

Teen makes 'hugging booths' for nursing homes amid pandemic

Associated Press
A Mississippi 17-year-old created "hugging booths" for a local assisted living home as part of an Eagle Scout project so that families can embrace loved ones safely during the coronavirus pandemic.

Cooper Williams of Madison County told WLBT-TV that after seeing so many families that had to be separated because of the virus, he

wanted to do something to help.

Hugging booths are structures made with a plastic sheet with armholes loved ones can use to embrace. Williams built each booth himself.

One booth was donated to each building within Martha Coker Senior Services in Yazoo City. Family members can book an appointment to use them.



January 14 - Angel Gilmore, LaShonda Harrison, Sadie Angell, Payton Grace Ray, Clyde Dixon

January 15 - Campbell Atkinson, Dee Word, David Richmond, Daryl Wooten,

Bryan Gallagher, Mai Quon, Neely Dodd, Harold Hammett, George Hester, Malcolm Kohn, Jr., Ro'kiyah Logan, Alissa Jones, Josh Haymer

January 16 - Bonnie

Since the start of the pandemic, those who have family members at the facility could only have window visits with their loved ones.

Earlier this month, families had a chance to try the booths for the first time.

Gale Hilderbrand said it was the first time in eight months she had hugged her

mother.

"We've been looking for this and been begging for it for a long time," Hilderbrand said. "That's mama. I'm her baby girl so that's special, that means a whole lot."

Resident Kathleen Griffin began crying with joy when she had the chance to see and hold her youngest son.

Stayce Allen, life enrichment director at Martha Coker Senior Services, said seeing residents use the booths was "moving" and "uplifting" during a time that has been difficult for many families.

Ellison, Guy Taylor, Jana Lewis, Arthur Lamar Melton, Patricia Gary, Mark Chamblee, Davis Ables, Anne Hood

January 17 - Linda Taylor, Nolan O'Reilly, Myron Courts, Nikki Meeks Edwards, Tripp Hammett, Houston Barnes, Kerri Cothran, James Powell, Kimberly Edwards, Adarius McLaurin, Kayla Hunter

January 18 - Sara L. O'Reilly, Jordan Courts Ingram, Strider McCrory, Sylvia Brown, Hadleigh Hawkins, Dixie Lane, Dr. Emily Casey, Lela Bell Freeman, Petiri Clark, Marsha Ables Hopper, Jonathan Barrett

January 19 - Susan Gibson, Jessie Coleman, Kayley Jones, Frank Flowers, Susie Davis, John Allen Autry, Clydie Dickerson, Edith Ann Word, Traci Hammett, Cortavious Staldworth

January 20 - Hunter Blain, Melanie Bishop, Bubba Davis, Becky Christian, Stephanie Bilsky, Matthew Furch, Robert Rogers, Kirk Goering



January 15 - Arthur and Virginia Melton, John and Jean Branch

January 16 - Robert and Lauren Ellison

January 17 - Tricia and Riley Poe, James and Jean Hughes

January 20 - Tommy and Bonnie Haffey

To add your birthdays and anniversaries to our list, please send your information by mail to P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095; fax 662-834-1074; email hcherald@gmail.com; or stop by our office at 308 Court Square in Lexington. No phone calls, please.

DURANT NEWS

by Rowena Hill

Hearts are saddened because of the death of several former residents. Some of which had coronavirus. The ones I am aware of, Billy Lewis and Ed Sudduth. There are others but I am unable to give information at this time. Just be sure the families are in our prayers and thoughts.

Our church, First Baptist, enjoyed morning worship last Sunday, but there was no evening service. Since the virus seems to be spreading much more in the last weeks, I think it's probably best to have less crowds all though we have a small crowd. Brother Lyn is a very good pastor and we are very thankful for him and wife. If you don't have a church home, you are invited!

The things that are happening in Washington D.C. are not always pleasing to God and Christians who are Christians. May HE lead in the way all Christians are to

pray and live daily for our leaders in authority.

We have enjoyed Jo and Sid Vaughn at our church for the last five weeks. She is sure a talented and good pianist among other ways. Sure would like to have them permanently but guess that is impossible since they live in Vaiden. We do love them and are thankful for them and for their presence here. May God bless them in all they do for HIM.

Hope all enjoyed the blessings and pleasures with family during the Christmas holidays. I stayed with my sweet daughter Shirley and family in Clinton. We spent time with Sonia and three children in her lovely new home with other friends and relatives. Sonia made us feel very welcome.

Sympathy to all who have lost more family members because of the virus and other illnesses. Everyone of them were friends and

prayers are for those who are not here anymore. We will miss each.

This is now 2021 and we are thankful and pray that all will be blessed by God, family and friends. Without each, we will be an empty shell. Pray for all.

We need to be prayerful for our family, friends, church families, cities and states. God is still in control and is for us, but HE wants to hear from us. Pray for our town.

For all those who are sick and need a blessing, call on God. HE will hear you and answer during these trying times.

I am not trying to preach but I feel very strong that HE is the highest power we have and cares very much about each who will only pray.

Pray daily and often for our leaders and country. God is always there, ready to hear and answer. May God bless all that read, hear and act according to his will.

Pray for our country's leaders.



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1-7,14p

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GET YOUR FILL By Tim Burr

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