

MACON COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERS TASK FORCE



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION
JANUARY, 2022

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4

FREE

"This Newspaper Features Relevant Health & Community Information."



Macon County, Alabama Board of Education members: L to R: Mary Hooks, President; Karey Thompson, Member; Sgt. Major Clifton Boyd, Jr., Member; Attorney Katy Campbell, Vice President; School Superintendent, Jacqueline Brooks; and Elnora Smith-Love.

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT JACQUELINE BROOKS RETIRES!

Here are a few of her claims to fame:

- Earning an A+ Credit Rating (previously the board did not have the financial credentials to stand alone)
- Bringing all buses and vehicles into compliance with the state department to include GPS and A/C with a bus upgrade schedule
- Bringing all six schools off the failing schools/not making AYP list in 2012, 2013, 2016, 2019, 2020
- Establishing the first-ever dual enrollment program with Tuskegee University and Alabama State University
- Implementing the district's first MC Virtual School
- Establishing Trenholm State's largest dual enrollment program
- Establishing the Macon County Teacher of the Year Retention and Rewards program
- Establishing a student reward and recognition programs to include Operation Graduation, Supt. Banquet, Sr. Athletic Banquet, Student/Parent of the Month, and honor societies at each school
- Creating a pathway for Macon County Teachers to become Nationally Board Certified (three in the process)
- Establishing a partnership with A+ Foundation and getting teachers in three schools certified to teach AP courses
- Passing ad valorem and sales tax support campaigns for solid fiduciary support
- Acquiring the Apple ConnectEd grant and partnership to include visits from Tim Cook and Robin Roberts
- Acquiring a record number of grants and partnerships from Macon County Schools
- Having four schools recognized as CLAS Banner Schools: BTW, GWC, TPS, and TIMS
- Launching multiple social media channels and establishing a concrete communications plan
- Acquiring and implementing support programs such as HIPPIY and Alabama's First Class Pre-K
- Creating and Implementing READ Across Macon County
- Adding 5 new career tech offerings to include IT, Welding, Health Sciences, and Fire Safety
- Having a music/fine arts offering at every school to include all elementary schools
- Establishing a music technology program
- Expanding sports to include indoor track, cross country, baseball and softball, volleyball, swimming and partnerships with Parks and Recreation and the local housing authority
- Creating and implementing Operation Acceleration to meet the needs of all students
- Expanding the ALC and Second Chance into the Student Success Center
- Upgrading a number of facilities to include new playgrounds at each elementary school, improved football stadiums at each high school, new HVAC systems in four schools
- Upgrading security protections at all schools and buildings to include security swipe entry systems, name badges and id's, Verkada camera systems, security monitors and co-monitoring with the Sheriff Department
- Establishing family support initiatives to include District Open House, Healthy Halloween, and Because Macon County Cares
- Founding and publishing a community magazine for improved communication: Family Magazine
- Hiring health services worker for each school
- Starting career explorations at PreK
- Creating a required reading list and a required excursions list reflective of state and local history
- Creating a student advisory committee for school improvement
- Re-establishing adult education and GED programs
- Securing over \$20 million dollars in grants over a decade -getting a track, baseball, softball field and tennis court approved for Booker T. Washington high school -acquiring 20 acres of land for Notasulga to add a sports area -Creating a governmental partnership with the Town Of Shorter regarding the sale of Deborah Cannon in Wolfe Elementary School.

HOW DO YOU SAY THANKS TO SUCH EXCELLENCE? Thanks Dr. Brooks, you Mighty Fine Human Being! Moreover, the Macon County Community Partners Task Force welcomes Ms. Melissa T. Williams, who was appointed the new Superintendent.

HAPPY NEW YEAR '22



WHO says measures used against delta should work for omicron

By JIM GOMEZ
December 3, 2021

REPRINT from AP

A traveler arrives to enter into a COVID-19 testing center at the Incheon International Airport In Incheon, South Korea, Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021. South Korea's daily jump in coronavirus infections exceeded 5,000 for the first time since the start of the pandemic, as a delta-driven surge also pushed hospitalizations and deaths to record highs. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

A traveler arrives to enter into a COVID-19 testing center at the Incheon International Airport In Incheon, South Korea, Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021. South Korea's daily jump in coronavirus infections exceeded 5,000 for the first time since the start of the pandemic, as a delta-driven surge also pushed hospitalizations and deaths to record highs. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Measures used to counter the delta variant should remain the foundation for fighting the coronavirus pandemic, even in the face of the new omicron version of the virus, World Health Organization officials said Friday, while acknowledging that the travel restrictions imposed by some countries may buy time.

While about three dozen countries worldwide have reported omicron infections, including India on Thursday, the numbers so far are small outside of South Africa, which is facing a rapid rise in COVID-19 cases and where the new variant may be becoming dominant. Still, much remains unclear about omicron, including whether it is more contagious, as some health authorities suspect, whether it makes people more seriously ill, or whether it can evade vaccine protection.

“Border control can delay the virus coming in and buy time. But every country and every community must prepare for new surges in cases,” Dr. Takeshi Kasai, the WHO regional director for the Western Pacific, told reporters Friday during a virtual news conference from the Philippines. “The positive news in all of this is that none of the information we have currently about omicron suggests we need to change the

directions of our response.”

That means continuing to push for higher vaccination rates, abiding by social-distancing guidelines, and wearing masks, among other measures, said WHO Regional Emergency Director Dr. Babatunde Olowokure.

He added that health systems must “ensure we are treating the right patients in the right place at the right time, and so therefore ensuring that ICU beds are available particularly for those who need them.

Kasai warned: “We cannot be complacent.”

WHO has previously urged against border closures, noting they often have limited effect and can cause major disruptions. Officials in southern Africa, where the omicron variant was first identified, have decried restrictions on travelers from the region, saying they are being punished for alerting the world to the mutant strain.

Scientists are working furiously to learn more about omicron, which has been designated a variant of concern because of the number of mutations and because early information suggests it may be more transmissible than other variants, Kasai said.

A few countries in Western Pacific region are facing surges that began before omicron was identified, though COVID-19 cases and deaths in many others have decreased or plateaued, Kasai said. But that could change.

Among the places that have found the variant in the region are Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Malaysia — and it is likely to crop up in more places.

The emergence of omicron is of particular concern for organizers of the Beijing Winter Olympic Games, now about two months away.

Beijing is adopting a series of measures to reduce the risk the virus will spread during the Games, Zhao Weidong, spokesperson for the organizing committee, told reporters at a briefing on Friday.

China has adopted a zero-tolerance policy toward COVID-19 transmission and has some of the world’s strictest border controls. Games participants will have to live and compete inside a bubble, and only spectators who are residents of China and have been vaccinated and tested will be permitted at venues.

Globally, cases have been increasing for seven consecutive weeks and the number of deaths has started to rise again, too, driven largely by the delta variant and decreased use of protective measures in other parts of the

world, Kasai said.

“We should not be surprised to see more surges in the future. As long as transmission continues, the virus can continue to mutate, as the emergence of omicron demonstrates, reminding us of the need to stay vigilant,” Kasai said.

He warned especially about the likelihood of surges due to more gatherings and movement of people during the holiday season. The northern winter season will also likely bring other infectious respiratory diseases, such as the flu, alongside COVID-19.

“It is clear that this pandemic is far from over and I know that people are worried about omicron,” Kasai said. “But my message today is that we can adapt the way we manage this virus to better cope with the future surges and reduce their health, social and economic impacts.”

This story has been updated to correct that Zhao Weidong is a spokesperson for the organizing committee for the Beijing Games, not the Foreign Ministry.

Follow AP’s coverage of the coronavirus pandemic at <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic>

FORMER MINNISOTA POLICE OFFICER KIM POTTER GUILTY ON ALL CHARGES!



Former Police **Officer Kim Potter** predicted shortly after shooting and killing **Daunte Wright** in Brooklyn Center, MN, that she was going to prison. She was right because a jury of 9 White, 1 Black and 2

Asians found her guilty of First and Second degree Manslaughter.

Wright was stopped for traffic violations and discovered to be wanted on a warrant. He resisted arrest when three officers attempted to take him into custody by breaking away, jumping into his car and driving away. Moreover, he was shot once by Officer Potter, who claimed that she intended to tase him.

Wright crashed the car as he sped away, and Officer Potter went to pieces (panicked).



SOME LESSONS:

1. Citizens should avoid breaking the law. Moreover, learn from this case that “Ignorance of the law is no excuse in America!

- 2. Once advised by a law enforcement officer that you have violated a law, and definitely if you are arrested : “DO NOT RESIST!”
- 3. Most law enforcement officers are basically trained the same, but do not have the same demeanor. Nor do they have the same compassion for people, or tolerance for foolishness.
- 4. Officer Potter made a serious mistake in using her firearm, rather than her taser in her attempt to control Daunte Wright.
- 5. The MN Attorney General acted appropriately in charging Officer Potter with Manslaughter.
- 6. God bless the Jury for a fair verdict!

The Macon County Community Partners Task Force founded this publication following the devastating impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic. The Task Force set out to determine the best ways to alert and educate the county residents of the best health related methods of protecting themselves from catching COVID-19; as well as how to socialize safer and eat better to strengthen their immune systems to protect against the virus. Weekly Zoom Meetings and a monthly newspaper were determined as the best methods of reminding residents that COVID-19 will be with us for an undetermined time, and we must not “drop the ball” on safety, cleanliness and socialization habits. The Newspaper is managed by the Macon County Health Care Authority, Inc., published by L & B Consultant Services, Leon E. “Chief” Frazier, and edited by Diane Kenney. The Task Force presented funding requests to the City of Tuskegee, Macon County Commission, Community Outreach Organizations; as well as county residents who care about the state of their communities. You can support this newspaper by sending your donation, health related ads, or article to: Macon County Health Authority, Post Office Box 830214, Tuskegee, Alabama, 36083. For further information, call: 334-552-1722

MACON COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERS TASK FORCE
A Monthly Newspaper Publication



Macon Medicine



The Mvskoke Nation occupied all of present day Alabama, and were the first physicians. The Mvskoke Alibamo tribe gave the State its name, meaning “thicket clearers”, for how they cleared land to grow crops. Farming made them known as the “Civilized Tribes”, with Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee and Seminole. They had several large villages in what we call Macon County.

The Mvskoke, a matriarchal society, had both medicine men and women. They applied herbal based remedies and roots for treating wounds, disease and other health problems. They treated women separate from men, so as to “not spoil the powers of their medicinal herbs, and prevent them from being healthy”. The Mvskoke taught their medicine to the European settlers.

At their Green Corn Festival, known as the Busk or Posketa, the chief medicine man brought special cleansing herbs for everyone to purify themselves. They would also fast and make an offering of the first herbs to the Master of Life.

For more information, go to: www.MaconProgress.net

Omicron less likely to put you in the hospital, studies say

By LAURA UNGAR and MIKE STOBBE
REPRINT, December 23, 2021

Two new British studies provide some early hints that the omicron variant of the coronavirus may be milder than the delta version.

Scientists stress that even if the findings of these early studies hold up, any reductions in severity need to be weighed against the fact omicron spreads much faster than delta and is more able to evade vaccines. Sheer numbers of infections could still overwhelm hospitals.

Still, the new studies released Wednesday seem to bolster earlier research that suggests omicron may not be as harmful as the delta variant, said Manuel Ascano Jr., a Vanderbilt University biochemist who studies viruses.

“Cautious optimism is perhaps the best way to look at this,” he said.

An analysis from the Imperial College London COVID-19 response team estimated hospitalization risks for omicron cases in England, finding people infected with the variant are around 20% less likely to go to the hospital at all than those infected with the delta variant, and 40% less likely to be hospitalized for a night or more.

That analysis included all cases of COVID-19 confirmed by PCR tests in England in the first half of December in which the variant could be identified: 56,000 cases of omicron and 269,000 cases of delta.

A separate study out of Scotland, by scientists at the University of Edinburgh and other experts, suggested the risk of hospitalization was two-thirds less with omicron than delta. But that study pointed out that the nearly 24,000 omicron cases in Scotland were predominantly among younger adults ages 20-39. Younger people are much less likely to develop severe cases of COVID-19.

“This national investigation is one of the first to show that Omicron is less likely to result in COVID-19 hospitalization than Delta,” researchers wrote. While the findings are early observations, “they are encouraging,” the authors wrote.

Continue on Page 6 (See OMICRON)

“IGNORANCE OF THE LAW IS NO EXCUSE!”

So, let’s learn some laws!

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

In Alabama, domestic violence laws prevent specific acts of physical violence between an offender and a victim, including a child and parent, husband and wife, siblings, and couples in a dating relationship. The offense of domestic violence can bring severe penalties.

According to Alabama Code § 13A-6-132, for a charge of domestic violence to be declared, the offensive conduct committed by the aggressor must involve a form of a domestic relationship (not occurring between strangers).

Convictions for any degree of domestic violence in Alabama will cause you to lose your right to own, possess or carry a firearm in Alabama-FOREVER.

Qualifying Domestic Relationships Under Alabama Code §13A-6-139.1, Alabama considers domestic violence against: Husband and wife; Children; Parents; Someone with whom you share a child with; Household members; Romantic or sexual partner.

If you commit domestic violence offense, but you are not in any of the given relationships with the alleged, you must contact an Alabama Domestic Violence Attorney right away.

All criminal charges would not be waived after confirming you do not have any personal relationships with the victim. You may be charged with the underlying crime. However, it can assist you to sustain a lesser potential penalty.

Domestic Violence Charges and Penalties in Alabama

Alabama states three degrees of domestic violence, as well as the felony of domestic violence by suffocation or strangulation. You can face various charges of domestic violence depending on the level of allegations.

1st Degree Domestic Violence: Domestic violence in the first degree under AL Code §13A-6-130 is a Class A felony. This involves first-degree aggravated stalking or assault. Imprisonment of 10 to 99 years or life in prison can be awarded to you. If you are accused of a second charge of first-degree domestic violence, you have to complete at least 12 months of imprisonment. Along with this, if you are commit domestic violence in the first-degree with a protection order previously in place, the court will impose double punishment on the existing term.

2nd Degree Domestic Violence: Second-degree Domestic violence under AL Code §13A-6-131 is a Class B felony. It involves acting second-or first-degree burglary, first-degree criminal mischief, second-degree assault, stalking, and intimidating a witness. You can be incarcerated for up to 20 years.

In case you are charged with subsequent domestic violence second-degree charge, then you must serve a minimum of 6 months before you can apply for parole or probation. If you commit a protection order violation along with second-degree domestic violence, the judges will double the minimum imprisonment term.

3rd-Degree Domestic Violence: Third-degree domestic violence under AL Code §13A-6-132, usually falls under Class A misdemeanor. It involves committing third-degree reckless endangerment, assault, criminal surveillance, criminal coercion, harassment, menacing, criminal trespass, arson, and third-degree arson. You can be jailed for up to 12 months in imprisonment. Upon committing third-degree domestic violence with violation of the protection order, you will be in prison for at least one month.

SPECIAL NOTE: VERBALLY AND PHYSICALLY ABUSING FAMILY MEMBERS AND/OR PEOPLE YOU CLAIM TO LOVE IS UNWISE, EMBARRASSING AND VERY COSTLY.

WHENEVER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CLAIMS ARE MADE TO THE POLICE—AND THEY SHOULD ALWAYS BE MADE WHEN INDIVIDUALS ARE HARMED—THE LAW REQUIRES THAT THE “PRIMARY AGGRESSOR” BE ARRESTED. THE PRIMARY AGGRESSOR IS THE PERSON WHO CAUSES THE PROBLEM.

IT IS UNWISE BECAUSE IT DOES NOT MAKE SENSE TO HARM PEOPLE YOU CLAIM TO CARE ABOUT. IT IS EMBARRASSING BECAUSE OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS AND CONFUSION THAT IT CAN CAUSE IN YOUR RELATIONS. IT IS COSTLY BECAUSE OF THE BAIL BONDS AND COURT RELATED FINES THAT WILL BE INVOLVED.

Sheriff Andre” Brunson, Macon County, Alabama.

Macon Means

Macon County Food Distributors Round Table



January 2022

Free Food Distribution Schedule

S M T W Th F S



1
NEW YEARS
DAY

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

11:00 Helping
Hand Ministry
District 4 Center
1200 CR 27, Cloughs
Rev. A. Williams

9 10 11 12 13 14 15

12 Macon Food
Distributors
Roundtable
Zoom Meeting

9:30 AKN (Red Chief)
4771 Hwy 199
11:00 HHand Ministry
Prairie Farms Center
Hwy 80 W, Tysonville

11 Bowen UMC
2107 W Mtg Rd
Seniors Food

MLK Youth
Event
Games
Covid Educ
& Testing

16 17 18 19 20 21 22

9 Macon Co
Food Pantry
Daly St
Last Names
A to G

11:00 Helping
Hand Ministry
Liberty City UMC
5607 CR 14, Notasulga
Rev. A Williams

Children's Food:
Brownville, Shorter,
Notasulga, Tuskegee
Warrior Stand
Cotton Valley

23/30 24/31 25 26 27 28 29

12 Macon Food
Distributors
Roundtable
Zoom Meeting

11:00 Helping
Hand Ministry
Chisholm Ctr
3031 CR 69, Lt Texas

11 Bowne UMC
2107 W Mtg Rd
Seniors Food

The Macon Food Hotline: (334) 724-2550



BOOKS AND BALLS FOR CHRISTMAS!

Selma/Dallas County/Alabama

“Books to build the mind and balls to build the body” were given to children in Selma/Dallas County/Alabama, by North Star Beloved Community Corporation, Sharing, Inc., and Alabama New South Coalition, on December 22. These events took place in front of George Washington Carver Homes Complex and Brown Chapel AME Church. Moreover, the organizations gave books and balls to other children throughout the City of Selma and Dallas County. Hundreds of basketballs and books were given to the County’s children for Christmas. The public and the media participated. All who participated are to be commended!





Meet a few Macon County Community Partners Task Force Members who met on Zoom for more than 1-1/2-years every Saturday Morning to discuss, plan, and fight the Coronavirus Pandemic. This spirit of unity and cooperation HAD NOT been present in this County since the "old days." ZOOM to the RESCUE!

ARM MLK KIDS DAY

Rock-N-Roll with the King!

Join us Saturday, January 15th from 9:30 AM to 2 PM to celebrate!

The celebration will be located at Washington Chapel AME, 2508 W Montgomery Rd, Tuskegee Inst, AL 36088

featuring: Inflatables, Lunch, Games, Crafts, and more!

REGISTER TO JOIN US @ WWW.ARM-AL.ORG/MLKKIDSDAY

ALABAMA RURAL MINISTRY



GOMILLION BUILDING CLOSED AND OFFICES RELOCATED:

MUNICIPAL COURT: Moved to two locations: 1. Administration is now in the Senior Citizens Center (SCC), 802 Crawford Street; Court Hearings will be held in the Auditorium at the Municipal Complex.

PUBLIC LIBRARY: Moved to the old Tuskegee Institute Middle School (TIMS) Building, 1809 Franklin Road.

CITY BUILDING INSPECTIONS: Moved to two locations: Administration is located in the SCC, 802 Crawford Street, and financial matters are

handled at the Revenue Office in the Municipal Complex.

ALABAMA STATE DRIVER LICENSE EXAMINER'S OFFICE: Is now located on the first floor of the Municipal Building.

MACON COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY: Moved to a new location at 401 Fonville Street.

CITY OF TUSKEGEE
and

HRSA
Health Resources & Services Administration

"Many thanks from the Macon County Community Partners Task Force to HRSA and the City of Tuskegee for care, concern for Macon County residents!"

Helping People. Changing Lives.

MACON - RUSSELL
Community Action Agency

PROVIDES ASSISTANCE WITH:

RENTAL

ENERGY: Heating & Cooling

EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION

501 S. School Street, Tuskegee
334-727-6100

1113—2nd Place So. Phenix City
334-298-6672

MACON COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DIRECTORY

Macon County Commission
334-724-2606
Louis Maxwell, Chairman
Miles Robinson, District 1
Edward "Coach" Huffman, District 2
Ernest Magruder, District 3
Robert "Mike" Berry, District 4

Macon County Sheriff's Office
Jail Address: 246 County Road 10, Tuskegee, AL 46083
334-727-2500
Andre' Brunson, Sheriff

Emergency Management Agency
334-724-2626
Frank Lee, Director

Revenue Commissioner
334-724-2603
Iverson Gandy, III

Probate Judge
334-724-2552
Judge James Cooper, II

Macon County Health Care Authority
334-727-5900
Bernice L. Frazier, Chair

Ray D. Martin, Presiding Circuit Judge
County Courthouse, Room 204
125 North Broadnax
Dadeville, AL 36853
(256) 357-2066

Steven R. Perryman, Circuit Judge
County Courthouse #2
Lafayette Street
Lafayette, AL 36862
(334) 864-4328

William Isaac Whorton, Circuit Judge
County Courthouse #2
Lafayette Street
Lafayette, AL 35010
(334) 755-6080

District Judge
334-727-6110
Judge Deborah H. Biggers
Tuskegee District Court

Macon County Clerk of Courts
334-724-2614
David R. Love, Jr.

Macon County Schools
334-727-1600
Dr. Jacqueline Brooks, Superintendent

City of Tuskegee
334-720-2514
Mayor Lawrence "Tony" Haygood
Chris Lee, Mayor Pro Tem
Norma McGowan Jackson, District 1
Johnny Ford, District 2
Orlando Whitehead, District 3

Tuskegee Municipal Court
334-720-0581
Judge George Bulls, III
Prosecutor, Katy Smith Campbell

Town of Shorter
334-727-9109
Mayor Willie Mae Powell

Town of Notasulga
334-257-1454
Mayor Tommy Miller

Town of Franklin
334-727-2111
Mayor Henry Peavy

Macon County Health Department
334-727-1800
812 Hospital Road, Tuskegee, AL

Utility Board of Tuskegee
334-720-0700
101 Fonville Street
Gerald Long, General Manager

Tuskegee Medical and Surgical Center
334-727-5900
301 Wright Street, Tuskegee, AL

Tuskegee University
334-727-8011
Dr. Charlotte P. Morris, President



Charlie Hardy Speaks on Facebook:

I am honored to celebrate the 115th Anniversary Of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. With these Brothers of my college chapter Beta Upsilon. I was initiated in the Fall of 1959 at Alabama State College. These current Brothers are preparing to carry the torch into the future.

“First of All Servants of All We Shall Transcend All.”



Rev. Katrina Love

FIRST WOMAN PASTOR ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE MACON COUNTY, AL MINISTERS COUNCIL

The Macon County Ministers’ Council (MCMC) elected Pastor Katrina Love as its first female leader.

Pastor Love heads the St. John AME Zion Church in Tuskegee and is as serious as “a heart attack, wrapped in a stroke,” so to speak, about her Godly Calling.

MCMC was founded in 1968, for interdenominational fellowship for Ministers in Tuskegee. However, the Council’s outreach was extended some 20 years later to include Ministers from throughout Macon County.

MCMC’s message to County Ministers: “The MCMC solicits your participation in the various projects planned for 2022. We believe your ministry is a valuable resource to help transform our county. Together, we can continue to offer life changing services and programs such as the Macon County Food Pantry which reaches more than 900 households with food and nutrition assistance. We have also seen great success with our “Stop The Violence” campaign and the annual “Healthy Halloween Harvest Festival” which draws nearly 2000 in attendance each year.”

Pastor Love is seemingly fired up and ready to go with this meaningful challenge.



College of Veterinary Medicine makes the holidays merrier with toy drive at George Washington Carver School

Tuskegee, December 17, 2021
Contact: Anissa Riley, Director of External Affairs, College of Veterinary Medicine.

TUCVM’s Santa and his helpers shared holiday cheer with GWC students on the last day of classes, Dec. 16. . .

“...The Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) family has continued the tradition in spite of the pandemic to spread joy to the students at George Washington Carver (GWC) Elementary School located in Tuskegee. Representatives of the college served as Santa and his helpers on December 16 for TUCVM’s Seventh Annual “Toy Drive for Tots.”

“Since the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, we have had to alter the administering of the Annual ‘Toy

Drive for Tots’ to gift cards instead of actual toys. However, thanks to the commitment of our TUCVM family, the ‘Toy Drive for Tots’ is now an on-going, successful tradition in our college and anticipated by the college’s faculty, staff and students,” said Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the college.

During the last day of class on Dec.16 for the students at Tuskegee’s GWC Elementary School, TUCVM’s Santa and his helpers helped to make the holidays a little merrier for 193 pre-k to first-grade students enrolled at GWC by delivering gift cards to each of the 11 classes at GWC.

With the assistance of GWC’s Principal Norman Williams, Jr., Asst. Principal Vishaka Brown, and the teachers representing the one pre-k class (teacher Laquita Cooks) and five kindergarten classes (teachers Wendy Reed-Williams, Letasha Dicks, Markeetia Johnson, Felecia Smith, and Katrina Huguley)

partnerships with the Tuskegee community like the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine that goes even beyond the holidays,” Principal Williams said. The “Toy Drive for Tots” is an annual tradition in the college that was inspired by the TUCVM students and the TUCVM administration. The event is supported with active engagement from the college’s faculty, staff and students. Although done slightly differently for the second year due to the pandemic, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Roslyn Casimir and Student Affairs Director Anthony McCloud oversaw the college’s efforts with the support of Dean Ruby L. Perry. The purpose of the annual “Toy Drive for Tots” event is to help parents purchase toys and school supplies for the holidays for the boys and girls at GWC Elementary School in the pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grades. “We applaud the efforts of all of our students, faculty and staff in demonstrating outstanding teamwork in making this seventh annual charity event possible. The event was truly special to all of us in the college in attendance and we enjoyed seeing the excitement of the students as Santa shared holiday cheer while the gift cards were distributed to the students,” said Anthony McCloud, student affairs director at TUCVM.

Continued from Page 3: OMICRON

The findings have not yet been reviewed by other experts, the gold standard in scientific research. Ascano noted the studies have limitations. For example, the findings are specific to a certain point in time during a quickly changing situation in the United Kingdom and other countries may not fare the same way.

Matthew Binnicker, director of clinical virology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, said that in the Scottish study, the percentage of younger people was almost twice as high for the omicron group compared with the delta group, and that “could have biased the conclusions to less severe outcomes caused by omicron.”

He nonetheless said the data were interesting and suggest omicron might lead to less severe disease. But he added: “It’s important to emphasize that if omicron has a much higher transmission rate compared to delta, the absolute number of people requiring hospitalization might still increase, despite less severe disease in most cases.”

Data out of South Africa, where the variant was first detected, have also suggested omicron might be milder there. Salim Abdool Karim, a clinical infectious disease epidemiologist in South Africa, said earlier this week that the rate of admissions to hospitals was far lower for omicron than it was for delta.

“Our overall admission rate is in the region of around 2% to 4% compared to previously, where it was closer to 20%,” he said. “So even though we’re seeing a lot of cases, very few are being admitted.”

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.



Fauci says early reports encouraging about omicron Variant

By GENE JOHNSON
December 5, 2021
REPRINT from AP

U.S. health officials said Sunday that while the omicron variant of the coronavirus is rapidly spreading throughout the country, early indications suggest it may be less dangerous than delta, which continues to drive a surge of hospitalizations.

President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser, Dr. Anthony Fauci, told CNN's "State of the Union" that scientists need more information before drawing conclusions about omicron's severity. Reports from South Africa, where it emerged and is becoming the dominant strain, suggest that hospitalization rates have not increased alarmingly.

"Thus far, it does not look like there's a great degree of severity to it," Fauci said. "But we have really got to be careful before we make any determinations that it is less severe or it really doesn't cause any severe illness, comparable to delta."

Fauci said the Biden administration is considering lifting travel restrictions against noncitizens entering the United States from several African countries. They were imposed as the omicron variant exploded in the region, but U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has blasted such measures as "travel apartheid."

"Hopefully we'll be able to lift that ban in a quite reasonable period of time," Fauci said. "We all feel very badly about the hardship that has been put on not only on South Africa but the

other African countries." Omicron had been detected in about a third of U.S. states by Sunday, including in the Northeast, the South, the Great Plains and the West Coast. Wisconsin, Missouri and Louisiana were among the latest states to confirm cases.

But delta remains the dominant variant, making up more than 99% of cases and driving a surge of hospitalizations in the north. National Guard teams have been sent to help overwhelmed hospitals in western New York, and Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker issued an emergency order requiring any hospitals facing limited patient capacity to reduce scheduled procedures that are not urgent.

U.S. officials continued urging people to get vaccinated and to receive booster shots, as well as take precautions such as wearing masks when among strangers indoors, saying anything that helps protect against delta will also help protect against other variants.

Even if omicron proves less dangerous than delta, it remains problematic, World Health Organization epidemiologist Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove told CBS' "Face The Nation."

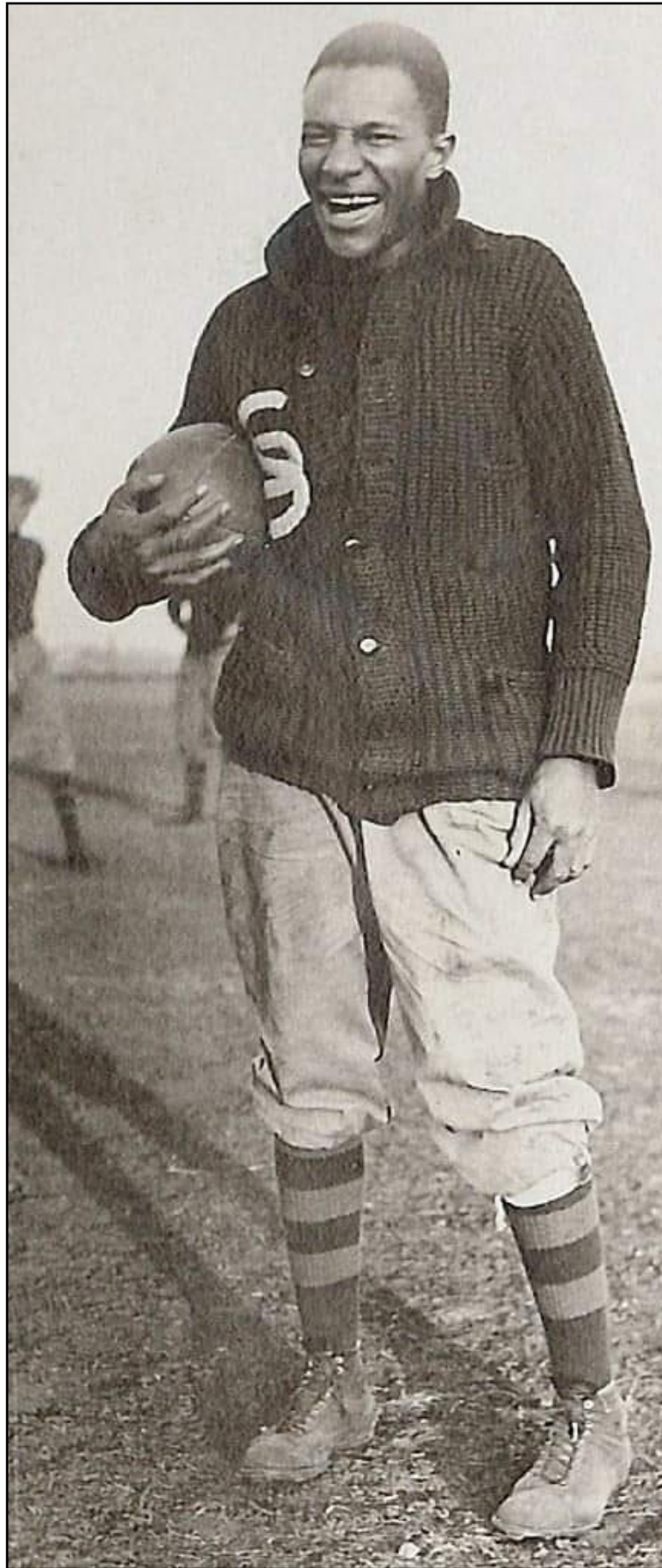
"Even if we have a large number of cases that are mild, some of those individuals will need hospitalizations," she said. "They will need to go into ICU and some people will die. ... We don't want to see that happen on top of an already difficult situation with delta circulating globally."

Two years into the outbreak, COVID-19 has killed over 780,000 Americans, and deaths are running at about 860 per day. More than 6,600 new hospital admissions are being reported daily, according to tracking data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention. COVID-19 cases and deaths in the U.S. have dropped by about half since the delta peak in August and September, but at more than 86,000 new infections per day, the numbers are still high, especially heading into the holidays, when people travel and gather with family.

Follow AP's coverage of the coronavirus pandemic at <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic>

"Cleveland S. Abbott") (December 9, 1892 – April 14, 1955) was an African-American football player, coach and educator. He is most remembered for his coaching career at Tuskegee Institute (now University) in Alabama. Abbott was born in Yankton, South Dakota in 1892, one of seven children. He graduated from high school in Watertown, South Dakota in 1912, and received his bachelor's degree from South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Da-



Cleveland Leigh "Cleve" Abbott

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE'S HISTORY KEEPS COMING TO THE LIGHT

REPRINT from Facebook Cleveland Leigh "Cleve" Abbott (some sources say

kota in 1916. He was an outstanding, multi-sport athlete at Watertown High School (16 varsity sports letters) and SDSU (14 varsity letters at SDSU). After serving in Europe in World War I as an officer in the 366th Infantry Regiment, Abbott accepted a position as professor and coach at Tuskegee.

Abbott served as a First Lieutenant in the 366th Infantry, 92nd Division in World War I. He saw action at the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in 1918. Abbott was later a commissioned officer in the Army Reserve. (The US Army Reserve Center at Tuskegee is now named the Cleveland Leigh Abbott Center.)

In 1923 Cleveland Abbott was hired as an agricultural chemist and athletic director at Tuskegee Institute, a job that had been personally offered to him by Booker T. Washington in 1913 on the condition that he successfully earn his B.A. degree. As athletic director Abbott was expected to coach the Institute's football team. During Abbott's 32-year career, the Tuskegee team had a 202–95–27 record including six undefeated seasons.

Abbott was the eighth head football coach for the Tuskegee University Golden Tigers located in Tuskegee, Alabama and he held that position for 32 seasons, from 1923 until 1954. Abbott earned the respect of his peers through his team's performance and by participating in national committees for the selection of "all-American" players at the collegiate level. Cleveland Leigh Abbott died at the Veterans Hospital in Tuskegee on April 14, 1955 and was buried in the Tuskegee University Campus Cemetery at Tuskegee, Alabama.

COMMUNITY ALERT

During this winter season, please be extremely careful with how you use electric heaters! THEY SHOULD NEVER BE LEFT "ON" when UNATTENDED." Moreover, fire extinguishers should be kept in areas where electric heaters are used!



“Black Women Just Keep Getting It Done!”

MISS USA 2021

Elle Smith has made history as yet another African American woman to win the 2021

Miss USA competition. The winners for the past three years have been Black women, and now Smith is set to compete in the upcoming Miss Universe pageant. She bested 50 women from across the nation and won the crown in this year’s Miss USA pageant. She excelled during the swimsuit and evening gown competitions and has displayed outstanding perfor-

mance on the question and answer portion in which she eloquently stated how businesses can be more environmentally conscious. Smith, who has had a passion for writing since she was a child, started working as a local TV reporter at Louisville ABC affiliate WHAS11 in October 2020 after graduating from the University of Kentucky with a B.A. in Broadcast Journalism

and a minor in Political Science. In her college years, she became the vice president of the University of Kentucky’s National Association of Black Journalists chapters and she was also a reporter and videographer for school publications. She loves traveling and she actually moved to different cities for internships and studies. REPRINT



Macon County Community Partners Task Force

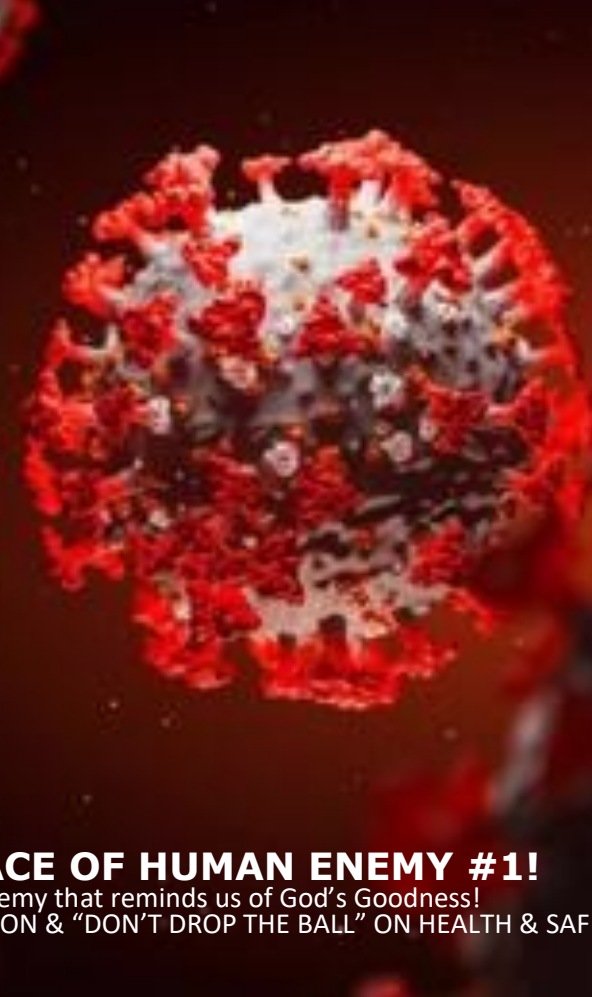


GET FOOD **GET NEWS** **GET TESTED**

GET HELP **GET FACTS** **GET SUPPLIES**

www.maconcares.org

MACON CARES



COMMUNITY ALERT!

U. S. SPANISH FLU PANDEMIC: 1918-19
DEATHS: 675,000

COVID-19 DEATHS in U. S.—2020-2021
CASES: 51,812,560 DEATHS: 813,790

ALABAMA COVID-19 UPDATE
As of December 24, 2021

CASES: 863,170—DEATHS: 16,402

MACON COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE
CASES: 2,413 DEATHS: 68

THE FACE OF HUMAN ENEMY #1!
The Enemy that reminds us of God’s Goodness!
PLEASE PAY ATTENTION & “DON’T DROP THE BALL” ON HEALTH & SAFETY!