Extension office," he said, "so it's been an integral part of my career from the get-go."

Another source of pride for Glover is helping small farmers.

"Both of those things I am really, really proud of and pleased that I had the opportunity to do and are things I enjoy doing," he said. "As a horticulturist- I have both of my degrees in horticulture from Auburn, and I have an education specialist degree from Auburn- horticulture is my true love."

Glover is so passionate about horticulture, he even has a couple of gardening-related songs he lists among his favorite tunes: the hymn "I Come to the Garden Alone" and John Denver's "Homegrown Tomatoes."

During his second stint at the Jefferson County Extension's Birmingham Botanical Garden office, Glover said, he had an opportunity that, as a horticulturist, he was honored to be a part of after being approached by a medical researcher at The University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Glover explained, "They wanted to do a study to determine if gardening could help cancer survivors, and we call that program 'Harvest for Health.' It eventually grew to be statewide, and other states are picking it up as well."

The Harvest for Health program pairs a master gardener with a cancer survivor, who doesn't currently garden, to be mentored in gardening. The researchers track the progress and compare that with a control group of survivors who do not garden.

Glover said, "They did find that the people who gardened did better physically and mentally. I was really happy to be part of that program because I think it proved things that we intuitively know- that gardening is good for people mentally, emotionally and health-wise to eat fresh fruits and vegetables. It was kind of a validation of a lot of things I had been saying my entire career."

When Glover took the coordinator position in Cullman, he said, he immediately saw the need to help the beginner and small farmers.

"I felt like they were being ignored by the Extension and the Ag universities that were catering to the big growers," he said.

"I started the Farmer 101 program here in Cullman where we would invite beginning farmers. Most of them, almost 70% who came, had never been to an Extension meeting in their life because they really didn't think they had that much to offer to them.

"I am really proud of that program, and that program spread statewide shortly after I started here in Cullman. It really started putting more emphasis on our horticulture team who reach out to small, beginning and new farmers."

With the last year of Glover's career being during the COVID-19 pandemic, he said he noticed at least one positive trend as more people began looking for ways to grow their own food.

"One thing we saw last year was a big year for new gardeners. I think people saw the vulnerability in the food supply when things got really scary there with food shortages," he said. "It had people worried, and I think people really started to reflect, 'Do I know how to produce my own food if I needed to?' I think that really caused an up-tick in interest."

During Glover's tenure as the coordinator for the Cullman County Extension office, a strong partnership with the North Alabama Agriplex, which opened the same year Glover took over the position, was formed.

"They started here in Cullman 10 years ago and I saw it as a real opportunity for us to extend our outreach by partnering with them," he said.

"I have been a really strong advocate for that and I am really hopeful that will continue in the future and I feel that it will. They are good folks to work with and they are very appreciative that we have researched and have specialists that can bring value to what they are trying to accomplish as well.

"We've done a number of programs with them and will continue to do. I told (Agriplex Director) Rachel (Dawsey), 'I will still try to help you out doing programs.' I've done a lot of programs over there, and I think I will continue to do some of that even in retirement on a volunteer basis."

Glover has plans after retirement to volunteer his time in several places.

"I am going to work part-time with Farm Aid and doing phone consultations with farmers and those maybe struggling with their farm operations. It is something I can do from home and still stay engaged with the farm community," he smiled. "More broadly, I will be taking calls from farmers all over the country, and not just local like I am used to. I am looking forward to that challenge and learning more about different types of agriculture around the country. I suspect that farmers have the same kind of issues almost everywhere, and I am hopeful I will be able to make an impact there."

Glover is also involved with Northbrook Baptist Church and busy with projects at home.

He said, "I've got a small plot of land, 6 or 7 acres, and I have started planting some thornless blackberries trying to get my grandkids involved in a little blackberry orchard project."

Glover was recently asked by the Master Gardeners to share his gardening and Extension work motto.

He replied with a passage from the opening paragraph of the Extension Creed: "I believe in people and their hopes, their aspirations, and their faith; in their right to make their own plans and arrive at their own decisions; in their ability and power to enlarge their lives and plan for the happiness of those they love."



COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Friday, March 5, 2021 COVID-19 update from the Alabama Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Dashboard Hub (https://bit.ly/3iVJwXK)

Case details
- Total confirmed cases in AL: 391,369 (+697 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in AL: 107,518 (+114 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in AL: 7,943 (+23 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in AL: 2,179
- Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co.: 6,164 (+5 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in Cullman Co.: 2,827 (+2 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in Cullman Co.: 120 (+1 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in Cullman Co.: 63
- Total tested in Cullman Co.: 37,681
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 3,089
- Cases in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 179
- Total tested in Alabama: 2,316,127
- Cases in the last 14 days in Alabama: 14,115
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Alabama: 174,299
- Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 526
- Cumulative no. of hospitalizations in Alabama (reported M-F): 45,807
- Presumed recoveries in Alabama (reported weekly): 295,690

Important Notice (03/04/21) The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) processed a backlog of 2114 positive PCR results from a facility on 03/02/21 and 346 positive PCR results from the same facility on 03/03/21. These will be classified as confirmed COVID-19 cases reported on 03/03/21 and 03/04/21 even though the tests were performed since May 2020. **This affected the 14-day case numbers.

Vaccine details (updated Monday-Friday)
- Doses delivered to Alabama: 1,489,515
- Doses delivered to Alabama providers: 1,266,325
- Doses administered: 1,035,868
- Number of people receiving one or more doses: 663,213
- Number of people who have completed vaccine series: 370,678
- Doses delivered to federal Long-Term Care Program: 223,190
- Doses administered by the federal Long-Term Care Program: 82,031

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

DAILY UPDATE FROM ADPH

Threshold of 10,000 COVID-19 deaths crossed
Even as the rates of new COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations continue to decline across Alabama, the death toll has reached a new milestone. On March 3, Alabama surpassed 10,000 deaths of state residents from COVID-19. Since the first COVID-19 death in Alabama was reported last March, the vast majority (78.9%) of deaths have occurred among those age 65 and older, followed by people in the 50-64 year-old age range (16.7%), followed by those ages 25 to 49 (4.2%). Females represented 46.4% of deaths; males, 53.4; and 0.2, unknown. By race, 59.4% of decedents were white, 27.8% were black, 8.7% were race unknown, 0.3% were Asian, and 3.8% were of other races. Reported COVID-19 cases are now approaching 500,000.

CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)
Social vulnerability is a term the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention uses to describe the vulnerability of a community to human suffering and financial loss in the event of a disaster. Social vulnerability refers to the potential negative effects on communities caused by external stresses on human health. Such stresses include natural or human-caused disasters, or disease outbreaks. Reducing social vulnerability can decrease both human suffering and economic loss.

CDC describes the Social Vulnerability Index (CDC SVI) as follows: CVI uses 15 U.S. census variables to help local officials identify communities that may need support before, during, or after disasters. CDC SVI is updated every 2 years based on U.S. Census Bureau data releases. The Census releases American Community Survey data in December of the year following the survey. Thus, there is a time differential in when it can produce and disseminate updates of CDC SVI.

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) is reviewing the index to promote equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccine.

Nine counties will be part of the initial outreach. The total population of these counties represents about 150,000 persons. At this time, at least Barbour, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Perry, Pickens, Sumter, and Wilcox counties are part of this effort as they are counties that rank lowest on this metric. More information about the index can be viewed at the following: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html

Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine
ADPH is excited to have the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine available as a single-dose vaccine. It prevents serious illness, hospitalization, and death just as effectively as other products that we have available. This additional vaccine option will allow us to have vaccine available at more providers. The vaccine to take is the one that is first available to you; please don't try to specially select one or pick and choose. Alabama is expected to receive 40,100 doses of the vaccine this week but has been notified not to expect any additional shipments, besides the initial one, for the next three weeks.

COVID-19 vaccine appointments that are no longer needed should be canceled
Please be considerate of others and cancel your scheduled COVID-19 vaccine appointment if you cannot make it or have received your vaccine at another provider or at a drive-thru clinic. This helps ensure that other people have access to appointments.

Second dose large-scale mass vaccination clinics continue this week
Eight large-scale mass vaccination clinics took place throughout the state Feb. 8-12. Attendees that received a Pfizer vaccine for their first dose should return to the same location this week to receive their second dose.

Burns (from Front)

structure of the stand to more light and more beneficial growth of early successional plants.

"Burns can be conducted during the dormant season or growing season accordingly and, when used in proper scale and frequency, can attain a wide collection of land management objectives. Another added benefit of controlled burning is the reduction of fire hazards and fuel loads, lowering the chance of wildfires."

Land managers who are burning for quail have additional factors to consider.

"If you're focusing on quail management, distribution of burn units is even more important as they have a smaller home range," Mitchell said. "Burning, while practically mandatory for bobwhite management, also removes cover and exposes the quail to avian predation. The primary raptor migration extends through March in many areas and can impact quail significantly if considerations for sufficient cover aren't addressed."

Mitchell said those burning in longleaf pine habitat need to have certain considerations of the new growth on the trees.

"You want to burn longleafs before they candle out and start putting on new growth," he said.

"The buds, sometimes termed candles, are more susceptible to fire damage during this candling period. Although the longleaf is a very fire-tolerant tree, it can be damaged during this time. After a year of growth, longleafs can typically tolerate properly applied fire.

"However, if specific burn parameters aren't present to burn, significant damage can occur to the saplings, so these burns need to be conducted carefully.

"But it's critical to get a fire in longleaf stands to suppress the competition from vegetation and other trees, including loblolly pine, especially if you're managing for wildlife. You want to maintain that open understory. There's not much better habitat than that provided by young longleaf stands for bobwhite quail. You can have nesting and brooding habitat in the same patch of trees."

Mitchell said just about all wildlife benefit from controlled burns in one way or another, even including deer.

"Most people don't think about deer benefitting from burns, but they do," he said. "Of course, turkeys and quail benefit, as well as most game birds.

"Burning is the most economical and effective way to manage early successional habitat. After a burn, a lot of the plants that come back are the forbs and legumes and grasses, which are beneficial for most of our wildlife. There's a lot of protein in native plants that grow back after a prescribed fire."

Mitchell said studies have shown that turkeys and quail prefer areas with a burn management program, from freshly burned to areas that have burned within three years. After three years without a burn, the habitat becomes less preferred by turkeys and quail.

"If the area has a fire history that has been established and maintained, most of the turkey nests will not be in the areas that haven't been burned within the past three years," he said. "The nests are going to be in cover that was burned last year or the year before. The plant structure in those units that have been burned is their preferred habitat.

"You may have seen it with turkeys; the smoke hasn't even cleared and they're already out there scratching around."

Mitchell said when areas that have burned get rainfall, the new growth could be popping up within a couple of weeks, and within a month enough cover is available to hide the animals. He said most wildlife habitat is on a one- to three-year burn rotation with the shorter frequency yielding more forbs and grass and less of a woody component and vertical structure. He said burn frequency is site specific.

"On poor soils, you might need to wait three years between burns," he said. "In rich, heavy soils, ground cover may get too dense too quickly. You may need to tighten that interval or stay on that two-year burn cycle.

"When conducted properly, burning improves plant species composition and structure for ground-nesting birds.

"It reduces that litter layer. It increases the bare-ground component for wildlife movement and foraging. It promotes a lot of flowering and seed production, which increases insect abundance. For your young quail chicks and turkey poults, insects are crucial for their survival in the first couple of weeks to a month after they hatch out."

Another aspect of fires that Mitchell said is often overlooked is that the activity may reduce nest predation.

"On upland areas with a good fire rotation, you're going to reduce the woody or hardwood component and dense vegetation conditions that the predators like to hunt and keep them in hardwood bottom," he said.

"It reduces time the predators are in upland areas where turkeys and quail are nesting."

Mitchell said the scale of the area to be burned is also important, with 50 acres considered about the ideal size. If the fire is too large, the turkeys and quail will use the area less.

"You want to burn in a checkerboard pattern to maintain an interspersion of burned and unburned habitat," he said.

"It's been shown that turkeys don't use burned areas over 250 meters from the edge of an unburned area until later when cover grows back to a certain level. If you can't burn in a checkerboard pattern, burn in a linear shape so the wildlife will have access to adjacent unburned cover."

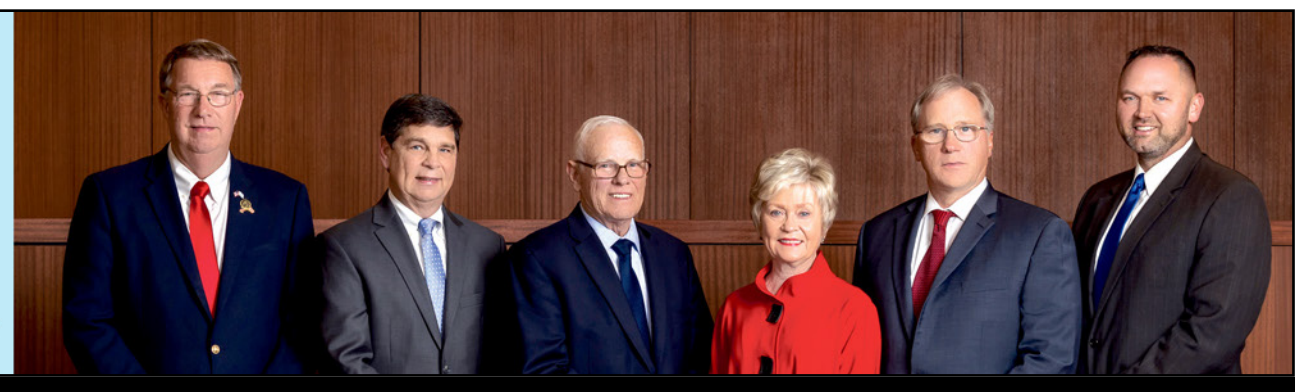
Mitchell said land managers must give a lot of consideration to neighbors, roadways and whether the land has proper fire breaks and other safety aspects before trying to conduct a controlled burn. Humidity also plays a big factor on whether to burn. If the humidity falls below 30 percent, Mitchell said burning can become a little more dangerous. Many other parameters are also considered to safely and effectively conduct a controlled burn, and it is crucial to have the proper training.

"You need to know what you're doing," he said. "There are classes you can take. The Alabama Forestry Commission offers a four-day course for burn manager certification where people get a higher level of fire education and become much more comfortable with applying fire to their property."

Mitchell considers a proper burn regime one of the most beneficial practices wildlife managers can utilize.

"For wildlife management, prescribed fire is the most effective and cost-efficient tool in the toolbox," he said.

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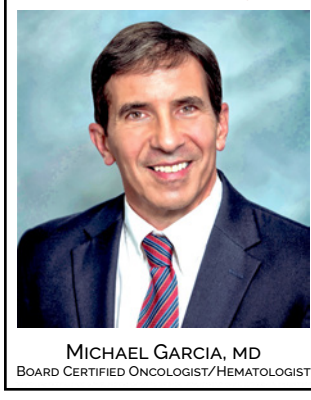
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A Round of Applause for 365 American Joy-Givers in 2021: The Bubbles and Beats Birthday Party

Ben South
Tribune Columnist

The party tent is a giant, transparent, "Lawrence Welk" bubble inflated over a lighted, chessboard-inspired dance floor. The air is fresh and fragrant with joy-giving, new plant varieties Luther Burbank has given the world. At one of the place settings is a portable court reporter's typewriter on which Jack Kerouac creates an automatic poem as he transcribes the evening into words imagery.

The special entertainment is a fun and glamourous dance created by gorgeous, long-legged Cyd Charisse accompanied by her fellow Texan, Bob Wills. And, the dinner menu highlights an entrée of Cyd Charisse Exquisite, Spice-Rubbed Thighs, or for anyone reading this who feels that could be objectifying the limbs the dancer was proud to flaunt, you could think of the famous kick-boxing legs of Chuck Norris, also a celebrated guest at this party.

JOIN US...You sense the joy the minute you waltz into the party bubble. HOORAY FOR THE JOY-GIVERS! (Note: The comments attributed to these famous joy-givers come from words they have written or said.)

Please give A ROUND OF APPLAUSE for these American joy-givers celebrating a birthday this week:

March 6—BOB WILLS is widely known as "The King of Western Swing" for melding his virtuoso fiddle-playing with steel guitar, piano, banjo and bass to create a unique, American regional, internationally popular sound. The two biggest hits of Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys are "Faded Love" and "Ida Red Likes the Boogie." He's in the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and deserves a Presidential Medal of Freedom for reviving the lost art of unabashedly joyous yodeling. Like his fellow Texan, Waylon Jennings, said, "When you're down in Texas, Bob Wills is still the king."

March 7—LUTHER BURBANK—Would you like American-cultivated, French fried potatoes with that party plate? Whether you're eating McDonald's or almost any French fries in the U.S., you are likely eating Burbank, russet skin potatoes. Not only did Burbank's determined work produce a blight-resistant potato that kept thousands of Europeans and Americans from starving, this mostly self-educated botanist and horticulturist also gave us these joys: the Shasta daisy, the fire poppy, the "July Elberta" peach, the "Santa Rosa" plum, the "Flaming Gold" nectarine, the "Wickson" plum, the freestone peach and the white blackberry. His nursery in Santa Rosa, California is now a city park, the Luther Burbank Home and Gardens.

March 8—CYD CHARISSE was born Tula Ellice Finklea, but as they say, a well-loved star has many names; she also performed as Lily Norwood, Felia Siderova and Maria Istomina. The distinctive moniker, "Cyd," came from her little brother trying to call her "Sis," which was then given the Hollywood spelling pizzaz. She is most known as a beautiful, long-stemmed dancer in such films as "Singin' in the Rain," "The Bandwagon," "Brigadoon" and "Silk Stockings." This Texas rose began dancing lessons when she was 6 years old to recover strength lost to polio.

March 9—BOBBY FISCHER was a chess prodigy born to a homeless, single mother. At age 13, he won what was dubbed, "The Game of the Century." At age 14, he became the youngest ever U.S. Chess Champion and at 15 he became the youngest grandmaster and the youngest candidate for the World Championship. In 1972, Fischer brought joy to millions of Americans, most of whom knew little about the mind game of chess, when he defeated Boris Spassky of the USSR in what was publicized as a major, Cold War confrontation between Russia and the USA.

March 10—CHUCK NORRIS, the martial artist, actor, film producer, screenwriter and author was born Carlos Ray Norris in Oklahoma. He starred in a streak of bankable, independently made action and martial arts movies including "A Force of One" and "An Eye for An Eye," then later in studio films such as "Silent Rage," "Missing in Action," and "Delta Force I, II." He played the title role of the long-running television series "Walker, Texas Ranger." Norris has written two motivational books that made The New York Times best-seller lists. However, his greatest popularity may have been handed to him with outlandish internet memes known as "Chuck Norris Facts" which are "tall tale one-liners" others wrote about his super-human strength and endurance.

Here are 10 particularly joy-giving favorites of those memes, which also made the performer giant, stadium-sized buckets of money from product sponsorships:

1. Chuck Norris won a 10-minute race after giving his competitors a 10-minute lead.

2. Chuck Norris threw a grenade which killed 50 people, then it exploded.

3. Death once had a near-Chuck Norris experience.

4. Chuck Norris can kill two stones with one bird.

5. Chuck Norris can hear sign language.

6. Chuck Norris knows Victoria's Secret.

7. Chuck Norris can build a snowman out of rain.

8. Chuck Norris has a diary; it's called The Guinness Book of World Records.

9. Chuck Norris can set ants on fire with a magnifying glass. At night.

10. The only time Chuck Norris was wrong was when he thought he made a mistake.

(For an endless, phenomenal, superior-to-all collection of these, try chucknorrisfacts.net.)

March 11—LAWRENCE WELK, the accordionist, bandleader and television impresario hosted the Saturday night "must-see tv" that gathered families together across the country for "The Lawrence Welk Show" from 1951 to 1982. His easy-listening style seen through a scrim of gray bubbles came to be known as "Champagne music." Welk was born in the German-speaking town of Strausburg, North Dakota and did not speak English until he was 21 years old. Among the weekly stars of his show were The Lennon Sisters, Norma Zimmer "The Champagne Music Lady," Myron Floren playing bouncy polka on accordion and the lively hammering of Jo Ann Castle, "The Queen of Honky Tonk Piano."

March 12—JACK KEROUAC, born Jean-Louis de Kerouac of French-Canadian ancestry, created "The Beat Generation" with poet Alan Ginsburg and fellow writer William S. Burroughs. Kerouac, the "Beat" icon, is recognized for his style of "spontaneous prose" about which the writer Truman Capote cattily said, "This isn't writing; it's typing."

COMMENTS OVERHEARD at "The Bubbles and Beats Birthday Party" for American joy-givers:

"If I had to give up acting or dancing, I'd choose to keep dancing."—Cyd Charisse

"To be granted some kind of usable talent and to be able to use it to the fullest extent of which you are capable—this, to me, is a kind of joy that is almost unequaled."—Lawrence Welk

"Since she learned to dance, her life is full of romance."—Bob Wills

"Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul."—Luther Burbank

"Practice kindness all day to everybody and you will realize you're already in Heaven."—Jack Kerouac

"I don't believe in psychology. I believe in good moves."—Bobby Fischer

"If you like a tune that's bound to drive away your cares, make happy your soul with that old steel guitar rag."—Bob Wills

"A flower is an educated weed."—Luther Burbank

"Rest and be kind, you don't have to prove anything."—Jack Kerouac

"I thought it would be fun to have a little fun. You know, talk and dance and—talk."—Cyd Charisse

"Conversation didn't seem necessary when I put the accordion down and swung some lady around the floor."—Lawrence Welk

"And then she whispered, 'Si, Senor, si,' in a cabaret we dance the hours away. Her eyes told more than words could ever say." –Bob Wills

"I'd rather be free in my mind, and be locked in a prison cell, than to be a coward and not be able to say what I want."—Bobby Fischer

"The fact that everybody in the world dreams every night ties all mankind together."—Jack Kerouac

(Regarding her dance partners Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly) "I'd say they were the two greatest dance personalities who were ever on a screen. But, it's like comparing apples and oranges. They're both delicious."—Cyd Charisse

"She doesn't one-step or two-step or do the minuet, but she does a better boogie dancin' than anyone yet."—Bob Wills

"Be in love with your life, every detail of it."—Jack Kerouac

"The greatest happiness in the world is to make others happy."—Luther Burbank

"Nothing eases suffering like the human touch."—Bobby Fischer

"Over and over, I marvel at the blessings of my life: Each year has grown better than the last."—Lawrence Welk

When dinner was ready, Wills sang these words from his hit "Roly Poly:" "Roly Poly eatin' corn and 'taters, hungry every minute of the day. Roly Poly gnawin' on a biscuit as long as he can chew it, it's okay."

PARTY MENU for "The Bubbles and Beats Birthday Party:"

APPETIZERS—Chuck Norris Ultimate Butt-Kickin' Hot Wings (franksredhot.com)

SALAD—Jack Kerouac Road Trip Salad (wildfoodgirl.com)

ENTRÉE—Cyd Charisse Exquisite, Spiced-Rubbed Thighs (recipe below)

SIDE DISH—Luther Burbank Creamy Garlic Mashed Potatoes (foodnetwork.com/Alton Brown)

BREAD—Bob Wills Texas Toast (delish.com)

BEVERAGE—Lawrence Welk Champagne Cocktails (allrecipes.com)

DESSERT—Bobby Fischer Old-Fashioned Chess Pie (southernliving.com)

AND, ONE TO GROW ON—With all the curiosity we currently have about the origins of the food we eat and about genetic modification, the 2009 book, "THE GARDEN OF INVENTION: LUTHER BURBANK and the BUSINESS OF BREEDING PLANTS" by Jane S. Smith could be a delicious, pardon that, addition to your kitchen library.

If anyone reading this knows the author/publisher, please nudge them to issue a new edition for us hungry readers. At the end of the evening, before everyone enjoys dancing on the chessboard floor inside the glowing, translucent bubble, Welk recalls, "For a while we had trouble trying to get the sound of a champagne cork exploding out of the bottle. I solved the problem by sticking my finger inside my mouth and popping it out."

Champagne is served and Kerouac toasts the gathering with these words—"The only people for me are the mad ones, the ones who are mad to live, made to talk, mad to be saved, desirous of everything at the same time, the ones who never yawn or say a commonplace thing, but burn, burn, burn like fabulous yellow roman candles exploding like spiders across the stars."

CYD CHARISSE EXQUISITE, SPICED-RUBBED THIGHS

This easy, exquisitely delicious dish is perfect for spring and summer grilling.

Ingredients:

- Oil, as needed
- 2 tsp. paprika
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- 1 tsp. ground thyme
- ¾ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. garlic powder
- ½ tsp. ground pepper
- 2 lbs. skinless, boneless chicken thighs, trimmed
- 2 tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp. honey

Directions:

1. Pre-heat grill to medium high heat. Lightly brush grill with oil.

2. In a small bowl, stir together paprika, chili powder, cumin, thyme, salt, garlic powder and pepper.

3. Place the chicken thighs in a large bowl, sprinkle the spice mixture over the chicken and toss to coat.

4. Grill the chicken until it is just cooked through, 4 to 5 minutes per side.

5. In a small bowl, whisk together vinegar and honey.

6. Brush mixture over grilled chicken. Serve.



BendigoArt.com/CullmanTribune.com





PREP SOFTBALL

Cold Springs drops nail-biter to Jasper; Thursday scoring recap

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. – The Cold Springs Lady Eagles hosted Jasper for their home opener Thursday night and unfortunately for the home crowd, they dropped a heartbreaker to the Lady Vikings 5-4.

Cold Springs starter Emma Black got the first two outs of the game and after allowing the next two batters to reach base, she got a strikeout to get out of the inning unscathed. Kyla Aaron hit a leadoff double for the Lady Eagles and Anna Katherine Voce drew a walk, then with one out, Morgan Chasteen hit an RBI single to put Cold Springs on the scoreboard first.

Black retired the side in order in the top of the second and the Lady Eagles added to their early lead in their half. Toni West reached on an infield single and Ciara Calvert reached on a throwing error.

After Heidi Nichols popped out, Rachel Pearl lined an RBI single to right field to give Cold Springs a 2-0 lead. Back-to-back singles by Aaron and Voce looked to help plate the third Lady Eagle run of the game, but Pearl got thrown out at home to end the inning.

The score stayed the same until the top of the fifth inning, when Jasper hit a two-run homer and later on, an RBI double to give them a 3-2 lead, but Black quickly settled down and got back-to-back flyouts to West to get out of the inning.

The top of the seventh saw new pitcher A.K. Voce get into some trouble early on as she allowed an infield single and a double to the first two batters, then she got a groundout for out number one.

The next batter grounded out to Chasteen for out number two and a throwing error plated two Lady Viking runs as the Lady Eagles went into their final at-bats down, 5-2.

Black drew a one-out walk and then Chasteen reached on an infield single. Shay Sellers reached on a force out for the second out and West kept the inning alive for the Lady Eagles as she hit a two-run single to right field to trim the deficit to one at 5-4.

Calvert went down looking for the final out as Cold Springs dropped a heartbreaker in its season opener to Jasper, 5-4.

West finished with a pair of hits and two RBIs for Cold Springs (0-1). Chasteen added a pair of hits and an RBI. Pearl ended up with a hit and an RBI. Aaron and Calvert each chipped in with a pair of hits. The Lady Eagles will host Fairview on Monday.

Muscle Shoals 9 - Cullman 8 (Softball)

Cullman looked to get a huge win on the road at Muscle Shoals and they got off to a quick start as Savannah Davis hit an RBI double and she later scored on a wild pitch to give the Lady Bearcats an early 2-0 lead. But Muscle Shoals got the lead in the bottom of the third and they later stretched it out to 7-3 after four innings.

But Cullman looked to come back late, and they started it in the fifth inning. Haley Shannon hit a one-out single and then with two outs, Chalea Clemmons hit a two-run home run to make it 7-5. Emma Wilson got hit by the pitch and Carlie Burnham hit an RBI triple to right field to make it a one-run game.

The Lady Trojans added a run in the next two innings to push the Cullman deficit to 9-6 going into the top of the seventh.

Davis hit a leadoff single and with one out, Wilson reached on an infield single. One out later, Faith Guest kept the Lady Bearcats' chances alive as she lined a two-run double to left field to trim the deficit to one run again, but Shana Guest filed out to end the game and Cullman falls just one run at the end, 9-8.

Clemmons and Faith Guest each finished with a hit and a pair of RBIs for Cullman (2-4). Davis, Burnham, and Shana Guest each added a pair of hits and an RBI in the game. Shannon finished with three hits in the contest. The Lady Bearcats will travel to take on Hartselle on Tuesday.

Good Hope 12 - Meek 0 (Baseball)

Good Hope got an amazing pitching performance from Braxton Marshall and the offense goes off for 12 runs as they shut out Meek at home.

The Raiders quickly got its offense going early as Caleb Rusk and Peyton Seymore reached on a walk and a single, respectively, and a suicide squeeze play by Lane Speegle gave Good Hope an early 1-0 lead.

They later loaded the bases and Landon Piper hit an RBI single and Lawton Farr later scored on a wild pitch to make it 3-0 after one. Marshall added an RBI single in the bottom of the second to make it a four-run game. A Rusk RBI double, a Seymore RBI groundout and a two-run single by Marshall broke the game wide open as Good Hope stretched its lead out to 8-0 after three innings.

A pair of two-run singles by Rusk and Morgan Cook made it a 12-0 contest in the fourth and that was more than enough run support for Marshall, who dominated Meek from the word go as he allowed just four base runners all game and the Raiders went on to shut out the Tigers, 12-0.

Rusk and Marshall each collected a pair of hits and three RBIs for Good Hope (3-2). Cook added a hit and two RBIs. Piper ended up with a pair of hits and an RBI. Seymore and Speegle each collected a hit and an RBI in the game as well. Marshall went the distance, allowing just one hit, walking three, and striking out eight. The Raiders will host Fultondale on Saturday afternoon.

Holly Pond 10 - Asbury 5 (baseball)

Holly Pond looked to get its first win of the season as they hosted Asbury. A huge fourth inning by the Broncos helped them get that first win of 2021 as they rolled past Asbury.

Asbury put up three runs in the top of the third to give them a 3-0 lead. After being shut down for the first three innings, Holly Pond exploded offensively in the fourth. Three straight singles loaded the bases for John Martin, who drew a walk to make it 3-1. Landan Taylor then hit a one-out RBI single and that was followed by a bases-loaded walk by Levi Farr.

Hunter Farr hit an RBI single and the big blow came from Andy Light, who hit a three-run double to right field. Charlie Huddleston added an RBI double and when the inning finally concluded, the Broncos went from being down 3-0 to being up 8-3.

Holly Pond added two more runs in the bottom of the sixth as Hunter Farr scored on a wild pitch and Seth Widing scored on a passed ball to make it a 10-4 game and they went on to take the game, 10-5.

Light led the way for Holly Pond (1-3) with two hits and three RBIs. Huddleston added three hits and an RBI. Hunter Farr and Taylor each collected a hit and an RBI. Martin and Levi Farr each added an RBI in the game as well.

Levi Farr went 6 2/3 innings, allowing just six hits and five runs, only three of them were earned, walking just one and striking out seven. The Broncos will host Vinemont on Monday.

PREP BASEBALL

Addison drops home tilt against Mars Hill 13-0

Todd Walker
Tribune Correspondent

ADDISON, Ala. – Addison hosted the Mars Hill Panthers in the first of a home and home series, Addison travels to Mars Hill tomorrow night. It was not a good night for the hometown Bulldogs as Mars Hill dominated the Dawgs winning 13-0 in five innings.

Addison had the unfortunate luck of facing Mars Hill ace pitcher Junior Josh Bowerman. Bowerman dominated the Bulldog lineup all night.

The first inning started out with Mars Hill senior Peyton Higgins doubling and then stealing third base. Three hits and an error later, the Panthers had plated two runs and led 2-0.

The home half of the inning was a hint of things to come. Bowerman struck out the first two batters, walked the next but then struck out the clean-up hitter.

The Panthers broke the game open with a 9-run second inning. The Panthers had five hits, three walks, three stolen bases and were helped with two more Addison errors in the inning.

The highlight of the inning was a bases loaded triple by Senior Hunter Bridges. When the inning finally came to an end the score was Mars Hill 11-0.

The bottom of the second inning was fairly unusual. Bowerman struck out the first batter, McKinley Cagle, but Cagle reached on the wild pitch. Bowerman then struck out the next three batters to complete a four-strikeout inning.

The Panthers added two more runs on three walks, a hit and another Bulldog error. At the end of three innings Mars Hill led 13-0.

The hometown Bulldogs were able to break up the no-hitter with a solid shot to right by Senior Nelson Martin, but they were unable to bring him home.

Addison held the Panthers to no runs in the fourth and fifth innings, playing much better defense but were unable to touch the tough Panther pitchers.

The final score was Mars Hill 13 Addison 0. Mars Hill improves to 3-1 while Addison falls to 1-7, but against topflight competition.

Mars Hill was led in the pitching department by Bowerman.

Bowerman pitched three innings, giving up one hit, striking out 10 and walking one. Eighth grader Bo Mitchell relieved Bowerman and tossed two innings and struck out two.

Mars Hill hitters were Senior Peyton Higgins who went 1-3 with a double, two runs scored and two stolen bases. Sophomore Sam WIlliams went 2-4 with an RBI and one run scored and a stolen base.

Sophomore Koby Keenum was 1-3 with a double, two runs scored and an RBI. Bo Mitchell went 2-2 with two walks, a run scored an RBI and a stolen base. Hunter Bridges went 1-3 with a triple, stolen base, three RBIs and two runs scored.

Addison had Nelson Martin go 1-2. Ty Tuggle had a walk.

Addison pitching ran into a red-hot Panther offense but Will Tuggle tossed one and 1/3 innings getting a strikeout. Briley Hayes finished it out tossing one inning getting two strikeouts and giving up only one walk.

Addison travels to Mars Hill Friday night and will be looking for a little payback against the Panthers.



LEGALS

PB WIL BK 100 PG 605 - 02/26/2021 11:21 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
LARRY MONROE FOLDS * CASE NO PC 2020-371
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND AMENDED PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: LINDA R. MADDOX, DORIS D. SMITH AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES

The Petition of Robert R. Folds to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Larry Monroe Folds, deceased, filed by Kimberly H. Drake, Attorney for Robert R. Folds, Petitioner, has been set for the **15th day of April, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman, Alabama.

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

Cullman County Courthouse
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

DONE this the 26th 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 in said newspaper

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

PB MIN BK 194 PG 404 - 02/19/2021 08:35 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO.: PC2021-051

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF KATHERINE LEE McDONALD, DECEASED

TO THE HON. TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY ADMINISTRATOR

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to RACHEL McDONALD, as Administratrix of the Estate of KATHERINE LEE McDONALD, Deceased, on the 17th day of February 2021, by the Honorable Tammy Brown.

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.

RACHEL McDONALD
Administratrix of the
Estate of
Katherine Lee McDonald,
Deceased

PERRY D. KNIGHT
Attorney for the Estate of
Katherine Lee McDonald, Deceased
412 First Avenue SE
Suite 101
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4090

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

NOTICE is hereby given that a bill substantially as follows will be introduced in the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama and application for its passage and enactment will be made:

BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to Cullman County; amending Section 1 of Act 2020-160 of the 2020 Regular Session, now appearing as Section 45-22-224, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide that the Battleground School Historical Board may transfer ownership of the Battleground School property by a vote of the board; and deleting the additional requirement of a referendum.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 1 of Act 2020-160, of the 2020 Regular Session, now appearing as Section 45-22-224, Code of Alabama 1975, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"§45-22-224.

"(a) In Cullman County, the Battleground School Historical Board is established to own, operate, manage, and preserve the former Battleground School property in the unincorporated community of Battleground, including any ball fields and other historical structures, owned by the Cullman County Board of Education. The Battleground School Historical Board shall be composed of five members appointed by the Cullman County Legislative Delegation for terms of four years. Members of the board shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed. Members of the board are immune from civil liability for actions taken in the conduct of their duties to the extent allowed under Section 36-1-12.

"(b)(1) The Battleground School Historical Board may accept title to the former Battleground School property owned by the Cullman County Board of Education and may hold the property for the benefit and use of the public, particularly the unincorporated community of Battleground. The Battleground School Historical Board may receive state, local, and other governmental funding and may accept charitable donations.

"(2) The board may ~~not~~ sell or transfer ownership of the property ~~unless approved by~~ upon approval of a majority ~~vote~~ of the board ~~and then by a majority vote of the qualified electors in the unincorporated community of Battleground at a referendum called by the judge of probate and held during the following general election~~.

"(c) The Battleground School Historical Board may be reorganized as an unincorporated nonprofit association or other entity authorized by law by unanimous consent of the board."

Section 2. This act shall become effective immediately following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

A few more things I have lost

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Last week, I wrote about three of my most commonly lost items. This week, I want to share a few more such items. I would begin by recapping those first three lost items, but I've lost the list! If I remember correctly, those three were my keys, cell phone, and remote controls. I still haven't found my keys, but here are a few more things I have lost.

4. Cars. Now, I know you are probably asking, "How could you possibly lose a car?" Well, I can tell you from experience, you can. Usually, I simply forgot where I parked. This is often a problem at the club where I play racquetball, because there are two almost identical parking areas on each side of the complex.To simplify confusion, I usually try to park on the same side every time. This also prevents me from looking like I've lost my mind as I wander around the parking lot searching for my truck.

Then there was that one time, when after a Braves' baseball game, I couldn't find my car. That was because a thief had driven it off. That time I had not lost the key to my car, but the car to my key!

5. Homework. How many educators have heard, "I lost my homework," or the infamous "The dog ate it?"I don't know that I ever actually lost my homework, but I did lose a couple of research papers...no, honestly. When I was in college, I lost a completed ten-page research paper. Have you ever stood on your head, in an apartment dumpster, searching through the garbage? It's not much fun, and I'm sure not a pretty site, but that time it paid off, because that's exactly where I found my paper. I guess I knew all along that paper was garbage. Years later, I lost over 30 pages of my doctoral dissertation when they miraculously disappeared into cyber space. Aren't computers a wonderful invention? Backup, backup, backup!

6. Glasses/Sunglasses. Have you ever asked, "Have you seen my glasses?" and hear, "Silly, they are on top of your head?" Even worse is when they answer, "Check your nose."

7. Rings. I have lost two wedding bands. No, you misunderstood. I did not lose two bands that played music at my wedding. I didn't even have a band at my wedding. I have lost two wedding rings and both times involved gloves. I lost one playing church-league softball. I think as I ran in from the outfield, with blazing fast speed, I might add, I pulled off my glove and my ring came off with it. Another time I had been working in the yard when I later realized I didn't have my ring. One day, sometime later, Jean used my yard gloves and discovered my lost ring hiding out in the finger of my glove.

8. Wallet. Wallets sometimes simply run away. They will wiggle out of your pocket and hide under a seat cushion, the crack of a car seat, or fall to the floor. Guys, always check the bathroom floor first. There usually isn't enough money in my wallet to get too worked up over, but there is all those important cards.

Well, this could be a continuing subject that I go on with until Christmas, maybe of next year, but I have other things to write about. As I think about all the things I've lost, I am thankful for the things I haven't lost. At the top of that list is my faith in Christ, my love for my wife and family, and at least to this point, and even in a pandemic, my health.

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

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: 1920

From the Files of 1920

On Sunday, September 19, 1920 a big dinner was given at the home of William E. Grimmett, near Good Hope. The event was a surprise dinner in honor of the sixtieth birthday of Mr. W.E. Grimmett. The children combined their money for a handsome suit of clothes for their father and a lovely satin dress for their mother. The Grimmetts received the gifts with tears of gratitude in their eyes. Two long tables were placed on the front lawn for the food brought in to celebrate. About 50 people were present.

Mr. and Mrs. Grimmett are the parents of eleven children, all of whom are living. The youngest being 22 years old. A group picture was taken in Cullman before the evening meal at the Good Hope home. Families present were Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Hicks, of DeLeon, Texas, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Quattlebaum, of White City, Mr. and Mrs. L.J. Bauers, of Cullman, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Quattlebaum, of Good Hope, Mrs. John Woodall, of Cullman, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Whisenhunt, of Hanceville, Mr. and Mrs. Lawson Grimmett, of Good Hope, Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Grimmett, of Good Hope and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Grimmett, of Birmingham. There are two single sons, Burvel and Ottis Grimmett, who still live at home. The Grimmett children all agreed that this was one of the happiest days of their lives.

Vassie and Reta Sinyard spent the day with their Roden Cousins.

Jewel and Agnes Guthery spent the day with Miss Freddie Wells.

Janey Sinyard spent the day with the Eady family and reported a nice time.

Miss Adnette Pierce attended the singing at Crane Hill on Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gammon attended the singing at Crane Hill on Sunday. Jim Guthery, Mexie Turner, Durwood Burns, Lily Rodgers, Dallas Tucker and Edley Turner were at the Crane Hill singing.

Reverend C.C. Hughes of Blountsville was the guest of his daughter, Mrs. G.C. Kempton on Tuesday.

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POET'S CORNER

Daughter

By: Randy C. Hale

I find, profound a tear

that rolls silently down

your cheek.

Inside this tear I hear

the sound of a thousand

soldiers feet.

But, I will defend you

regardless of the numbers,

for in your eyes,

the reason why,

that for your life

I would lose mine.

A Father never leaves

his post,

and for a single tear,

will face the dreaded

devil's host and brave

the greatest fear.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

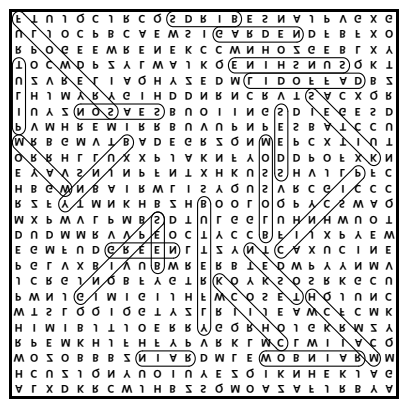
MARCH 6, 2021

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COLEMAN CALLAN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Nest
Daffodil
Bees
March
Chick
Flowers
Season
Sunshine
Green
Picnic
Warm
Tulip
Bunny
Blossom
Rainbow
Seeds
Garden
Kites
Butterfly
Birds
Spring
Rain

ANSWER:



Direction (from Front)

their fight against COVID-19. New cases of COVID-19 in Alabama nursing homes have declined 93% from their high point the week of December 20, 2020 to the week of February 21, 2021."

The full release can be viewed at https://anha.org/alabama-nursing-homes-report-declining-covid-19-cases-federal-visitation-restrictions-continue/.

Brown cautioned, "We might have won some major battles, but we have not yet won the war. We are going in the right direction, but I think everybody needs to understand that what's going on in the community, what color they are (According to the Alabama Department of Public Health's Risk Indicator)- green, yellow or red- is going to have a lot to do with that. Cullman, for a long time, was red. We still had some visitation. We didn't have the doors open saying, 'Please, everybody come visit.' We consider ourselves as a small community in each of our facilities."

Despite the many obstacles during the past year with COVID-19, USA Healthcare's facilities adapted to make sure residents could see family, said Brown. "We'll still be doing this by appointment. We still have federal regulations we have to abide by despite what the governor would like to do, what I would like to do, and I think everyone in our business would like to be wide open and have folks come in. I think that the mental anguish has probably been greater than the physical anguish even though so many people died."

He continued, "I think we are going in the right direction. I am glad the governor stayed with the mask order. I think that people need to understand that I think that's how you get there. We don't have that big of a percentage (of the general population) vaccinated yet, but we are doing better on that and we will get there."

Brown said the restrictions placed on visitation in hospitals and his facilities make sense to him, explaining, "If the community is doing well, our facilities reflect that. We do about the same as the community does and there's been many studies that show that. We'd like to get to normal, though. We'd like to get back to children coming in to visit and sing for them. We'd like to get back to visitors being able to come by any time of day. We just aren't there yet, but we are getting closer."

While things might not be back to "business as usual," Brown stressed, "It's still an improvement on where we have been in 2020 and 2021. It's still restrictive and still much more restrictive than anyone would like, but nonetheless, it is what it is. We just follow the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines, and we are told by them and by HHS (United States Department of Health and Human Services) and CMS what we can and can't do. If we don't comply, we run the risk of it going as far as losing your business. While we seem like bad guys, we're not. We are just doing what we are told to do and required to do to keep our Medicaid and Medicare licenses."

The winter months were very tough on the facilities operated by USA Healthcare, but things have improved significantly, and Brown reported that currently, the facilities are free of any COVID cases other than patients admitted into an alternate site at The Sanctuary. He also warned that the improvements will be short-lived if people in the community don't all do their part.

"It won't stay that way and continue to improve if people start doing things we know don't work like not wearing a mask, not social distancing and staying away from big gatherings and all those things that do it," he said. "How the community goes, the nursing home goes. If everybody wants to open back up, wear a mask, socially distance, wash your hands and stay away from meetings indoors with a lot of people."

Many of USA Healthcare's residents have been vaccinated; Brown estimated that 85% of eligible residents have received the vaccine. He said some were not eligible due to medical reasons.

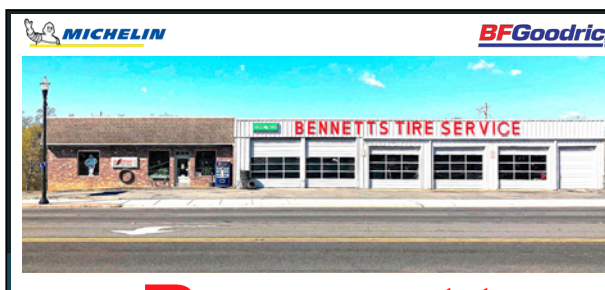
Brown said he plans to have residents resume group activities such as movie nights in small groups in the near future.

He said he understands frustrations regarding the restrictions remaining on nursing homes and assisted living facilities. "I get it. I've been doing this for 45 years. It's not going to happen very often that I hadn't already had it happen. The people who work in this business care about people. I have workers who will work every day, 24 hours if you ask them. I am happy to be involved with people that care that much about it to make sure the people they know and love are going to be taken care of no matter how much they have to do."

Finally, Brown urged people to do what they need to do, saying, "If we don't get some of these variants in here- if we get those variants, God only knows we are going to be right back where we were at our worst time. It's not an opinion anymore. If you'll wear a mask, wash your hands, socially distance and stay away from large gatherings inside that's got poor ventilation, you'll stay safe most likely. Unless someone in your family brings it to you. These new variants spread faster and are more deadly. It's not an opinion anymore. It's a proven fact. If a community misbehaves, they are going to get COVID again or a new strain of it."

Read Alabama's modified Safer at Home Order at https://bit.ly/30jvBSM.

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