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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cullman County Commission approves tax abatements for potential new businesses

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman Economic Development Agency (CEDA) project manager Stanley Kennedy addressed the Cullman County Commission Tuesday evening at their monthly meeting. A couple new businesses are considering coming to Cullman and in an effort to remain competitive, CEDA asked the commission to consider offering tax abatements as incentives.

Kennedy explained, "The only reason we keep these projects confidential is there are other incentives that are being negotiated from other organizations, such as the state. What you are really doing here is promising if this company agrees to come to Cullman, because we are competing with other places, that you will give an abatement. That's why you keep it confidential."

The commission approved a tax abatement for Project Triple J in the investment of $530,000. "Project Triple J is a county project and it is a very small investment but it's going to create four high paying engineering type jobs. I can't really get into what they are engineering yet, but it's » PAGE 8

– EDUCATION –

CCPS, CMS expansions planned to address elementary overcrowding, CHS athletic upgrades also in the works



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Architectural rendering of Cullman Middle School expansion.

Trent Moore
Cullman City Schools

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman City Schools is growing, and expansions at several campuses are being mapped out to ensure the system is well-positioned to handle enrollment across all grade levels in the coming years.

The school board is working to address student safety and growth within the system. A key part of that plan includes expansions at Cullman City Primary School and Cullman Middle School in order to eventually move two grade levels out of East Elementary School and West Elementary School.

At Cullman City Primary School, the plan calls for a new 12-classroom » PAGE 7



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Architectural rendering of Cullman City Primary School expansion.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cullman County Commission votes to release CARES Act funds as supplemental payment to Cullman County employees



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Sheriff Gentry discusses CARES Act reimbursement at Tuesday night's Cullman County Commission meeting » PAGE 6

EDUCATION

Cullman County Board of Education announces 2021 graduation dates, times » PAGE 3

– BONUS PET OF THE WEEK –

TAKE A WALK WITH GRACIE!



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Gracie » PAGE 7

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FAITH

North Alabama Quartet Convention returns to Cullman May 1

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The North Alabama Quartet Convention, which has enjoyed great success over the last two years, had to be postponed from its regular Jan. date, but is back on the calendar as a one-day event Saturday, May 1, 2021 from 1-9 p.m. at Temple Baptist Church. The event brings around 2,000 people to Cullman.

This year's lineup features host group Living Faith Quartet plus featured group The Old Paths, master of ceremonies Josh Franks, The Coffmans, New Ground, Debra Perry and Jaidyn's Call, Eagle's Wings, Unity 4 Quartet, ReSound Music and Joyful Hearts.

A statement released by Living Faith Quartet says that "this event is the largest gospel music event in the state and we are honored to bring such a great worship experience to our hometown."

Free admission

The host group's release continues, "What makes this day extra special is there is no ticket required. A love offering will be taken and all proceeds go to fund this yearly gathering. BBQ sandwiches, along with all the fixings, will be available for purchase so come and plan to stay all day."

At a glance

- Third annual North Alabama Quartet Convention
- Saturday, May 1, 2021 from 1-9 p.m.
- Temple Baptist Church, 30 CR 1184 off State Road 157 in Cullman
- Free admission, love offering collected
- Food available for purchase on-site

For more information call Mark Byrd at 256-303-0983 or visit www.livingfaithquartet.com.



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Crowd favorite Eagle's Wings, shown here performing at the 2019 convention, returns this year.

EDUCATION

Wallace State's Applied Technologies Division hosts 2021 NC3 National CTE Letter of Intent Signing Day

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – Wallace State Community College's Applied Technologies Division recently recognized multiple incoming students during the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) National CTE Letter of Intent Signing Day.

For the first time, the event was hosted on a virtual platform. Modeled like an athletics commitment event, the NC3 Signing Day celebrates students who are entering a technical field and emphasizes the importance of their career choice.

"It's awesome that Wallace State cares about its students and hosts this event," said John Foles of Sumiton, who's enrolling in Wallace State's mechatronics/electronics/robotics program. "I enjoy fixing things and understanding how they work. This program is perfect to help fulfill my career plans. I've also applied for the FAME program."

Wallace State has participated in the NC3 Signing Day since its inception in 2016. Out of an abundance of caution because of the COVID-19 pandemic, NC3 hosted many prerecorded signing videos this year.

"Congratulations to all of our students. We're so proud to have you here at Wallace State," said Wes Rakestraw, Wallace State's dean of applied technologies. "I'm excited to be celebrating National Signing Day 2021 with NC3. We love NC3 and our partnership with them. NC3 offers us a great opportunity to share wonderful training and curriculum to our students. Our students walk away with nationally recognized certifications. It's a great partnership."

Added Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics, "We are excited you have chosen to continue your important journey at Wallace State. There's never been a more exciting time to be a part of a career technical education. The demand for those professions is exceedingly great and growing exponentially every day, especially in Alabama."

Emily Edwards was among the students to commit to the welding program.

"There are different opportunities and jobs I can take with this degree," Edwards said. "I first had an interest in welding from my dad's friend, who's an underwater welder. As I've got older, I've become more and more interested, and Wallace State's program is a natural fit."

Wallace State's welding program consistently features females enrolled in its program. Anna Reese, of Locust Fork, was another female to commit to the program.

Nick Marcum and Tanner Nolan are also incoming welding students.

D.J David, Emma Brock, Elyse Koloski and Fiayla Herc pledged their commitments to the salon and spa management program.

For engineering technology, Gabriel Weems and Kelson Moore attended the signing, while John Foles, John Michael Landers and Russell Walker committed to the college's mechatronics, electronics, and robotics program.

Wallace State's diesel technology recognized three students, Hunter Wright, Sean Perejda and Robert Lee, entering the Kubota tech program, which offers certifications in pre-delivery inspection (PDI), preventive maintenance inspection (PMI), electrical I and II, hydraulics, engine, power transmission and power train brakes, steering and suspension.

"On behalf of Kubota and more than 1,100 dealership locations across the United States, we want to congratulate you on the great choices you're making to continue your education. We're proud to be working with the people at Wallace State Community College and we're confident this is a place that you can acquire the skills you need for a great career and to make a great livelihood," said Stacy Schroeder, senior manager of Kubota Tractor Corporation.

Each incoming student was recognized individually, signing with their respective programs as their future instructors and Rakestraw looked on. Students received a Wallace State hat upon signing and had the opportunity to tour their department on campus.

COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 COVID-19 update from the Alabama Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Dashboard Hub (https://bit.ly/3iVJwXK)

Case details*

- Total confirmed cases in AL: 405, 470 (+550 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in AL: 118,195 (+152 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in AL: 8,516 (+9 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in AL: 2,291
- Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co.: 6,450 (+0 since yesterday)
- Probable cases in Cullman Co.: 3,062 (-2 since yesterday)
- Total confirmed deaths in Cullman Co.: 128 (+1 since yesterday)
- Probable deaths in Cullman Co.: 63
- Total tested in Cullman Co.: 40,153
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 1,908
- Cases in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 52
- Total tested in Alabama: 2,471,982
- Cases in the last 14 days in Alabama: 3,589
- Total tested in the last 14 days in Alabama: 120,810
- Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 366
- Cumulative no. of hospitalizations in Alabama (reported M-F): 48,524
- Presumed recoveries in Alabama (reported weekly): 328,752

Vaccine details (updated Monday-Friday)

- Doses delivered to Alabama: 3,600,855
- Doses delivered to Alabama providers: 2,801,065
- Doses administered: 2,308,412
- Number of people receiving one or more doses: 1,422,883
- Number of people who have completed vaccine series: 959,131
- Doses delivered to federal programs: 799,790

Alabamians in Phases 1a, 1b and 1c (including those 16 and older) are now eligible to receive a vaccine.

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

Missed COVID-19 vaccine second-dose appointments

ADPH encourages everyone who had their first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTechor Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to schedule their appointment for the secondary vaccine dose. If an appointment is missed, it is important to reschedule it as soon as possible. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that if a delay occurs in the normal schedule for receiving a second dose of COVID-19 vaccine, the second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines may be administered up to six weeks (42 days) after the first dose. The first dose of the vaccine starts the process of building up protection, but the second dose is needed to provide a stronger immune response.

FEMA Community Vaccination Center now offering COVID-19 vaccinations

The drive-thru FEMA Community Vaccination Center located at Watermark Place (4500 Katies Way) in Bessemer is now providing vaccinations to citizens. The site is open seven days a week and appointments are available, but not required. Appointments can be made on the web scheduler located at https://myturn.timetap.com. The website also includes links to documents that will need to be reviewed prior to being vaccinated. These materials will also be available on-site.

New CDC COVID-19 vaccination resources for community-based organizations

The CDC National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases has released new resources to support community-based organizations with COVID-19 vaccination efforts. The Guide for Community Partners (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/guide-community-partners.pdf) was created to assist organizations with community-level reach to get connected to COVID-19 vaccination confidence and access efforts and resources. CDC also released a two-page document, COVID-19 Vaccine Equity: Best Practices for Community and Faith-Based Organizations (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/best-practices-CBO-FBO.pdf), which provides best practices and examples of information and logistics.

At least 35% of 23 Alabama counties' residents vaccinated

Thirty-five percent or more of the residents age 16 and older of 23 Alabama counties have received one or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine to date. Successful public health efforts to achieve vaccine equity have resulted in higher vaccine uptake among African American residents of Black Belt counties. Counties where 35% or more of their residents have been vaccinated are as follows: Lowndes, Perry, Hale, Bullock, Wilcox, Jefferson, Marengo, Shelby, Greene, Madison, Colbert, Conecuh, Dallas, Lee, Tallapoosa, Sumter, Clarke, Lauderdale, Macon, Henry, Chambers, Montgomery and Clay. Vaccines are one key to protecting the most vulnerable and helping stop the pandemic in Alabama.

Johnson & Johnson vaccine update

The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met April 14 to discuss the recommended pause in the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. ACIP did not put forth any formal recommendations during this meeting, and the pause continues at this time. ACIP will meet April 23 to further discuss the pause of use for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

National Guard COVID-19 vaccination clinic update

The Alabama National Guard continues to hold second-dose Pfizer vaccine clinics in under-served and rural counties throughout the state. The second-dose clinics are being held in the same counties that were originally visited to offer first doses. Second-dose vaccination information can be found at www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid-19vaccine/ng-clinics.html. Johnson & Johnson vaccine was not given at these clinics. Anyone who has not received a first dose is encouraged to contact his or her local county health department or visit www.alcovidvaccine.govto schedule a vaccine appointment.

ADPH still encourages use of facial coverings

Masks or other facial coverings are no longer a mandate under the Safer Apart order. ADPH still encourages the use of facial coverings and reminds everyone that masks remain one of the most successful tools to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Many businesses and health care facilities continue to require facial coverings in their facilities.

CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported April 21

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported April 21, 2021. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
No incidents or arrests reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENTS
April 19
• third-degree burglary; person; Manor Dr. NW; miscellaneous; $900
• third-degree domestic violence-harassment; harassment; person; Hwy. 157
• third-degree domestic violence-harassment; person; Katherine St. NW

April 20
• identity theft; person
• third-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; miscellaneous; $724
• fourth-degree theft of property; person; 4th St. SW; tag; $42
• third-degree forgery; person; forged check

ARRESTS
April 20
Dingler, Erica L.; 34
• third-degree theft of property
• third-degree criminal trespass

Wilkins, Timothy E.; 64
• fourth-degree theft of property

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No incidents or arrests reported.

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

Graduation (from Front)

CCBOE
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman County Schools is excited to announce the dates and times for high school graduation. All ceremonies will return to Wallace State this year.

For the first time, every graduation will be streamed LIVE on CCBOE's Facebook, YouTube and NFHS Channel free of charge.

Saturday, May 22
- 10 a.m. - Hanceville
- 12 p.m. - Cold Springs
- 2 p.m. - Good Hope
- 4 p.m. - Holly Pond
- 6 p.m. - Fairview

Sunday, May 23
- 2 p.m. - Vinemont
- 4 p.m. - West Point



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

'Come to the Well' Community Women's Bible Study
• Tuesday mornings at 10 at the Hebrews Cafe at East Side Baptist Church, 1111 Third St. SE in Cullman
• Please wear a mask/face covering.

Baileyton Bargain Days
• First and third Saturday of each month from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the old Baileyton fire station next to the town's park
• Beauty and health products, toys, home goods, pet items, food and many everyday items
• A donation of $20 will allow a shopper to fill up a bag, and for $40 a shopper can fill a large box. Some of the items of greater value will require a larger donation. There will be some restrictions and product limits on the items. Cash and checks accepted.
• Proceeds will be used for park improvements and capital improvements for the town.

Alcoholics Anonymous
The Grace of God group of Alcoholics Anonymous has open AA meetings (all are welcome) Monday and Thursday nights from 7-8 p.m. at the Carriage House, located next to Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St. NE Cullman. Contact phone numbers: 256-347-1097, 256-841-2209 or 256-708-1340

Church Services-Spirit Life Church of GOD
• Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Prayer meetings-Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Come and pray with us or come to receive prayer.
• Ladies' exercise classes- Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Children welcome.
• Classes- Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult class, "The Phases of Armageddon" by Pastor Bobby Dodd
• Sundays at 9 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points area. Call 256-841-2060 for pickup. Small group classes for adults, children and youth at 10 a.m. Praise and worship and message at 11 a.m.
• Mondays-Fridays-Our 5 Points Ministry provide free hot meals for children and elderly 3:30-5 p.m. at the Cullman Housing Authority Community Center 1545 Vine Circle SW Please call Aimee at 256-841-2060 to register or for more information. Eat in or take out. Kids' activities are available. Kids do not have to come to the center to get a free meal. Adults can list the names of the children and do takeout meals. Sponsored by Kids Loving Kids, Raising Arrows Ministry and Spirit Life Church.
• Sundays-9 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call 256-841-2060 for pickup. Small group classes for children, youth and adults at 10 a.m. Praise and Worship and message at 11 a.m.
• Sunday, April 25 - 11 a.m. Praise and Worship. message "You Can Change" by Pastor Bobby Dodd
• Free Community Dinner at Center Hill Baptist Church
• 5-6 p.m.- The first Wednesday of every month we will be offering a Free Community Dinner. Church members, community members, neighbors and friends are welcome. This will be takeout only. Please message or comment with how many plates you will need to help us prepare enough food for everyone. RSVP at http://bit.ly/centerhill.
• 13108 County Road 747, Hanceville, AL 35077

Miércoles de Despensas
• 6-7 p.m. ler. miercoles del mes, En Su Tierra Cullman FUMC
• Despensas para la comunidad. No requiere ID. Entrega en su vehículo. Por favor use mascarilla.

Festhalle Farmers Market
• 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from April – October
• Stop by to shop the freshest produce from Cullman-based farms
• For more information, call 256-590-5009 or send an email to mgraveman@cullmanrecreation.org

Agriplex April programs
Children's Programs
• April 29, 9:00 - 11:00 am, Heritage Homeschool Recycled Crafts: Reduce, reuse, recycle! In celebration of Earth month, we will use 'trash' and turn it into treasures. Join us for some up-cycling fun! Ages 3-5 with parent, $8.00 per child/ $16.00 program max per family. Registration required at Agriplex.org.

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

Valley Springs Baptist Church Spring Revival
April 25 - Valley Springs Baptist Church will hold a spring revival on Sunday, April 25, Monday, April 26, Tuesday, April 27 and Wednesday, April 28. The Sunday night service will begin at 5:00 p.m. and the Monday through Wednesday services will begin at 7 p.m. The evangelist will be Brother William McClellan. Pastor is Brother Tim Box

1st Annual Derby Day – Goat Island Brewery
May 1 – 2 p.m.-11 p.m. - Realtors from several agencies in Cullman have teamed together to fundraise for local veterans to receive the 5GB PTSD shot. Join us at Goat Island Brewery for food, fun, music, "best dressed hat" cat walk, stick horse races.. and of course, the Kentucky Derby running at 6:30 p.m. Band starts at 7 and goes until 11. We will also be having a silent auction! Admission is $10

Good Hope Public Cemetery Decoration Weekend Clean up Announcement
• May 1-2 - Good Hope Public Cemetery will hold its annual Decoration Weekend on Saturday
• May 1 and Sunday, May 2 - Please have all flowers and decorations removed from the cemetery by Sunday, April 25th. Any flowers and decorations remaining after April 25th will be subject to removal bycemetery maintenance with respect to condition. We ask that all new flowers and decorations be kept as close to the monuments as possible. Donations to the cemetery can be sent to Good Hope Public
• Cemetery P.O. Box 355 Cullman, AL. 35056 and are tax deductible and help us to pay for cemetery upkeep. Thanks.

May 2 - Decoration at Shady Grove Methodist Church at Logan
10 a.m. the first Sunday in May! Join us!

Baileyton Town Council meeting
• May 3 – 7 p.m. - The Town of Baileyton would like to invite the public and all former members of the council of Baileyton and their families to attend our next regularly scheduled Town Meeting which will be held in our new town hall for the first time!
• The Town of Baileyton would like to thank all the former council members, their families and the former mayors Roph Burks, Paul Bailey and Johnny Dyer for their leadership of our community.

2nd Annual Ridin' for Residents
• May 8 - The 2nd Annual Ridin' for Residents is coming up Saturday, May 8, 2021. This is a joint benefit between Cullman County Wranglers and USA Healthcare to bring joy and smiles to the faces of the residents of some of Cullman and surrounding areas' assisted living centers and nursing homes.
• Our inaugural event had 127 Jeeps! Let's make our 2nd event even more fun for our residents!
• If you would like to bring a donation, we are seeking stamps, stationery, blank greeting cards, pens, lotions, shower gel or card games. Donations are completely optional.
• Registration is free. We ask that you register, so we have an accurate count to give city officials, so they can offer assistance with traffic the day of the event. To register or purchase at-shirt, visit https://cullmancountywranglers.com/ridinforresidents/.
• To purchase a T-shirt, click "register," and you will see the option to purchase. To receive your shirt by the day of the event, you must order by 10:00 a.m. on April 22. Shirts are $20 and available in youth and adult sizes. (XXL and XXXL shirts are $22 and $23 respectively.)

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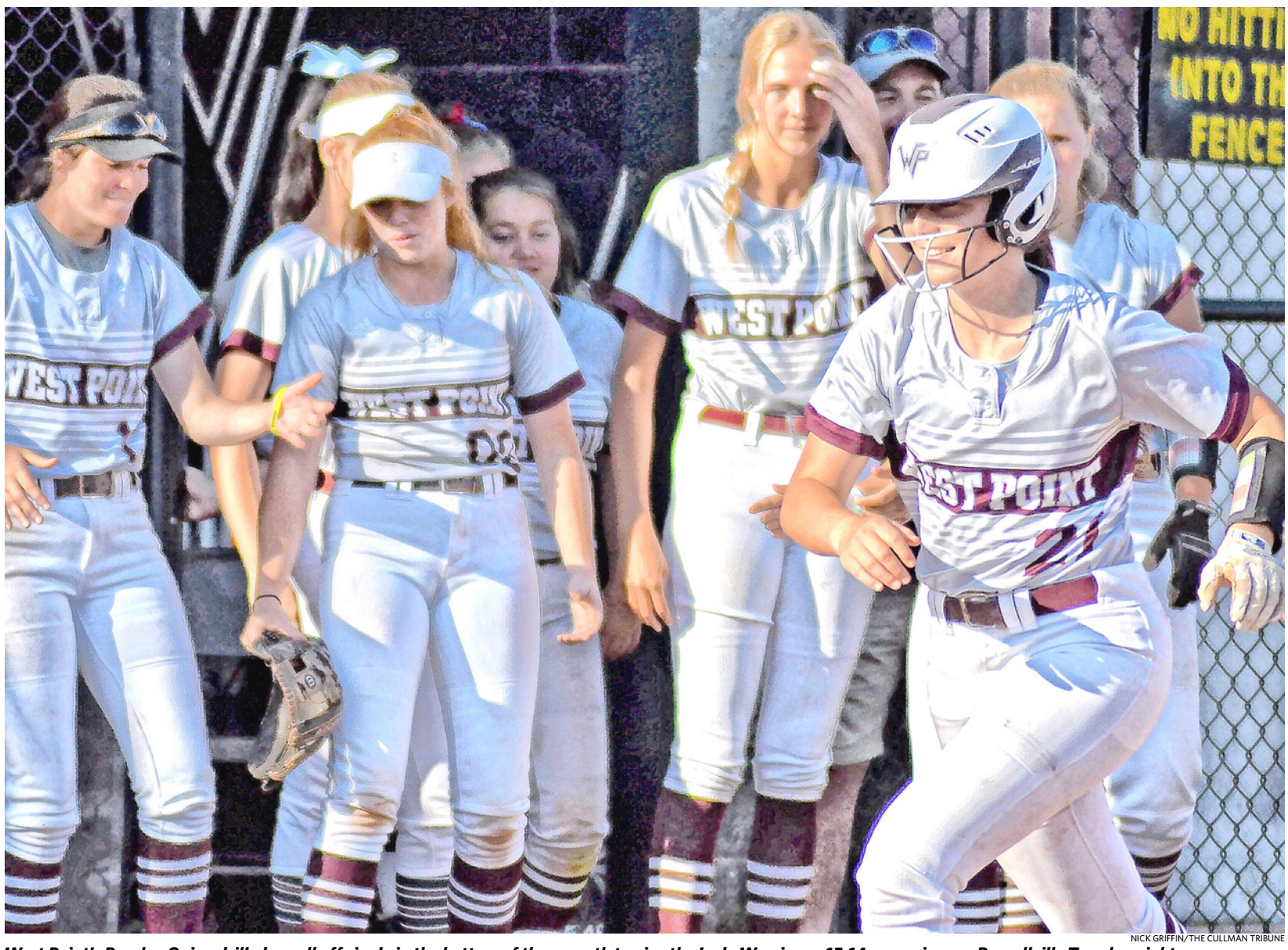
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PREP SOFTBALL

Quinn's walk-off leads West Point past Russellville 15-14

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

West Point's Braelee Quinn drilled a walkoff single in the bottom of the seventh to give the Lady Warriors a 15-14 area win over Russellville Tuesday night.

WEST POINT, Ala. – It took 33 combined hits, six combined homeruns and 29 total runs scored but the West Point Lady Warriors and Russellville Lady Tigers were finally able to settle things Tuesday night. After responding to big Russellville innings time after time, the Lady Warriors got their chance to win it in the bottom of the seventh and Braelee Quinn drilled a walk-off single to score Carlie Wilkins and give West Point a big, 15-14 victory over the Lady Tigers.

The Lady Tigers took an early 2-0 lead in the top of the first after scoring a pair of runs on an error and another error later in the inning made it 3-0 going into the bottom half of the inning. However, West Point responded in the bottom of the first, cutting the lead to 3-1 after Bethany Minck scored on a passed ball. Carlie Wilkins put a solo homerun off the scoreboard in right field to make it 3-2 and Braelee Quinn launched a solo bomb over the fence in left-center field to tie the game at 3 going into the second.

An RBI double put Russellville back in front 4-3 in the top of the second and a sacrifice fly made it a 5-3 game in the top of the third. The Lady Warriors answered once again in their half of the inning.

An RBI double from Wilkins cut the lead to 5-4 and Sydney Sellers laced an RBI double into center field to tie the game at 5. Quinn kept it going with another RBI double and gave West Point a 6-5 lead and Kylie Quinn drove an RBI single into left field to make it a 7-5 game going into the fourth inning.

A 2-run homerun tied the game at 7 in the top of the fourth and an RBI double gave the Lady Tigers an 8-7 lead. Another 2-run shot put Russellville on top 10-7, but the Lady Warriors were able to answer the bell once again. Lexi Kimbrill led off the bottom of the fourth with a solo homerun that cut the lead to 10-8 and after a pair of singles from Minck and Lexi Shadix put a couple runners on base for Wilkins. Carlie's big day continued as she ripped a triple into right field to plate two more runs and tie the game at 10. An error allowed West Point to tack on another run and the Lady Warriors led the way 11-10 going into the fifth.

The momentum continued to shift back and forth, and Russellville blasted a 3-run homer in the top of the fifth to go back on top 13-11 going into the bottom half of the inning. Braelee Quinn's big day kept going as well and she drove an RBI single into left field to score two more runs for West Point and tie things back up at 13 going into the sixth. The Lady Tigers scored on an error to pull back ahead 14-13 in the top of the sixth, but the Lady Warriors got the run back with an RBI double from Minck to tie the game at 14 going into the final frame.

West Point got out of the top of the seventh with the score intact and went back to the plate with a chance to win it in the bottom half of the inning. Wilkins led off the inning with a double to put a runner in scoring position and after a single from Sydney Sellers put runners on the corners, Braelee Quinn drove a walk-off single up the middle to give the Lady Warriors a 15-14 win over the Lady Tigers.

Quinn had an eye-popping day at the plate, finishing 4-for-5 with six RBIs and the game-winner. Wilkins was 4-for-4 at the plate for West Point and drove in four RBIs of her own. Minck (one RBI) added four hits in the win and Kimbril (one RBI) and Sellers (one RBI) each posted a pair of hits as well.

Phil Campbell 4 – West Point 0 (Baseball)

A pair of singles from Branson Smith and Aubry Cleghorn gave the Warriors a pair of runners in the bottom of the first but a pop out ended the inning with score still knotted at 0. Eli Folds struck out two of the next three batters he faced in the top of the second and kept the Bobcats off the board in the third inning as well.

West Point put a couple more runners on base in the bottom of the fourth, but a double play and a fly ball kept the Warriors from taking advantage. The scoring drought finally ended when an RBI double put Phil Campbell in front 1-0 in the top of the fifth and an RBI single added another run to the lead going into the bottom half of the inning.

West Point went down in order in the bottom of the fifth and the Bobcats tacked on two more runs in the top of the sixth to stretch their lead to 4-0. The Warriors got a pair of runners on base and threatened to score in both the sixth and the seventh but couldn't capitalize and ended up falling to Phil Campbell at home 4-0.

Folds tossed three scoreless innings for West Point, allowing just two hits and striking out five. Smith, Folds, Cleghorn, Will Cochran, JD Cochran and Cade Simmons each posted a hit for the Warriors in the loss.

West Point will be on the road this Friday to take on Sardis in the opening round of the AHSAA state playoffs.

PREP SOCCER

Warriors, Lady Warriors fall to J.B. Pennington

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

West Point's Grace Lee scored a pair of goals in the Lady Warriors' 3-2 loss to J.B. Pennington Tuesday night.

WEST POINT, Ala. – J.B. Pennington made the trip to West Point for a pair of varsity matchups with the Warriors and Lady Warriors and edged out both squads in a pair of tight games to take home a pair of wins.

The Lady Tigers pulled ahead in the second half to defeat the Lady Warriors and in the boys' game, West Point fell behind 1-0 in the first half and wasn't able to get on the scoreboard the rest of the way.

J.B. Pennington 3 – West Point 2 (Girls' game)

The Lady Warriors took an early 1-0 lead when Vanesa Garcia placed a corner kick right in front of the goal and Grace Lee flew in to head the ball into the back of the net.

J.B. Pennington was able to respond and pull ahead 2-1 by the halftime break.

Lee scored her second goal of the game unassisted to tie things up in the second half, but the Lady Tigers were able to score again as well and pulled ahead to defeat West Point 3-2.

J.B. Pennington 1 – West Point 0 (Boys' game)

After the Tigers scored early to take a 1-0 lead into the half, neither team was able to get on the board the rest of the way and the Warriors fell to J.B. Pennington at home 1-0.



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PREP BASEBALL

Good Hope collects 5-2 win over Winston County



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Good Hope's Braxton Marshall struck out eight and gave up just three hits in 5.1 innings in the Raiders' 5-2 win over Winston County.

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. – Good Hope hosted Winston County for its final regular season game Tuesday night, looking to snap a four-game losing streak and build some momentum going into the postseason. Thanks in large part to a dominant pitching performance from Braxton Marshall, the Raiders were able to do just that and defeated the Yellow Jackets 5-2.

After walking the leadoff man, Marshall settled down after that.

After Travis Brock threw down the runner at second, Marshall got the next two batters to ground out to end the inning.

Paydon Bagwell drew a one-out walk and Lane Speegle hit a single, then after Marshall grounded out into a fielder's choice, Bagwell stole home to give Good Hope a 1-0 lead after one.

The Raiders added to their lead in the bottom of the second. Three straight hit-by-pitches loaded the bases with no outs.

Preston Seymore scored on a passed ball and Bagwell reached on an error, which allowed Colten Whatley and Tyler Black to cross the plate, and that helped push Good Hope's lead to 4-0.

A leadoff double and an RBI infield single got the Yellow Jackets on the scoreboard in the top of the fourth, but the Raiders got that run back in their half as they loaded the bases with no outs. An RBI infield single by Caleb Rusk pushed the Good Hope lead to four at 5-1.

Winston County added another run in the top of the sixth on an RBI single as they made it a 5-2 game, but Rusk got the final four outs of the contest to help seal the Raiders' 5-2 win over the Yellow Jackets.

Marshall went 5.1 innings as he gave up just three hits and one unearned run, walked one and struck out eight. Rusk (RBI), Speegle, Whatley, and Travis Brock each collected a hit in the game for Good Hope (11-15). The Raiders will start the playoffs on Friday as they will travel to take on Cherokee County.











Funds (from Front)

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman County employees will soon receive COVID supplemental payments from CARES Act reimbursement funds. Chairman Jeff Clemons cast the deciding vote Tuesday night at the monthly Cullman County Commission meeting which will give $1,500 to full-time employees and $750 to part-time employees. Commissioner Garry Marchman abstained from voting.

Clemons supported the payments, saying, "I truly believe this is a way we can help our employees right now. We know we've got this money set aside and there's no better way to use it than helping people who need help. If you look at COVID for the last year, a lot of our employees have suffered. We had 13 out at one time at the Sanitation Department and I truly believe we need to help people when we can."

While Commissioner Marchman agreed with what Clemons had to say, he felt that the method of distribution should be discussed further. He said, "I think the employees are well worth--since we can't give them a raise and sustain that raise-- I think they are well worth a little boost in income. I also think that we should have spent a little more time with looking at how it is structured and how we're going to disseminate it."

Marchman continued, "I think there could be times in the future that we could give them more money than this or it may even require a little less than this.

"I am a big advocate of giving them money, but I'm going to abstain from voting on this because I think we need to look at structuring it a little different."

Clemons asked County Administrator John Bullard about the amount of time had been spent looking into the idea. Bullard said, "Probably one of the first discussions we had when I started, so since January."

Commissioner Kerry Watson weighed in, "I think it's something that is good for the employees and good for morale. We've had a lot of things happen to employees and our employees have been very dedicated during this time.

"They've showed up and we've had people come in, work longer hours and fill in for spots. I think you've got to show some appreciation to your employees, and I know Garry (Marchman) appreciates them."

Marchman reiterated that he agreed with everything Clemons and Watson had to say and that he is not against the CARES funding going to employees.

With people recently receiving stimulus money as well as tax money, Marchman argued, "There may be an opportunity later on in the year to give them even more money than this $1,500 and if you can give them $2,000 later on in the year rather than giving them $1,500 now, it would look more appropriate, to me, to give them at a time it's more needed than at a time when they have already received a little bit a boost from the government."

The discussion circled back to Clemons who felt, after talking to employees over the past few weeks, that they needed help now.

Clemons added, "I know this isn't an easy situation, but it's all about helping people. That's what we are here to do. I truly believe, being a leader in our community, we are supposed to help folks."

Marchman again stressed, "I agree too, 100%. We have to help people and we have to put that good foot forward to be a steward of the money provided us by taxpayers, because this is all taxpayer's money.

"We have to be that steward and I am 100% for helping people. I'm not against that. It's good if we can work together and disagree and still work together to do what we need to do for the county. I'm not disagreeing with the amount.

"I'm not disagreeing with anything, but I think the timing could be more appropriate for the employees."

Watson then made a motion to approve the payments with Chairman Clemons seconding the motion.

Following the approval of the payments to employees, the commission unanimously approved the transfer of the Sheriff's Office CARES Act Funds in the amount of $993,213 to reimburse the Sheriff's Department for necessary expenses incurred during the public health emergency.

Sheriff Matt Gentry explained, "Last year we started with the CARES Act money, the government sent so much out." After researching the CARES Act, he found that law enforcement salaries could be eligible for reimbursement. With the help of Human Resources Manager Judy Bradford, they were able to put together a package that resulted in approximately $2.3 million in reimbursements.

Gentry continued, "As soon as we got it, we started the negotiations of how we could use it for the employees. We were able to come up with this conclusion that I think is a positive for all county employees and it's a positive for the sheriff's office."

After the payments to all county employees and the reimbursement to the CCSO, Clemons said that approximately $400,000 was put into the county's reserve funds.

Obituary Announcements: April 21

John Robert Faulkner, Sr., 64, of Cullman
Mr. John Robert Faulkner, Sr., 64, of Cullman died Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Faulkner was born Dec. 15, 1956 to Russell and Bertha May Clinger Faulkner. No services are planned at this time.

Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com

Joseph Edward Gully, age 50, of Cullman
Joseph Edward Gully, 50, of Cullman, died Tuesday, April 6, 2021. He was born Oct. 2, 1970 to Joseph and Evelyn Gully. He is preceded in death by his father. Survivors include his daughter, Rosemary Elizabeth Gully; mother: Evelyn Gully; sister: Ann Lee (Don) Allen; nephew: MacRae Allen and uncle: William (Ellen) Gully of Oxford, Mississippi. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is assisting the family. There will be a private family service held at a later date.

Edgar "Sherrell" Henderson, 79, of Holly Pond
Edgar "Sherrell" Henderson, 79, of Holly Pond, died Wednesday, April 21, 2021. He was born August 15, 1941, in Marshall County, to Ed and Gertrude Love Henderson. Sherrell worked construction until his retirement. He was passionate about golf and loved the sport. He enjoyed gardening and working in his yard. Sherrell adored his grandchildren and children and loved any time spent with them. Mr. Henderson also served our country honorably in the United States Navy and his service and sacrifice to our nation will be forever remembered with gratitude. Sherrell is preceded in death by his parents: Ed and Gertrude Henderson; brother: Dale Henderson and his sister: Sue Henderson Tipton. He is survived by his children: Greg Henderson and Tonya Henderson Smith (Scott); brothers: Melvin Henderson (Sandra) and Steve Henderson and his grandchildren: Makenzie Henderson, Addisyn Henderson, Chris Green and Will Smith. Funeral service for Sherrell is noon Friday, April 23, 2021, at his church, Pleasant View Baptist Church, with Pastor Earl Harper officiating. Burial will follow in Union Grove CPC Cemetery where Mr. Henderson will receive military honors. Scott Smith, Chris Tipton, Cody Tipton, Connor Tipton, Joe Garrett and David Robertson will serve as pallbearers, along with honorary pallbearer, Johnny Green. Friends are invited to visit with the family at the church, an hour before services, from 11 a.m. until services begin at noon. The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mandy Hamm of Southern Care New Beacon Hospice for her compassion and the extraordinary care she gave to Sherrell in his final days. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the American Lung Association or Southern Care New Beacon Hospice, in memory of Sherrell. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Henderson family.

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Gracie (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman County Animal Shelter has love to spare these days, so Donna Ruttkay shares a bonus Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week:

Gracie is a Terrier mix with a lively-but-not-crazy, medium-energy level.

She's great on her leash, likes to stay close to her people when walking and takes directions well.

Please be aware that she does not seem to be a big fan of our feline friends.

Gracie has the makings of a good companion, therapy or hiking dog.

Gracie's adoption fee is $100 which includes DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet, spaying, microchip, free 30-day health insurance policy issued by 24PetWatch (with valid email only) and a free bag of food from Cullman Pet Depot (you must pay sales tax).

Animal shelter staff and volunteers work with their dogs to make sure they are accustomed to being around people, walking on a leash and practicing good behavior.

Several of the shelter's canine friends have even been "hired" to work as therapy and special needs service dogs.

Please consider adopting to give a rescued pet a chance at a happy and healthy life.

Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or visit them at 935 Convent Road NE.

Reach them by email at cullmancountyanimalshelter@gmail.com.

Expansions (from Front)

wing that includes a tornado shelter, multipurpose building and new cafeteria and kitchen.

The old cafeteria will be converted into additional classroom space. The plan also calls for the development of a second exit from the campus to Oak Street. Currently, the school is only accessible from one road that runs in and out of the campus.

The Cullman City Primary project is expected to be done within the next year-and-a-half, with hopes to transition all second graders out of East and West Elementary Schools and to Cullman City Primary School in August 2023.

At Cullman Middle School, the board plans to add a 16-18 classroom building that will include a new library, agriscience area, performing arts area and administrative office.

The new building will also be equipped as a tornado shelter. The round building and old agriculture building will be removed, and the existing main building and cafeteria will be renovated.

The project is expected to be completed in approximately three years, and the system aims to transition all sixth graders from East and West Elementary Schools to Cullman Middle in August 2025.

East Elementary and West Elementary will also be getting some upgrades, most notably the addition of multipurpose buildings for programs, assemblies and physical education activities. Those projects are expected to take approximately one year to complete. The district is also eyeing some athletic upgrades at Cullman High School, such as addressing the deteriorating tennis complex restrooms and establishing a maintenance department shop.

The full comprehensive plan is estimated to cost approximately $38 million, the majority of which can be secured by the school system. However, the system will need help with approximately $15 million and is currently looking into available funding avenues to close the financial gap, including any allowable expenditures that could fall under the American Rescue Plan Act allocations, as well as possible assistance from the City of Cullman.

KEY POINTS

CULLMAN CITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
(Approximately 1.5 years to complete)

- Add 12 -classroom wing (tornado shelter), multipurpose building and cafeteria/kitchen
- Develop second exit from campus to Oak Street
- Convert old cafeteria to additional classroom space
- Transition all second grade students in August 2023

CULLMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL
(Approximately 3 years to complete)

- Add 16-18 classroom building (tornado shelter), including a new library, agriscience area, performing arts area, and administrative offices
- Remove round building and old agriculture building
- Incorporate interior upgrades to main building and cafeteria
- Transition all sixth grade students to CMS in August 2025

EAST AND WEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
(Approximately 1 year to complete)

- Add multipurpose buildings for programs, assemblies and physical education activities
- Transition second grade to CPS in August 2023
- Transition sixth grade to CMS in August 2025

MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS
(Approximately 1 year to complete)

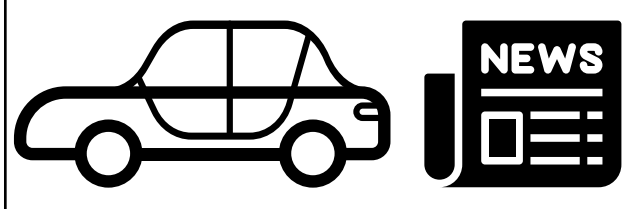
- Various athletic facility upgrades at CHS
- Address deteriorating tennis complex restrooms
- Maintenance Department Workspace/Shop
- Land/Property Acquisitions

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LEGALS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

CLAUDIA VASQUEZ,
Plaintiff

Vs. Case Number: DR-2021-000066.00

JASON MILLWOOD,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

Jason Millwood, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Claudia Vasquez's Complaint for Divorce by June 14, 2021 or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against him in Case Number 25-DR-2021-000066.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 6th day of April, 2021.

Lisa McSwain,
Clerk of Circuit Court

PETITIONER:
Claudia Vasquez
6025 County Road 747

PB MIN BK 195 PG 820 - 04/20/2021 02:06 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
CATHERINE LOUISE BROWN *
Deceased * CASE NO.: PC2021-054

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to LORILE FORD, as Personal Representative of the Estate of CATHERINE LOUIE BROWN, deceased, on the 20th day of April, 2021, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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 be barred.

LORILE FORD
Personal Representative

Pamela E. Nail
Attorney for Petitioner
200 Second Avenue, SW
Cullman Al. 35055

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

PB MIN BK 195 PG 514 - 04/07/2021 02:01 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
LILA MAE EDWARDS, deceased. CASE NO. PC2021-102

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF LILA MAE EDWARDS, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Gary L. Edwards on the 7th day of April, 2021, 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.

GARY L. EDWARDS, Personal Representative

TO: Publisher of *The Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Sharon H. Barrett
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorneys for Gary L. Edwards
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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
APRIL 22, 2021

Married at 17: couple returns to Cullman to celebrate 56 years

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – As he walked across the yard to pick her up for the first time, she turned to her aunt and said, "I'm going to marry that man." Though a bit of a bold statement, it turned out that she was right and by the next day, that young man would, indeed, be her husband. On April 17, that young couple celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary.

Louie Haynes said, "We got married in 1965. We were 17. Ran off and got married the first time I ever went out with her. We ran away to Trenton, Georgia and got married. After we met and talked, we didn't want to be away from each other anymore."

Louie went to Cold Springs High School and Rebecca had attended the school for one semester before their date. She had moved away but was headed to town. Louie recalled, "Her sister wanted to go with a friend of mine, and she said, "I tell you what, you get me a date with him, I will get you a date with her.'"

Rebecca's sister did arrange the date for Louie, however, the date between the sister and Louie's friend did not meet the approval of Rebecca's grandparents. Despite the other date falling through, Louie proceeded with his date and borrowed a car from Eulane Calvert to pick up Rebecca. "I picked her up from her grandparent's house in Crane Hill and we stayed out all night and got married the next day."

Rebecca recalled, "I knew of him, but when he walked across that yard, I knew immediately. I looked at him and thought, that is the best looking man I have ever seen. I was 17 years old. The longer we talked and sat, the more I loved. We got married blindly. We were blind as bats. We were children, absolute children. Whenever my children got our age, I looked at my children and thought, 'OH LORD!' If my children dared gotten married at 17 years old, I think I would have just fainted."

The date was going great and around 11 o'clock that night, Louie looked at his watch and said that he needed to take her home. Neither wanted the date to end. Louie said to her, "Let's go get married!" Rebecca didn't think it was possible because of their age.

A friend of Louie's had gotten married in Trenton, Georgia a few years before. Louie asked him where to go. Parental consent and licenses were not required to get married in Georgia. "I know we didn't need an ID because I told the guy was 21," Louie said with a big laugh.

Louie also told his friend Eulane that he would need his car for just a little while longer. Eulane told him just to have the car back by Monday. "Can you believe someone did that? What a good friend!!" Louie said. Rebecca wanted to grab something to wear, so they stopped by her grandparent's house. Her grandparents were not home so she crawled through the window and grabbed a white Chinese silk dress she had bought in San Francisco. She changed her clothes in a gas station bathroom and off they went!

When the newlyweds returned, the news came as quite a shock. Louie was living with his mother and going to school at the time. He said, "We got back and told them and nobody could really believe us so we showed them the marriage license and everything was OK. OH BOY, it was an adjustment. We survived it all and no one really gave us a chance or anything. They didn't think we would ever make it, but here we are."

Rebecca stressed, "We were not irresponsible. We were very responsible 17-year-old kids. That's what we were. We were children and we got married." She added, "We did not have sex before we said 'I do.' We had none, what-so-ever. No feeling, no touching, no nothing." They had kissed and she smiled, "that's when I knew that was it. That was it."

There was one person that was quite mad about Louie and Rebecca getting married. Louie's girlfriend was not happy at all. Louie said, "I just drove up and told her I got married. She was shocked." He added, "Someone might have gotten hurt, but it was my decision and it was the best decision I ever made other than believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. No regrets."

He continued, "The Lord Jesus Christ came into our lives eight years later and so that's been our stronghold ever since."

Rebecca was not in school at the time, but Louie was still in school at Cold Springs. He chose to stay home from school that Monday as he and his bride worked out some things. When he returned to school Tuesday, Rebecca wrote a note to principal Jack Williams that read, "Please excuse Louie from being absent Monday. He got married--to me."

A few months later, a friend of Louie's got married. He asked Louie and Rebecca to stand with them at the wedding. "It was time for them to leave to go on their honeymoon. They kept hanging around and finally they said, 'we just don't want to leave without y'all,'" Louie recalled.

Louie and Rebecca didn't have the money for a trip and had borrowed money just to be able to get married. Their friends insisted they come along and they all went to Chattanooga and shared a duplex. This would be the closest thing to a honeymoon for the Haynes and just over 9 months later, they would welcome their first son.



THE HAYNES' FAMILY

Louie and Rebecca Haynes pose for a rooftop photo in Homewood

Louie finished Cold Springs that spring and started working right away. Rebecca went to college after receiving her GED. Louie retired from Walmart Transportation in Cullman after 23 years and 5 months, where he was a truck driver a majority of the time.

How did they know they wanted to be husband and wife? Louie said, "We couldn't stop talking to each other. We just LOVED being with each other and it was just back and forth bouncing things off of each other. We just enjoyed each other's company and we knew it. I didn't know what love was at that age and at that time, but I knew I didn't want to be apart from her. She felt the same way. On the way to Trenton, she looked over at me and said, 'Well, we are going to get married. Do you love me?' I said, 'Well, I reckon I do.' Then we just continually fell in love more and more as we experienced life. She overlooked my weaknesses and I overlooked her's and here we are. I had to learn to say 'I'm sorry.' I didn't know-how to do that and she was continually drawing me back when I would maybe say something or act or behave in a way that wasn't really good. She would say, 'Now wait a minute. You are doing this or you are doing that.' I just had to face up to the fact that I did have some errors and some blind spots that needed correcting. I was not a perfect person."

Rebecca said of her husband, "He is the love of my life! God has brought us together through His Providence. I will tell you that. I don't know what I would have done or where I would have been had the Lord not put us together, because my life was not a happy life until I married this man. I came from a very dysfunctional family and I married him, and my life has been a blessed life since we have gotten married. That was 56 years ago. We have six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and two sons. It is a blessing to be married to this man."

The Haynes advice to young couples? Louie said, "Being forgiving and overlooking your spouse's faults and just dealing with it. I am imperfect and it took me a while to realize that hey, you've got your own things going on in your life. You need to be more forgiving of things that the other person does. My wife will tell you that I have shoes scattered everywhere. My wife just overlooks that and lets it go. There are things she does that don't sit exactly right with me, but that is her. She has her own life and personality, and we have that freedom with each other. She taught me to be a good communicator. I wanted to run from the problem, but she wants to communicate about it. Let's talk it out.

Rebecca added, "We shepherd in this singles group. We shepherd the singles that are just over the college age. I look at them and I think, you are wasting your lives. We have boys and girls in there and I look at them and they are so picky about who they want to marry. I am thinking, here I married this man and we were raw! He came from one kind of family and I came from another kind of family. I traveled all over everywhere and he had hardly been out of the state of Alabama and Florida. I had been with all kinds of people and he hadn't been with all kinds of people. Here these two people are put together in a marriage where the wife was supposed to be a submissive part of this marriage. I knew that from the scriptures even though I didn't know the Lord. Here I was, I wasn't submissive, but I looked at that and said, 'I'm supposed to be submissive to this man and I don't even know-how to be that way. We just started life in a raw form and it's just not normal in today's society. People think they have to know everything and think they have to measure everything, but you cannot know a person until you are married to them. The Lord meant it to be that way."

The Haynes now call Birmingham home and attend Briarwood Presbyterian Church where they shepherd young adult singles. To celebrate their 56th anniversary, Louie and Rebecca returned to Cullman for a celebration at the All Steak. He said, "I have eaten there, but my wife has not." They were joined by their oldest son and Eulane and Dian Calvert.

They also celebrated with close friends Bob and Mary Anne Turnbull Friday night at The Club in Homewood. Bob said of his friends, "They are incredibly happy and both of them love the Lord, and they characterize that in their daily walk. They just model being in love with each other. That's the bottom-line."

Abatements (from Front)

going to be a technology impact kind of company. We are hoping that is going to lead to some bigger investment. This is a phase one kind of situation," Kennedy said.

The commission approved a tax abatement for Project Sport in the investment of $2,230,000. Kennedy explained, "Project Sport is just a company buying a building. They are going to retrofit it and create 20 new jobs in the home product industry."

The commission also ratified a previous abatement for BBLU Inc. by CEDA in the amount of $955,000. Kennedy said, "It was $565,000 and all it is, is the company is spending more money and expanding more." The increase will also add two more jobs, bringing the total number of jobs to 16.

Chairman Clemons also recognized two county employees retiring this month. Rhonda Sinyard is retiring after 18 years of service with the Water Department. James Waters is retiring after 12 years of service to the Sanitation Department.

In other business, the commission approved the following agenda items:

• Proclamation recognizing April as Fair Housing Month

• Resolution 2021-15 authorizing Chairman Clemons to sign an agreement between the State of Alabama and Cullman County Commission covering widening and resurfacing on County Road 1301 from SR-3 (US Hwy 31) to County Road 1435

• Authorized Revenue Commissioner Barry Willingham to sign a contract with GovEase Auction LLC on behalf of the County Commission

• Authorized Chairman Clemons to appoint John King to replace Joe Minor to the Joppa Water Board, expiring March 1, 2024

• Authorized Chairman Clemons to sign settlement agreement on behalf of Cullman County Commission

• Authorized Chairman Clemons to sign auction agreement with JM Wood Auction Company to dispose of six tri-axle dump trucks between June 15-18, 2021

• Authorized Chairman Clemons to sign contract agreement with Pyro Shows of Alabama

• Authorized Sanitation Director James Rollo to purchase roll-off dumpsters not to exceed $100,000

• Authorized Chairman Clemons to sign contract with American Signal Corporation Alert System

• Authorized County Attorney Emily Johnston to inquire about purchase price for commercial property adjacent to the Cullman County Ag Center

• Approved budget amendment to correct clerical error in the annual budget. Change transfer for GO warrant payment from 116 Capital Improvement Fund to 112 Public Building Fund

• Approved NARCOG dues and program match for FY-2021 in the amount of $56,299

• Approved surplus of six Kenworth Tri-Axle Dump Trucks

• Approved ADS Security proposal for Cullman County Economic Development and authorized Chairman Clemons to sign agreement--installation $7,825 ($47.69 monthly)

• Approved purchase of a 2021 F150 4X4 Super Cab for reappraisal from the NACP bid list in the amount of $27,366

• Approved the surplus of a 2008 Ford Crown Vic from the Sheriff's Office to be sold on GovDeals

• Approved an amendment to the Cullman County Personnel Policies and Procedures section II-U Item 6 to provide 25% above the host hotel rate in the event the host hotel is full

• Awarded bid #1344 for recycled asphalt payment (RAP millings) to Good Hope Contracting Co. Inc.

• Awarded bid #1345 for Cab Crawler dozer to Warrior Tractor for Alabama Forestry Commission to use--bid price $189, 900

• Awarded bid #1346 for hauling of aggregate, asphalt and other various materials

The next Cullman County Commission meeting will be Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 6 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room.

