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The Cullman Tribune

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VOL. 145 • 50¢ PER COPY | JUNE 12, 2018 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 70

YOUTH SPORTS

Hitting the mark on the world stage

East Elementary, Bolzle, Ray, Henderson shine in NASP World Tournament in Louisville



JORDAN WHITLOCK

The East Elementary archery team finished in third-place in the Bullseye shoot at the NASP World Tournament in Louisville over the week.

» PAGE 7



COL. KEN BROWN

Sons of the American Revolution member Smokey Ferguson with the Pine Tree Flag, which was used very early in the American Revolution

Fun, family-friendly Flag Day celebration Wednesday at Elks Lodge

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Cullman's annual Flag Day celebration will be held at the Elks Lodge on Wednesday, June 13 at 7 p.m.

"It's a colorful and patriotic ritual that is both fun and educational for the entire family, including kids and grandkids. We talk about the history of our flag, display different ones from several periods in American history, have patriotic music and meet some of our local military veterans who have fought for our flag," said a spokesperson for the Elks.

The celebration is a free, family-friendly event. Parking is also free, and refreshments will be served.

Local combat veterans from Cullman's VFW will speak, along with members of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Greg Burks from the Cullman band, Round 2, will lead the patriotic music, and the guest speaker will be retired Army Col. Ralph Bryson, who was deputy director of the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville after his military career.

Cullman Elks Lodge #1609 is located at 1609 Brantley Ave. NW, Cullman.

GrubSouth restaurant delivery service takes off this Thursday in Cullman; drivers wanted

Heather Mann
Tribune Correspondent



GRUBSOUTH

CULLMAN – Look out, Cullman residents: restaurant delivery service will be available beginning this Thursday, June 14. Huntsville-based GrubSouth, which started six years ago in a Huntsville living room, has gone from contracting with nine restaurants to now between 150-200 in Huntsville, Madison, Athens and Decatur. The service is expanding into Cullman County, said Marge Loveday, who co-owns the business with Katie Herron, and GrubSouth is accepting applications now for delivery drivers.

GrubSouth currently has delivery contracts with LawLer's Barbecue, Buffalo Wild Wings, Karma's Coffeehouse, I Love Bacon, Strada Di Napoli, Krystal and Papa Murphy's, and is still negotiating with many more businesses. The delivery radius may vary for each restaurant depending on how long the food will stay hot and fresh, but the average is 7-10 miles, according to Loveday. Orders can be placed online at http://grubsouth.com/ or on the app, which is available for both Apple and Android.

The website also has applications for delivery drivers and restaurant partnerships.

Qualifications for drivers are as follows:

- Valid driver's license
- Smartphone
- Reliable vehicle
- At least two years of driving experience
- Clean driving record
- Pass a background check
- Strong customer service skills
- Positive and professional attitude

When asked for any other comments, Loveday smiled, "We're happy to be here. We love to support local restaurants. We do include corporate restaurants and franchises, but we start locally and love to support the local restaurants who may need a boost in sales."

'Libraries Rock' events through June at Cullman library

Heather Mann
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – As part of its "Libraries Rock!" program, the Cullman County Public Library's main branch will be hosting different speakers and presentations three days each week throughout the month of June. All programs are free to attend; registration isn't required but is recommended to help the library track its numbers.

Each presentation will begin at 10 a.m. on the day listed.

- Tuesday, June 12: Peinhardt Farm Animals
- Wednesday, June 13: Tony's School of Music
- Thursday, June 14: McWane Science Center "Sonic Science"
- Tuesday, June 19: Pete the Cat
- Wednesday, June 20: Russel Davis Magic Show
- Thursday, June 21: North Alabama Agriplex
- Tuesday, June 26: Mrs. Polly Easterwood
- Wednesday, June 27: Mr. Larry's "The Magic of Reading"
- Thursday, June 28: Wrap-Up Day

The main branch of the Cullman County Public Library is located at 200 Clark St. NE, Cullman, AL 35055. Find out more at www.ccpls.com or http://qrne.ws/ccplsfb.

The library is also a free food site for children and teenagers, partnering with the Alabama Food Bank Association and the Food Bank of North Alabama. Other sites can be found by texting "FOOD" to 877-877.

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STATE / HEALTH

Men: Make your health a priority, especially during Men's Health Month

Jamey Durham
ADPH

The Alabama Department of Public Health is joining in the celebration of June as National Men's Health Month and June 11-17 as Men's Health Week by encouraging men and boys to take steps to become healthier, stronger and make their health a priority. Friday, June 15 is Wear Blue for Men's Health Day, a day to use the #ShowUsYourBlue hashtag in support of men's health.

The purpose of this annual observance is to heighten awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys. Regrettably, men's health is often overlooked, and their symptoms are often ignored.

On average, men live five fewer years than women and die at higher rates.

Men make up 92 percent of workplace deaths, mainly because they are employed in dangerous occupations. Furthermore, 1 in 6 men will get prostate cancer and approximately 28,000 will die from the disease this year.

State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris said, "Risks to the health and well-being of men are on the rise, due to a lack of awareness and a failure to pursue preventive screening and care.

"Men are often the family breadwinners, and because of their jobs and lifestyle, forget or postpone making their own health a priority.

"I encourage all men to become positive role models in their families and communities by setting the example of eating right, exercising regularly, and getting routine medical checkups."

The leading causes of death in Alabama men are as follows:

- Heart Disease
- Cancer
- Accidents
- Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
- Cerebrovascular Disease (Stroke)
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Diabetes
- Suicide
- Septicemia
- Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome and Nephrosis

Lifestyle changes can help lower risk, and men should take these important steps to improve their health and stay healthy:

- Quit using tobacco
- Get enough sleep
- Increase physical activity
- Eat healthy food
- Tame stress
- Schedule regular checkups
- Keep track of your readings for blood pressure, blood glucose and cholesterol and follow your health care provider's recommendations
- Get vaccinated to stay healthy

Some diseases and conditions may not have symptoms, so checkups can help diagnose health issues before they can become problems. Men should pay special attention to signs and symptoms such as chest pain, shortness of breath, excessive thirst, and problems with urination. If you have these or other symptoms, be sure to see your doctor right away.

Visit alabamapublichealth.gov/menshealth for additional information.

Arrest report: June 8-10

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests reported for June 8-10. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; **FTA** = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Abbott, Kalyn West, 26
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Coleman, Alex Wesley, 20
- attempting to elude
- driving on wrong side of road
- driving while suspended
- improper lane usage
- no tag-tag not plainly visible
- passing in a no passing zone
- reckless driving
- running a stop sign (6 counts)
- speeding
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Coleman, Ivy Michelle, 18
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Collins, Tarisha Sade, 31
- probation violation- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Harless, Bobby Lynn, 47
- brass knuckles
- driving while revoked
- switched tag
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Hildebrandt, Madonna Lee, 40
- first-degree financial exploitation of the elderly

James, Loretta Sue, 31
- chemical endangerment of a child

Mallard, Dylan Anthony, 33
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

McLeod, Corey James, 26
- FTA- driving while revoked

Nixon, David Glenn, 54
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Ponder, Steven Wayne, 58
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence- menacing
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Rosato, Aaron Vincent, 31
- third-degree domestic violence- menacing
- resisting arrest

Watson, Jasmine Malee-Sawn, 19
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Watts, Skylar Wayne, 25
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Figueroa, Jose F., 27
- first-degree assault
- second-degree assault

Perez Gonzalez, Jorge O., 25
- DUI

Guthrie, Jessica R., 25
- fourth-degree theft of property

Hall, Julia N., 21
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Howard, Nicholas T., 20
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Hardin, Daniel J., 23
- DUI

Bryant, Cecila L., 36
- FTA- driving without a license
- FTA- switched tag

Mallard, Dylan A., 33
- FTA- attempting to elude
- FTA- third-degree criminal trespassing

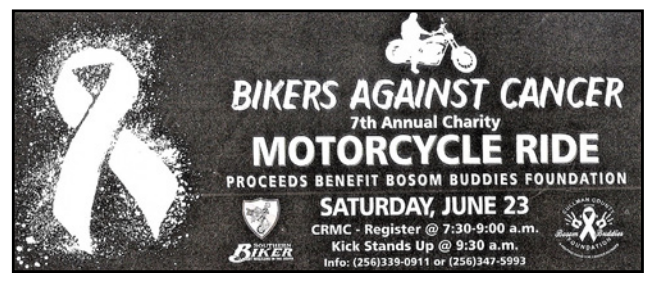
McLeod, Corey J., 26
- FTA- public intoxication
- FTA- insurance violation (2 counts)
- FTA- driving while revoked
- FTA- failure to register vehicle

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No report provided.

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

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IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of BOBBIE GOODWIN, *Deceased.*) Case No. PC2018-151

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Co-Administration on the Estate of said deceased having been granted to Pat Pirkle and Belinda White, on the 24th day of May, 2018, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claims against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Belinda White, Administrator
Pat Pirkle, Administrator
Shelbie G. Hankey, Attorney for the Estate

To the publisher of *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE*:

Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JOHN ANTHONY CRAWFORD, deceased CASE NO. PC2018-114

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF JOHN ANTHONY CRAWFORD, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Katelyn Crawford Dooley on the 6th day of June, 2018, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Katelyn Crawford Dooley, Personal Representative

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Sherry H. Barrett
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioner
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721
Fax: (256) 734-4774

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
CHARLES DOUGLAS GARMON,) CASE NO.: PC-2017-258
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION

Letters Testamentary having been granted to **JESSICA GARMON,** as Personal Representatives of the Estate of **CHARLES DOUGLAS GARMON,** deceased, on the 24th day of May, 2018, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge of said County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law, or the same will be barred.

DONE this 24th day of May, 2018.

JESSICA GARMON
Personal Representative

STUART L. MOORE
Attorney for Petitioner
101 1ST AVENUE NE STE 103
CULLMAN, AL 35055

TO THE PUBLISHER OF: **THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE**

Please publish the above notice for three (3) consecutive weeks and provide a proof of publication affidavit to the Probate Judge of Cullman County, Alabama.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF K.J.A., D.O.B. 11-06-2013, A MINOR CHILD. CASE NO: PC2018-169

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR MINOR NAME CHANGE

TO: **WILLIAM SKYLAR AKER, OR ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, UNDISCLOSED PERSONS OR THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER.**

A PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE OF MINOR CHILD WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA BY KALYN DEANN AKER ALLEN, BIOLOGICAL MOTHER. IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS NAME CHANGE, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE. THE RESPONSE MUST BE FILED WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONER, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS ARE SHOWN BELOW, AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, 500 2ND AVENUE SW, ROOM 101, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055.

DONE THIS 24th DAY OF May, 2018.

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

ALEX CHANEY
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER
P.O. Box 1052
Cullman, Alabama 35056

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The Cullman Tribune
Cullman County's Oldest Business, Serving the area since 1874
Publication Number USPS-139-700
Telephone: 256-739-1351 Fax: 1-256-739-4422

Humble Roots, LLC
Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: robin@cullmansense.com

ANNUALLY BASED RATES

Cullman.....$75.00
Outside Cullman.....$85.00

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2nd Fridays returns to downtown Cullman

W.C. Mann
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W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman High School's Lindsey Lowery won a free 2nd Fridays booth for her business "Pixie Fudge" in a competition sponsored by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's Young Entrepreneurs' Academy (YEA!).

CULLMAN – On Friday evening, as the work week was winding down, the Warehouse District was cranking up for the third annual installment of "2nd Fridays." The series is a collaborative effort between the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce (CoC) and Cullman Parks, Recreation, and Sports Tourism (CP&R), bringing together downtown merchants, the Festhalle Farmers' Market, entertainers, car collectors and others on the second Friday of each month from June through September for a lively street party. Along First Avenue through the Warehouse District, businesses stay open late, a classic and custom car show draws the gearheads, farmers sell their produce at the Festhalle, and crafters and artists set up shop in "Artists' Alley." If folks get hungry, there are choices from eateries and food trucks/trailers up and down the street; performers play live music at various locations around the district.

The Tribune caught up with CP&R Executive Director Nathan Anderson at the kid zone behind the Festhalle, where children made chalk art and played on inflatables.

Anderson said, "Great crowd; I think that we just picked up right where we left off last year. It keeps growing every year. The chamber is great to work with at this event. And it's a fun event, you know, featuring our downtown merchants, and restaurants and retail. And we come out here and have a great time, featuring local agriculture and farmers, as well. So, a lot of fun!"

Maybe the youngest business owner at this year's event was Lindsey Lowery, a student (not a graduate, a student!) at Cullman High School who won a free booth at this year's 2nd Fridays in a competition sponsored by the Chamber's Young Entrepreneurs' Academy (YEA!). (See www.cullmantribune.com/articles/2018/04/06/cullman-area-students-step-shark-tank-kickstart-their-own-businesses. Her business, "Pixie Fudge," is based on a family recipe and features unique fudge flavors like cotton candy and bubble gum, in addition to classics like chocolate and peanut butter.

Since the "Shark Tank" style competition, Lowery shared with The Tribune, "It's been really good: like I've been updating the website and I'm going to almost get that up when school starts back. And I've gotten out of debt; I've paid all my dues and I'm into a lot of profit now, and I've gotten shirts and a bag, and just getting a business started, really."

About bringing Pixie Fudge into the public eye at her first 2nd Friday, Lowery said, "Well, it's been good so far, getting out there and getting my product out there, and everybody showing how much they really love my fudge. Seeing kids' faces is my favorite thing, because kids just coming up are like, 'Mmm, that's really good!' and 'Oh, that's so yummy!' That's just my favorite part about it. It's a really good experience."

2nd Fridays will return to downtown Cullman on Friday, July 13, from 5-10 p.m.

Summer safety feature: swimming

Heather Mann
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – As summer progresses and heat indexes rise, pools, lakes and beaches will see more and more usage each day. While fun, dangers exist for swimmers, especially younger children. Drowning can happen to anybody under the wrong circumstances; swimmers should be aware of the signs and risks.

One of the best ways to prevent drowning is for a swimmer to know his or her limitations: how deep is the water? How long can a swimmer hold his or her breath? How long has he or she been swimming without a break? How vigorous is the activity?

Maddie Angle, one of the head lifeguards at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center, stated that one of the biggest problems CWAC lifeguards face is children who think they're better swimmers than they actually are who end up pushing themselves to the point of being overwhelmed.

A proactive thing that families with younger children or people who can't swim well can do is enroll in swimming classes and use appropriate flotation devices.

Cullman Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and CWAC heavily emphasize parents keeping an eye on their children.

James Curtis, EMS director, commented, "Really pay close attention to your kids. Be engaged with them, be observant."

Angle warned, "Anything can happen to a child at any moment, no matter how good of a swimmer they are."

Clay McAlpin, one of the CWAC's lead lifeguards, added, "It all happens extremely fast. Within the blink of an eye, anything could go down, and you just gotta react as fast and efficiently as possible."

"Obvious" vs. silent signs of drowning

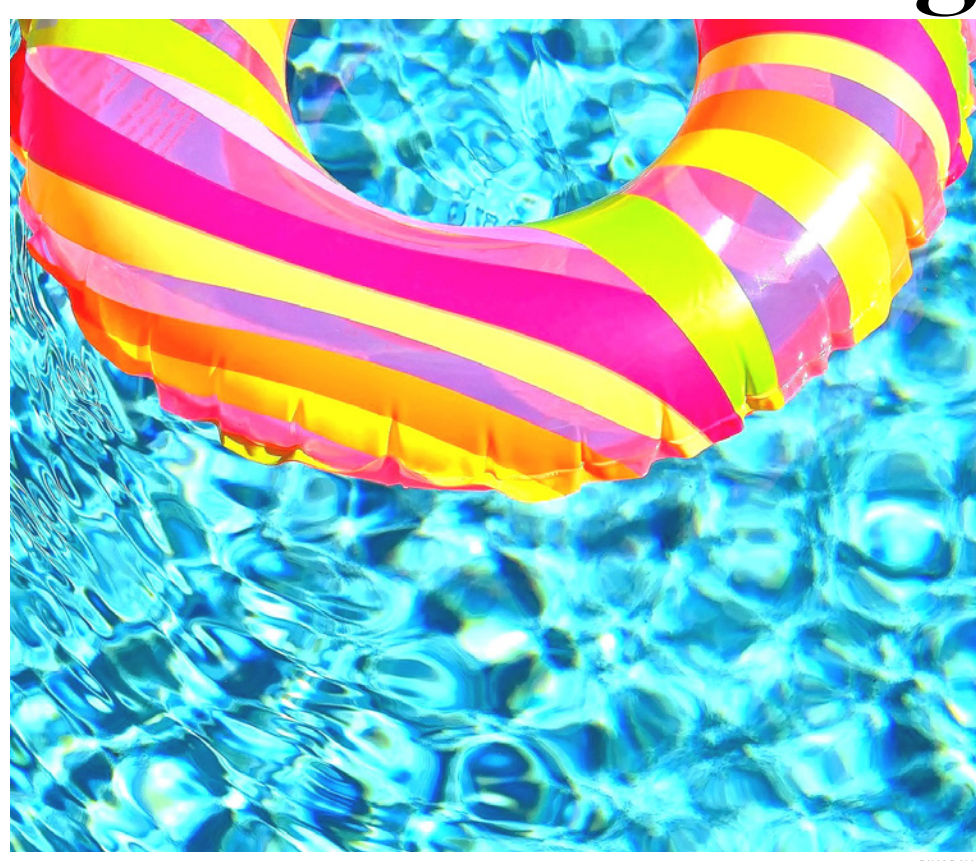
Some of the "obvious" warning signs that someone may be drowning: flailing arms, gasping for air, trying to yell, bobbing up and down and a panicked look on their face.

Unfortunately, many drownings can also be nearly silent and unnoticeable until it's too late. The Instinctive Drowning Response (IDR) is a natural instinct for self-preservation against drowning, and it often looks very different from what many untrained people believe drowning looks like. Because the need for breathing takes precedence over speech, IDR victims are unable to call for help, and their mouths are often above the water barely long enough to get a breath.

There is also little voluntary arm movement like waving for help or reaching out to a rescuer in these cases as the arms naturally want to push against the water to stay afloat.

Know the area

Other general safety tips include knowing the area in which you are swimming. For private pools this means making sure there are appropriate barricades to keep younger children away from the water, marking shallow and deep ends, and knowing where the emergency rescue items are. For larger bodies of water like lakes or ponds, never dive in head-first if the water is murky, if it's dark outside or in any other situation that would impede your ability to see what's in the water or judge its depth.



PIXABAY

Electric Shock Drowning (ESD)

The Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association (ESDPA) recommends the following as guidelines to prevent ESD:

• NEVER swim in or near marinas, docks or boatyards.

• Tell others about the danger of Electric Shock Drowning. Most people have never heard of ESD and are unaware of the danger.

• If you are a boat owner, have your boat inspected by an electrician with current ABYC (American Boat and Yacht Council) Electrical Certification or by an ABYC Certified Technician. Boats with alternating current (AC) systems should have isolation transformers or equipment leakage circuit interrupter (ELCI) protection, comply with American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) standards, and should be serviced by an ABYC Certified Technician. Click here (www.charlesindustries.com/marineelectricalsafety.html) to learn about isolation transformers.

• Talk to marina owners or operators about the danger of electric shock drowning. Ask them to install GFCIs on all shore power pedestals and on all marina wiring circuits. Ask if they are having their marinas regularly inspected by qualified electricians who are familiar with National Fire Protection Association Codes: NFPA 303 and NFPA 70.

• "NO SWIMMING" Around AC Powered Docks:

The ESDPA strongly discourages swimming around boats, docks, and marinas that use AC electrical power for any purpose (boat power, electrical outlets, lighting, boat lifts, aerators, etc.). It is the ESDPA's position that swimming around boats, docks, or marinas using AC electrical power should be strictly prohibited. We recommend that signs be posted to warn people of the dangers associated with swimming around any equipment powered by AC electricity. Additionally, for marinas, docks, and boatyards, we advocate for the establishment of a "NO SWIMMING" policy, supported by appropriate signage, notifications, facility monitoring, and enforcement by appropriately trained staff.

Learn more at www.electricshockdrowning.org.

As a final comment, Curtis encouraged people to become CPR certified. "Go out, take the class and be empowered with the knowledge to impact other lives. Those first few moments are really critical for saving a life."

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JUNE 12, 2018

More than 100 turn out for Jeremiah Castille, Character Camp

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – The 11th annual Castille Character Camp took place on the turf of Oliver Woodard Stadium Saturday morning on the campus of Cullman High School, and more than a hundred young athletes came out to get some hands-on training from former college players and coaches. The non-contact skills camp is designed to teach things like teamwork, self-discipline and hard work while also building the campers' physical attributes.

The camp is free for athletes ranging from first grade to 12th grade and is divided into four quarters, with Character Corner making up halftime.

The first quarter is made up of combine drills such as the 40-yard dash and 5-10-5 drill, the second quarter is speed and agility, the third quarter is position training and the fourth quarter is time to have some fun with flag football and other games.

In his 11th year running the camp, former Crimson Tide great Jeremiah Castille said he believes that hosting the camp for free is one of the keys to the camp's success and makes it a great event that some kids otherwise wouldn't enjoy.

"That's really the only way to do it is for it to be free," Castille said. "That way you never have any campers saying that they couldn't afford to come. So, when you make it free for the community, it's an awesome opportunity for everybody to participate."

During Character Corner, campers heard from one of their coaches, Elisha Shaw. Shaw is a former five-star defensive tackle prospect who signed with Alabama in 2014; a neck injury during his senior season at Tucker High School in Georgia ended his playing career just as it was truly beginning. Coach Nick Saban and the University of Alabama stood by Shaw's scholarship offer and ever since he arrived in Tuscaloosa, Shaw has been working on his newfound passions around the program: coaching and recruiting.

Shaw was the main speaker during Character Corner and shared a message of determination and the importance of keeping a positive attitude.

Castille believes the character component of the camp is one of the most important things to pass on to young athletes today.

"We do the physical training so that we can do the mental part that we're getting ready to do now," Castille said.

"They go together, teaching them about having the right type of character and how important that is in their development as an athlete."

Castille had a quick answer for why his camp keeps coming back to Cullman year after year.

"The people," Castille smiled. "TJ and Buddy Franey and John Riley at Cullman Savings Bank do a lot for us as well. They have a heart for this community and helping the young athletes in their community."



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Alabama Football's Elisha Shaw leads a group of athletes at Saturday's Castille Character Camp at Cullman High School.

Cullman head football coach Matt Plunkett enjoyed his first Castille Character Camp as the 'Cats coach, saying one of the things he was most excited about was seeing the hard work and winning culture that Castille and his coaches brought to campus.

"It's a blast, and the fun I get is seeing the young men and the kids in our community having a blast getting better. To me what's really big is you've got high character people from the University of Alabama coming here and working on our field. That's a no-brainer to me to get our kids around that mentality and that's the culture we want," Plunkett said.

"We want that winning attitude culture, that hard work culture, that disciplined culture that Coach Saban has built at Alabama. Obviously, we want that kind of culture here and what a better way to get it done than to have those players come here."

Plunkett continued, "First off, if you don't have character you'll never reach your big goals. You can win some games, but you're never going to reach the big goals and win the big games because eventually you're always going to meet up against somebody that has worked as hard as you and the thing that has to be the difference is your character. That's got to be the separation, so that's what we've been talking about with our kids at Cullman for the past four months. We want that to be the biggest difference and the thing that separates us from our competition. Having Coach Castille teach that is priceless for our players, priceless."

Castille's camp fit perfectly into the Bearcats' summer workout program and Plunkett was happy to see so many of his players working to get better on a Saturday morning.

"We ask our players to make 24 mandatory workouts in the summer and we design 30 workouts. If you make 24 workouts, you earn 24 stars on your helmet so by being here today, I'm giving them two stars on their helmet. They have to earn 24 stars before July 22 or they'll have to go through a mandatory conditioning test. So, this is big for them and we've got a lot of guys here," Plunkett said.

"A lot of our players are at a Hoover baseball tournament today and there's some play dates at Wallace State for basketball, so we've got some guys over there today, but we've got a good number here. From what I've been told, it's the best representation Cullman's ever had at Coach Castille's Character Camp and that really makes me happy."

Cullman Swim Team nabs victory from Arab on the road

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman Swim Team (CST), the Tritons, came away with the win Thursday over Arab. The final meet score was Cullman, 493 and Arab, 218.

CST first-place finishers included:

- Charlie Long (8 & Under) 100 Yard IM, 25 Yard Breaststroke and 25 Yard Butterfly
- Lauren Windham (8 & Under) 100 Yard IM, 25 Yard Freestyle and 25 Yard Breaststroke
- Mason Fuller (9-10) 100 Yard IM, 50 Yard Freestyle and 50 Yard Butterfly
- Luke Johnson (11-12) 100 Yard IM and 50 Yard Butterfly
- CJ Arnold (13-14) 100 Yard IM, 50 Yard Backstroke, 50 Yard Butterfly
- Anna Page (13-14) 100 Yard IM and 50 Yard Freestyle
- Jonah Hilb (15-18) 100 Yard IM, 50 Yard Breaststroke and 50 Yard Butterfly
- Claire Ogstad (15-18) 100 Yard IM and 50 Yard Breaststroke
- Georgia Dowdy (6 & Under) 25 Yard Freestyle and Backstroke
- Aubrey Helms (11-12) 50 Yard Freestyle, 50 Yard Backstroke and 100 Yard Freestyle
- Elizabeth Hazard (11-12) 50 Yard Freestyle
- Adam Cooner (15-18) 50 Yard Freestyle and 100 Freestyle
- Kelly Warren (15-18) 50 Yard Freestyle and 50 Yard Butterfly
- Rhett Tysinger (9-10) 50 Yard Breaststroke
- Caroline Haugh (11-12) 50 Yard Breaststroke
- Brody Schaefer (13-14) 50 Yard Breaststroke and 100 Freestyle
- Ruby Hudson (13-14) 50 Yard Breaststroke, 50 Yard Butterfly and 100 Freestyle
- Colin Hyde (8 & Under) 25 Yard Backstroke
- Madeline Dowdy (8 & Under) 25 Yard Backstroke and 25 Yard Butterfly
- Will Cooner (9-10) 50 Yard Backstroke
- Maria Windham (13-14) 50 Yard Backstroke
- Devon Campbell (15-18) 50 Yard Backstroke
- Jordan Windham (15-18) 50 Yard Backstroke and 100 Yard Freestyle
- Clark Freeman (8 & Under) 50 Yard Freestyle
- Grayson Randall (9-10) 100 Yard Freestyle
- Girls (8 & Under) 100 Yard Medley Relay: Leah Hilb, Lauren Windham, Madeline Dowdy and Edie Hudson
- Boys (9-10) 200 Yard Medley Relay: Will Cooner, Rhett Tysinger, Mason Fuller and Randall Grayson
- Boys (13-14) 200 Yard Medley Relay: CJ Arnold, Brody Schaefer, Jacob Hilb and Rhett Tucker
- Girls (13-14) 200 Yard Medley Relay: Kyleigh Potter, Maria Windham, Anna Page and Ruby Hudson
- Boys (15-18) 200 Yard Medley Relay: Devon Campbell, Garrison Haigh, Adam Cooner and Jonah Hilb
- Girls (15-18) 200 Yard Medley Relay: Jordan Windham, Claire Ogstad, Kelly Warren and Anna Hilb
- Boys (8 & Under) 100 Yard Freestyle Relay: Clark Freeman, Colin Hyde, Tate Tystinger and Charlie Long
- Girls (8 and Under) 100 Yard Freestyle Relay: Madeline Dowdy, Edie Hudson, Makena Evans and Lauren Windham
- Boys (9-10) 200 Yard Freestyle Relay: Rhett Tysinger, Grayson Randall, Camp Smith and Mason Fuller
- Boys (11-12) 200 Yard Freestyle Relay: Aubrey Helms, Chase Duncan, Caden Hornsby and Luke Johnson
- Boys (13-14) 200 Yard Freestyle Relay: CJ Arnold, Brody Schaefer, Rhett Tucker and Jacob Hilb
- Girls (13-14) 200 Yard Freestyle Relay: Anna Page, Maria Windham, Kyleigh Potter and Ruby Hudson
- Boys (15-18) 200 Yard Freestyle Relay: Jonah Hilb, Devon Campbell, Garrison Haigh and Adam Cooner
- Girls (15-18) 200 Yard Freestyle Relay: Kelly Warren, Jordan Windham, Anna Hilb and Claire Ogstad

Stats provided by CST parent Joey Duncan.



JOEY DUNCAN



Annual Bow-Up Against Breast Cancer event draws crowd for a good cause

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Bow Hunters of Alabama (BHA) and the Heritage Archery Club teamed up to co-host the seventh-annual Bow-Up Against Breast Cancer 3-D Archery Tournament Saturday and Sunday. Held at Cullman Archery Park, the event benefits the Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama (BCRFA).

Bowhunters and archers from all over the Southeast participated in the event, which has become a staple in the archery community over the years. One of the founders of the Bow-up event here in Cullman, Cameron Mitchell, said the tournament is one of the BCRFA's more lucrative fundraisers. Over the first six years of the tournament, the event raised more than $140,000 for breast cancer research, and this year's turnout was projected one of the biggest yet.

Mitchell said he was just looking to do his part and support the (BCRFA) through one of his passions but quickly realized that this event could grow into a big difference maker for the archery community and breast cancer research.

"When I started this, I didn't have any particular motive like a family member, mom or sister with breast cancer or anything like that, I just wanted to do something to give back as a bowhunter. So, I got to talking to the right people at the BHA and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and it kind of started snowballing and the next thing you know we've got a really good tournament going," said Mitchell.

"The first year our goal was $15,000, and we ended up raising $23,000, which shattered records for an inaugural event for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. That year we had, at the time, the biggest turnout for an archery tournament in the state for BHA so we knew then that this was going to be a successful event." Mitchell continued.

"It took a couple of years to get the train rolling as far as getting sponsorships and we thought it would take a couple years to get the attendance, but as the event grew it sort of became a staple in the state archery tournaments. People realized this is a tournament they want to come to every year, and as it grew and grew and grew, sponsorships were easier to come by and got more people interested in archery. People who had never shot before started coming to this event for 3-D archery and you can talk to any random person here and they'll tell you that they believe in what the Breast Cancer Research Foundation does, 'I'm a bow hunter, I'm an archer and I'm shooting for, 'fill in the blank person.'' There have been so many people on this range over the last two days shooting for an individual person."

Mitchell also credits the local venue for some of the event's popularity.

"The archery park here in Cullman, it's one of the best in the state. It's centrally located, easy to get to, they keep it manicured and cleaned up, you have a really nice pavilion here for events, they keep the trails cut and I mean we can't really think of a better location as far as where we should have this event each year," Mitchell said.

"It's right off I-65, 4 miles from the interstate and you're here, right across from the golf course; you can't miss it and it's an amazing facility."

There are always high expectations for the event each year due to it's past success, but Mitchell said he doesn't want to try and define what makes the tournament a success. Every contribution matters, so Mitchell is happy to see the event help out regardless of the final numbers.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

An archer takes aim at his target at this year's Bow-Up Against Breast Cancer tournament in Cullman.

"Our sponsorship numbers were down a little bit; however, donations were up. So, it's probably going to be a wash and break even. The thing is we don't ever want to get locked in to saying, 'We have to raise this much money, or it won't be a successful event' or 'We've got to have this many people or it won't be a successful event.' People are coming to shoot, so it's done. As long as we can get a few folks to donate money and the weather holds out, which it has every year, it's going to be a success," said Mitchell.

"They come out here and shoot their best scores of the year; we set the range at a distance where you can shoot a high score because we want people leaving here saying, 'I love archery, I love this cause, this is great, and I want to come back next year.' We're trying to generate revenue; it's a business for breast cancer research and that's the end result," Mitchell said.

"How much money can we raise for breast cancer research? Every dollar counts, the research foundation does tremendous things at UAB. We've averaged about $30,000 a year at this event which is really good. We've had higher years and lower years but it's always a successful event, so I'm really happy to be here and happy to have the city of Cullman help out with it; we appreciate it every year."

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COLUMN

Black Bears on the move in Alabama

David Rainer
Ala. Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources

When the photo popped up on my smartphone, I wasn't sure what it was. Something was swimming in the south end of Mobile Bay, and I facetiously asked, "Killer whale?"

The reply came back, "Black bear." I expanded the photo, and, yep, there was a telltale round, black ear. I knew this photo, taken by inshore fishing guide Patrick Hill, would go viral.

However, as rare as this sighting may be, this is not the first time it's happened. About 20 or so years ago, a black bear swam the south end of Mobile Bay, hung out on the Eastern Shore a little while, and swam back to where he came from, probably headed toward a population of black bears in the Grand Bay area.

Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division Large Carnivore Coordinator Thomas Harms was not really surprised that a black bear took a shortcut recently, headed west from the Fort Morgan area.

"We have bear pictures from Orange Beach and Fort Morgan and the Weeks Bay area," Harms said. "I think there is a corridor there. These bears sometimes just make a big loop.

"Bears are excellent swimmers. It was probably just a young male on the move."

If anyone should see a bear, Harms said the main course of action is to remain calm and let the bear leave the area.

"There's no need to freak out if you see a bear," he said. "It's kind of like my father taught me about chainsaws. He said don't be scared of them but respect them. It's the same thing with animals. If you're scared of it, just like chainsaws, it has the potential to hurt you. With a bear, don't fear it. When you see one, give it space and let it go away on its own.

"We've never had a bear attack in Alabama. It's even rare in the states where the population densities of bears are much higher. Just give them space, and let them know you're there. They don't see very well and don't hear very well. Say whatever you want to, just be loud and let them know you're there. They will typically turn around and leave."

Harms said the black bear males in Alabama can reach weights of 250-300 pounds and live to be 15-20 years old. Females usually weigh 150-200 pounds. Harms said the likely adult population of bears for the entire state is estimated at 300-400 animals. The population in northeast Alabama has a Georgia ancestry, while the southwest population has Florida roots.

He said a new small population has popped up in Conecuh National Forest in Escambia County.

"I've got pictures of a sow with cubs in Conecuh National Forest," Harms said. "If you have a sow with cubs, you know you have a viable population of bears living there."

Harms said the annual cycle for black bears starts in February when the sows drop their cubs. In April and May, the males start expanding their home range first, followed by the females with the yearling cubs. The year-old females will settle on the fringes of the mother's home range, but the yearling males are run completely out of the area, which is when the bulk of the human contact occurs.

"These young males get pushed out by their mothers, and then they get pushed even farther by the adult males," Harms said. "These males are young and dumb. If they detect a dominant male, usually by smell, they'll keep moving until they find a place where they don't detect any other males. These are typically the ones that get turned around and into the suburbs and cities.

"The bulk of the calls we get this time of year is these young males passing through people's yards in downtown Birmingham. It happens every year. We had one in downtown Daphne. One went from Georgia, through Alabama, all the way to Mississippi. That bear may stay there, but it could turn around and come back."

Right now, June and July is the breeding season for Alabama bears, which means the adult males will be on the move.

"The large adult males are looking around for receptive females this time of year," Harms said. "June and July is when the adult males are moving the most. The home range for an adult male can be up to 59 square miles, depending on the habitat. For females, the home range is about 20 square miles.

"Habitat in the southwest part of the state is a lot better, which makes the home range smaller than in northeast Alabama. It's just the type of habitat. You go from mountainous habitat in the northeast to bottomlands in the southwest with tons of fruits, berries and vegetation. The bears live in the bottomlands and use them for corridors. They go to the uplands to eat. But they're never too far from water. In the southwest, they don't have to go too far to the next drainage. In the northeast, they may have to cross a mountain. They have to go much longer distances to get the same benefits."

Harms said the bears in Alabama have a 94-percent vegetarian diet. Because Alabama does not have harsh winters, the bears can thrive with much less protein in the diet. He said bears are opportunistic meat eaters if they stumble onto a whitetail fawn or surprise a rabbit.

"Bears can't chase down a rabbit, and once a fawn is able to get up and run, the bear can't chase it down," he said.

"Bears can reach speeds of 35 miles per hour, but only for very short distances. They are not very good predators. They will take advantage of any dead animals they come across, sometimes called carrion. Deer that succumb to the rigors of winter and the rut often become the main course for a lucky bear."

Harms said bears in Alabama don't really hibernate. During the few cold days of winter, he said bears will do like humans and stay inside, sleeping in their dens until the weather warms up again. The bears have put on the fat for the winter and rarely travel far from the den area until spring.

In areas where known bear ranges are adjacent to suburban subdivisions,



PATRICK HILL/AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Inshore fishing guide Patrick Hill found an unusual sight recently on a trip near Fort Morgan. He managed to take a couple of photos of a black bear swimming west in the south end of Mobile Bay. A trail camera captured a photo of a female bear with cubs, indicating a viable population is in that area.

Harms said homeowners need to make sure they don't entice the bears to venture onto their property.

"In some of these subdivisions, people like to put up feeders so they can watch wildlife, like deer," he said. "But there is a danger of bringing a bear near your house. You need to make sure that feeder is a few hundred yards away from the house. Make sure the bears can't get to dog food or anything like that. If a bear constantly comes close to a house, it's going to lose that fear of humans. Most bear attacks happen with bears that have lost their fear of humans. We need to avoid that."

In instances when it's not practical to keep food sources from the bears, Harms suggests using hot-wire fencing to deter the bears. Dogs bred to be guard dogs can also help keep bears at bay.

"But, you don't want a dog that will chase the bear," Harms said. "The dog will eventually catch up with the bear and may end up getting hurt when the bear turns around to defend itself."

Harms said there is a common myth a bear will stand on its hind legs before attacking. "The only reason bears get on their hind legs is to get their noses high in the air so they can smell you," he said.

Harms said anyone with an interest in black bears can visit www.bearwise.org. The website is supported by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA). The Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries is a member of SEAFWA.

"The Bearwise website is a very good resource," Harms said. "Any questions you have about black bears will be answered on that website."

Obituary Announcements: June 12 - 13

Services for Ottis "Bootie" McAlpin, 81 of the Riverside community, will be held 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at the Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Jimmy Martin officiating. Interment will follow at Riverside Cemetery. Visitation Monday evening at the funeral home beginning start 5:30 p.m. Mr. McAlpin, a poultry and cattle farmer died Saturday. The son of the late Jahue and Gladys Shaddrix McAlpin is survived by his wife Faye McAlpin; Daughter, Donna (Paul) Brown; grandchildren, Brandi Trimble and Kevin (Kelsey) Trimble; great grandchildren Anna-Kaitlyn, Nick and Jayden Shea. Also surviving are Brothers, Sonny, Manuel (Betty Sue) and Tony McAlpin; a sister, Doris (James) Norred and an aunt, Sybil Baker. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Debbie Trimble; Grandson, Jay Trimble and a brother, Kenneth McAlpin.

Funeral service for Patsey Paridee will be Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 7 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Tim Bates will be officiating. Mrs. Paridee was born May 12, 1944 to Bill and Opaline Harper. She passed away Saturday, June 9, 2018. She is preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Dale Harper and a daughter Pam Paridee. Survivors include a daughter, Tina Boyd, grandchildren, Madison, Ashton, and Kayla, great grandchildren, Keela and Kasen, a brother, Mark (Fran) Harper, and sister-in-law, Rita Harper.

Duel Lee Seymore, 78 of Stockbridge, died Friday June 8, 2018. He was born in Cullman, Alabama to the late Herman Lee and I.V. Stephenson Seymore. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Virginia Williams, and JoAnn Seymore. Duel was retired from the Center for Disease Control. He was an avid fisherman, hunter, gardener, and sports fan. Mr. Seymore is survived by his wife, Brenda Fay Grimmett Seymore; mother-in-law, Opal Ponder; daughters, Rhonda (Bobby) Ross, Sondra (Susan Rushing) Landrum, Tanua (Jim) Belue; grandchildren, Felicia Cook, Bobby (Brandy) Fair, Lexi Carpenter, Asa Belue; great-grandson, Mason Cook; siblings, Yvonne (Allen) Glover, JC (Patricia) Seymore, Patricia (Troy) Bartlett, Bruce Seymore; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, loved ones, and friends. The family will receive friends Monday, June 11 from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Cannon Cleveland and on Tuesday, June 12 from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home in Cullman, AL. Funeral Services will be held Wednesday, June 13 at 11 a.m. at Cullman Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Nesmith Church Cemetery in Addison.

Funeral Service for Lyda Woodley Pace, 88 of Eva, will be at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Rev. Delbert Freeman officiating; burial at Etha Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Pace passed away on Sunday, June 10, 2018 at her residence. She was born, August 06, 1929 to Henry Leslie and Vada Beatrice Woodley. She is preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her husband, Robert Pace, daughters, Beverly Busby and Donna Miller, sons, Robert Pace, II and Roy Pace, grandchildren, Kelly Ann (Brent) Finley, Tina Pace, Jason (LeighAnn) Busby, Robert (Shay) Pace, Crystal (Kevin) Gibson, great grandchildren, Brody, Ashton, Jase, Jaleigh, Walter, Kailey, Raegan, Christopher, Kadence, Dominic, Kristina, Kayla, Clair, Gavin, and Connor. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Dorotha Horton Wood, age 96, peacefully passed into heaven Saturday evening June 9th at Cullman Regional Medical Center. Born January 29, 1922 to the late Griffin Rueben and Minnie Jackson Horton on the Bootsville Farm in Pine Ridge Community near Fort Payne. Mrs. Wood or "Aunt Dot" spent her life caring for others. The last of 14 children lived for the last 15 years in Hanceville. Formerly of Fort Payne and Athens she and her husband Woodrow (Woody) were supervisors at Desoto State Park for many years. After moving to Athens she worked in retail business until she retired. She will be remembered for her kind manner, sweet smile and love for her nephews and nieces and her many friends at New Oregon Methodist Church, The Fountains of Fort Payne, Al, Victorian Manor and Village Place of Hanceville. She leaves behind her caregiver nephew Lane (Nancy) Horton of Hanceville, Al; Nephew, Mike (Pat) Cox of Madison, Al. and numerous other nephews, nieces, great and great-great-nephews and nieces. She was preceded in death by her husband Woodrow Wilson Wood and her 13 siblings. She was lovingly cared for by her nephew Lane, Tina Miller, Kathy Davis, Renita Cook and the staff at Brookdale Assisted Living in Hanceville. Funeral Services are 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at Mt. Hermon Baptist Church, Fort Payne with burial to follow at Glenwood Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Brian, Howard, Nathan, R.J., Tommy Horton and Anthony Marks. Visitation Tuesday evening 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Hanceville Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hanceville United Methodist Church or New Oregon Methodist Church.

Funeral service for Jean Hite Rainwater will be 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at Cullman First United Methodist Church. Visitation will be from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. Wednesday at the church. Interment will be at the Cullman Heritage Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mrs. Rainwater passed away June 9, 2018. She was born January 15, 1939 in Cullman, Alabama. She was preceded in death by her mother Martha Zora Bowen (Robert), a sister Martha Jane Maddox (Joe), and a husband Neil Ed Rainwater. Survivors include a daughter, Dana; two sons, Neil Ed II (Pam) and Clark (Dayla); four grandchildren, Ashleigh (Hinton), Sam (McKenzie), Kelsey, and Tucker; two great-grandchildren, Isabella and Luca; and two nephews Todd Maddox and Scott Maddox. In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations be made to the First United Methodist Church Building Fund. The family would like to take this opportunity to thank the following healthcare providers involved with our mother's treatment: Cullman Internal Medicine and Folsom Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare.

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18 local students make JSU's spring 2018 honor's list

Buffy Lockette
Contributor

JACKSONVILLE – Jacksonville State University has announced its honor's list for spring 2018. To be named to the President's List, a student must earn a perfect 4.0 GPA while attending full-time. Full-time students earning a GPA of 3.5-3.99 are named to the Deans' List of their respective schools.

Local honorees include:

- Micheal Myrick, a biology major from Bremen, President's List
- Bonnie Chasteen, a biology major from Cleveland, Dean's List
- Tyler Glenn, a criminal justice major from Cullman, Dean's List
- Katelyn Downs, an early childhood elementary education major from Cullman, President's List
- Katie Peyton, an English major from Cullman, President's List
- Justin Turner, a management major from Cullman, Dean's List
- Justin Raper, a respiratory therapy major from Cullman, President's List
- Zoe Chafin, an undecided-management major from Cullman, Dean's List
- Harley Stickney, an art major from Cullman, President's List
- Sandy Byrd, a nursing major from Cullman, Dean's List
- Allison Grund, a biology major from Cullman, President's List
- Anna Mangum, a biology major from Cullman, President's List
- Caleb Chambers, a physical education major from Cullman, President's List
- Debra Curington, a nursing major from Hanceville, President's List
- Aaron Peeples, a sport management and recreation studies major from Hanceville, President's List
- Candice Mason, a criminal justice major from Locust Fork, Dean's List
- Lauren Fuller, a biology major from Locust Fork, Dean's List
- Wesley Brewer, a political science major from Locust Fork, President's List

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Mark (from Front)

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – The East Elementary archery squad brought home third place in the Bullseye shoot at the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) World Tournament in Louisville over the weekend thanks in part to some standout performances and a total score of 3,215. Cullman Middle School and West Point High School also competed in this year's Bullseye event at the World Tournament, finishing in 24th place and 38th place in their divisions, respectively.

East Elementary and Cullman Middle School posted big scores in the International Bowhunting Organization (IBO) 3D shoot as well, with Cullman Middle's Will Bolzle finishing first among all sixth graders and seventh overall in the middle school division.

Bolzle's performance helped lead CMS to a score of 1,670 and a seventh-place finish in the event. East Elementary's Ava Ray also stood out among the pack during the IBO 3D Shoot, helping to lead East to a fifth-place finish after posting a 281, placing her third amongst all elementary shooters and second among fifth graders. Vinemont Elementary's Kayden Henderson captured third place in the 3D Ministries Shoot with a score of 275. Henderson's score put him at first place among all fifth graders and third place in the Elementary division overall.

Vinemont Elementary head coach Josh Drake had high hopes for Henderson going into the season, but he didn't anticipate making a trip to the world tournament.

"He shot well last year as a fourth-grader, but this year I expected big things from him. He didn't really find his groove until we went to state; that's when he really found his groove and kind of progressed from there. He finished third at nationals and qualified for the world tournament," Drake said. "I thought he would do well this year, but I didn't know if he'd get that high. I knew coming back that he was probably going to be one of our top archers, but archery is such a mental game and people don't really realize that. So, it really started clicking for him after state and he found his groove and he really started becoming an archer. He had the ability all year, it was just a matter of it clicking for him."

Henderson will move on to compete at the middle school level next year and Drake is excited to see him continue to grow as an archer.

"He's just got to continue to grow mentally. He can get there, but he just can't get in his head. You can't always shoot your best, it's just like life," Drake said. "There's ups and downs in archery and there's going to be ups and downs in life and you have to overcome the low points. You're not always going to out there and throw up a 288 or a 290; you have to overcome errors."

East Elementary head coach Branch Whitlock was impressed with how his squad scored on Saturday, especially considering they didn't have a full roster of archers on the trip.

"After nationals it's a little difficult to get the buy-in from the entire team to attend, so we actually went kind of short handed with 16 kids and it's hard to compete when you don't have a full 24," Whitlock said. "So, if you had told me at the beginning of the year that with 16 kids we could finish third in the world, I would've been happy with that for sure."

Whitlock is the head coach for Cullman Middle School's archery team as well and since he couldn't always be hands on with the older unit, he credits the middle school squad's development to his assistant coach Doug Johnson.

"He's really kind of led the charge for the middle school team. I pretty much led the elementary team and he had the middle school team. In practices I was more of like an administrator and I kind of facilitated the path for them, but he really got in there and worked hard with them and did a great job."

Whitlock took a few moments to reflect on some of his team's individual standouts and talked about their development throughout the season, starting with fifth-grader Ava Ray.

"Since the very first day that she joined the team she's just continued to improve and works hard every day, stays focused all the time, and I knew coming into this year that she was going to be a really good archer," Whitlock said. "She just continued to work hard every single day and had a really good tournament at nationals then continued that at the world tournament and really kind of carried our team throughout the events."

Whitlock continued, touching on sixth-grader Will Bolzle's stellar season.

"Will, ever since day one, has been a really good archer and at some point, kids seem to plateau and once that happens they can either take a big drop or continue to get better and Will plateaued like most kids do and instead of getting discouraged by that, continued to put in the hard work," Whitlock said. "He finally made the jump we've been expecting him to make and taking that next level to being one of the best archers in the world and the top archer in all of sixth grade, so that's really cool for him to be able to make that kind of a jump."

Fifth-grader Brinley Hurt was another young archer who came to mind for Whitlock. When he first began coaching archery, Whitlock said, he learned about the pressure that can affect kids during competition and he was proud to see Hurt rise above that during the year.

"I've always been a basketball guy and when I got to East they asked me to coach archery and I learned as much as I could as fast as I could and one thing I learned is that archery is probably the most individually stressful sport that I've ever been part of. It really takes a toll on kids emotionally and mentally to where sometimes they can have panic attacks and it just really stresses kids out," Whitlock said.

"What happens is kids start off and they're just excited to get good. Once they get to a high level, that expectation is there for them every day. Brinley was one of those kids that got to a certain point where she was pretty good and then the stress hits and you kind of dive a bit, but by the end of the year she was one of the best we had, just doing a great job. She finished toward the top and I'm super proud of her for bouncing back after she kind of dropped a little bit."

Whitlock has been very happy to see the results at the elementary level over the years and is excited to see his archers ride that momentum into middle school competition.

"Every year I think to myself, 'This is the best group of elementary kids I've ever had,' and I've thought that for about three years in a row and we keep putting groups like that into middle school every year and it finally paid off this year at the middle school with the state championship. We had enough kids to carry over and continue the tradition at the middle school level. Now we've got back to back-to-back state championship teams that have come through the elementary level so sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade will be three groups that have all won a state championship," Whitlock said. "The expectations are very high for the middle school group going forward and I think obviously they'll have a great chance to compete at the state level but if there's ever a time for a group to step up and challenge at the national level, next year could be it. That's me putting a lot of pressure on the kids and expectations, but I think the teams out of Kentucky and Louisiana that are getting it done every year have those expectations as well."

It'll be a challenge replacing such a talented group at East Elementary next year, but Whitlock is confident that the culture and support around the program will help keep the winning tradition alive.

"Actually, next year will probably be my most difficult task as far as trying to continue the tradition of being a great archery team. I lose almost my entire team on elementary; I think we might have six kids coming back, three that were competitive at the national level. So, it'll be a big challenge for us moving forward and really, it's a challenge every year because of the turnover every year. I think you hope every year that you can bring back eight or 10 from fourth grade to fifth grade but this year my fifth-grade group was so strong that I wasn't able to carry as many fourth graders as I normally do.

"It will almost be a complete rebuild for next year, and with the expectations as high as they are for our team, it'll definitely be a tall task to continue the success, but the good thing about it is that I coach at a great school," Whitlock said.

"We have great kids, really intelligent kids that work hard all the time so there's no doubt that we can be competitive if they'll just get in and put in the work. My principal, Mr. (David) Wiggins gives me and our team every opportunity to be successful, from allowing us time to practice to making sure we have the best equipment all the time. That's definitely a blessing for the kids and for myself as a coach."

Results of local archers, NASP Bullseye Event. Top 12 scores counted toward team total
East Elementary – Total Score 3,215

- Evan Dockery, 15 tens and 281 total points
- Brinley Hurt, 12 tens and 277 total points
- Jack Yeager, 10 tens and 272 total points
- Briana Willoughby, 11 tens and 271 total points
- Arianna Scott, 11 tens and 271 total points
- Allie Stewart, 12 tens and 270 total points
- Ava Ray, 8 tens and 269 total points
- Ava Flores, 10 tens and 267 total points
- Julian Skinner, 12 tens and 262 total points
- Cole Burnham, 7 tens and 262 total points
- Piper Speake, 9 tens and 261 total points
- Cole Carden, 8 tens and 252 total points

Vinemont Elementary

- Kayden Henderson, 15 tens and 277 total points

Cullman Middle School – Total Score 3,228

- Carson Starnes, 20 tens and 288 total points
- Will Bolzle, 16 tens and 282 total points
- Samantha Johnson, 13 tens and 281 total points
- Kilie Cosper, 12 tens and 278 total points
- Jackson Henshaw, 13 tens and 276 total points
- Sarah Kate Dockery, 13 tens and 275 total points
- Roman Shields, 10 tens and 269 total points
- Emma Thompson, 10 tens and 269 total points
- Claude Thomas, 10 tens and 267 total points
- Emma Britton, 9 tens and 255 total points
- Maddie Lindsey, 5 tens and 248 total points
- Emma Ritchey, 5 tens and 240 total points

West Point High School – Total Score 3,284

- Ethan Little, 19 tens and 285 total points
- Matthew Dunagan, 17 tens and 285 total points
- Christian Parker, 17 tens and 283 total points
- Shay Sellers, 15 tens and 279 total points
- Ronnie Gentry, 14 tens and 277 total points
- Cameron Haynes, 9 tens and 275 total points
- Skyler Rittenberry, 9 tens and 271 total points
- Mackenzie Tidwell, 11 tens and 270 total points
- Sarah Hudson, 11 tens and 269 total points
- Leila Cherry, 5 tens and 267 total points
- Mallory Campbell, 15 tens and 265 total points
- Lisette Hernandez, 8 tens and 258 total points

Results of local archers, NASP IBO 3D Event. Top six scores counted toward team total.
East Elementary – Total Score 1,612

- Ava Ray, 15 tens and 281 total points
- Brinley Hurt, 10 tens and 274 total points
- Allie Stewart, 13 tens and 270 total points
- Arianna Scott, 9 tens and 267 total points
- Briana Willoughby, 10 tens and 266 total points
- Jack Yeager, 16 tens and 262 total points

Cullman Middle School – Total Score 1,670

- Will Bolzle, 21 tens and 291 total points
- Claude Thomas, 21 tens and 289 total points
- Carson Starnes, 18 tens and 286 total points
- Kilie Cosper, 14 tens and 278 total points
- Roman Shields, 11 tens and 267 total points
- Jackson Henshaw, 9 tens and 260 total points

NASP Ministries 3D Shoot

- Kayden Henderson, Vinemont Elementary, 15 tens and 275 total points

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