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EDUCATION

Cullman High School in top 10% in U.S. News and World Report 2021 high school report

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Tuesday, April 27, 2021, U.S. News and World Report issued its annual rankings of over 17,800 high schools across the country, and Cullman High School came in at number 1,490, placing it well within the top 10% of high schools in the nation. Fairview High School and West Point High School landed in the top 20% at 3,299 and 3,456, respectively.

The review was based on the 2018-19 school year, before and not affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Though 17,860 schools were ranked, over 24,000 were reviewed by the news agency.

Some schools were dropped because of missing data that pre- » PAGE 7



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Cullman High School

– LIFESTYLE –

CCSO provides lunch to Good Hope seniors



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Good Hope Sizzlin' Seniors with members of the Cullman County Sheriff's Office

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. – The Good Hope Sizzlin' Seniors were joined Tuesday by Sheriff Matt Gentry and several Cullman County Sheriff's Office officers. The sheriff's office grilled hamburgers and hotdogs and delivered lunch to the senior center. It was a welcome sign of a return to normal activities disrupted by the pandemic.

"We missed this last year," Gentry said. "We end up feeding about 3,000 people a year." The CCSO was only able to cook out for two events last year due to the shutdown.

Gentry added, "Through the worst month, we fed the office and all the deputies three meals a day, through the worst time when everything was shut down. We had a few meals brought in, but it was mostly us cooking."

The CCSO is able to fund the meals through a change in the food bill. He explained, "When we changed our food bill law in 2018, it still allowed us to do this kind of thing-- feed the community and have meetings and feed. It's all public funds."

The CCSO will be providing food next Thursday at the Crane Hill Community Meeting and at Fairview Senior Center on May 14.



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Back: Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry; Front: Greg Brown and Good Hope Deputy Corey Freeman

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Colony Town Clerk Ponder out after council vote



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Former Colony Town Clerk Patricia Ponder » PAGE 8

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cullman City Council: Dinner on First returning in May » PAGE 7

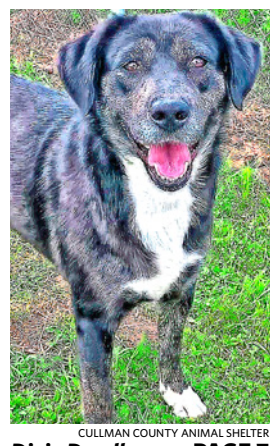
ARTS

'I think the Cullman community will love this production'

CHS theatre prepares for 'Into the Woods' performance » PAGE 2

-PET OF THE WEEK -

CHECK OUT DIXIE DOODLE!



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Dixie Doodle » PAGE 7

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported April 27

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported April 27, 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 26
• fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; miscellaneous; $84
• third-degree criminal trespass; Drinkard Development; Marketplatz Ctr. SW

ARRESTS
April 26

Yager, Sierra B.; 21
• fourth-degree theft of property

Files, Jeffery L.; 60
• unlawful possession/receiving controlled substance
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Warden, Drew E.; 25
• FTA- fourth-degree theft of property
• FTA- third-degree criminal trespass

Smith, Carson M.; 18
• third-degree criminal trespass
• minor in possession of tobacco

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No incidents or arrests reported.

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

Production (from Front)

Trent Moore
Cullman City Schools

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman High School theatre department is gearing up for its next major production this week with Into the Woods, and theatre director Wayne Cook says it should be a truly inspiring performance for the cast, crew and community.

Into the Woods is a musical that weaves the plots of several Grimm fairy tales, melding characters from stories like Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk and Rapunzel.

The musical centers on a childless baker and his wife as they embark on a quest to start a family, which leads to twists and turns that find them crossing paths with several different storybook characters.

The CHS theatre department, led by the senior class, has been working on the production since February, and the show is finally ready for a live audience.

"We put this production together because we have a very strong group of seniors and we wanted to feature them," Cook said.

"This production gives many and most of them leading parts in a major production.

"It is a great way to send out this senior class. This production is funny, inspiring, thought-provoking, shocking, colorful and magical, and our students do a beautiful job acting and singing as they share these stories."

Students were actively involved in every aspect, from set design, artwork, costuming, sound and lighting to bring the production together. A student even put together original animation work just for the show.

"They have done a fabulous job in every area," Cook said.

"People need to come see it. I think the Cullman community will love this production.

"We really hope the community will come out and support the arts in our community."

Being able to focus on theatre has been a great outlet for students during the pandemic, though Cook noted it hasn't been easy to keep everything running smoothly through the safety protocols.

However, it was well worth it, especially with opening day now so close.

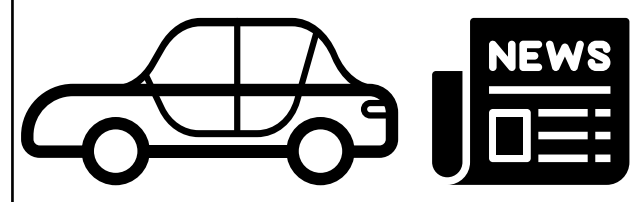
"I told students at the beginning of the year that we would fight for them to do the same number of shows we typically do, and we have done it," Cook said.

"The window for this production required us to get really busy to get it all done. This has not been a typical year by any means, but to send out this tremendously talented senior class in this way feels wonderful."

Opening night for CHS's performance of Into the Woods will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 29.

Additional performances are set for 7 p.m. Friday, April 30, 2 p.m. Saturday, May 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday, May 1. The show will be at the Cullman High School auditorium.

Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for students. Tickets are available at GoFan.com and https://www.booktix.com.

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COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Tuesday, April 27, 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: 407, 666 (+259 since Friday)
• Probable cases in AL: 118,919 (+122 since Friday)
• Total confirmed deaths in AL: 8,556 (+2 since Friday)
• Probable deaths in AL: 2,298
• Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co.: 6,472 (+4 since Friday)
• Probable cases in Cullman Co.: 3,093 (+4 since Friday)
• Total confirmed deaths in Cullman Co.: 128 (+0 since Friday)
• Probable deaths in Cullman Co.: 63
• Total tested in Cullman Co.: 40,519
• Total tested in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 2,010
• Cases in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 55
• Total tested in Alabama: 2,491,075
• Cases in the last 14 days in Alabama: 3,809
• Total tested in the last 14 days in Alabama: 120,268
• Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 335
• Cumulative no. of hospitalizations in Alabama (reported M-F): 48,760
• Presumed recoveries in Alabama (reported weekly): 331,915

Vaccine details (updated Monday-Friday)
• Doses delivered to Alabama: 3,831,245
• Doses delivered to Alabama providers: 2,902,735
• Doses administered: 2,447,756
• Number of people receiving one or more doses: 1,472,664
• Number of people who have completed vaccine series: 1,049,179
• Doses delivered to federal programs: 928,510

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

Alabama Department of Public Health recommends resumption of Johnson & Johnson vaccine

The Alabama Department of Public Health has received final guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concerning use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.

After a temporary pause on its use since April 13, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the CDC recommended resumption of J&J vaccine use among persons 18 years of age and older, as available data show that the vaccine's known and potential benefits outweigh its known and potential risks. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices reaffirmed its interim recommendation under FDA's Emergency Use Authorization which includes a new warning for women aged 18-49 years.

Reports of adverse events following the use of the J&J vaccine suggest a very low but increased risk of a rare adverse event called thromobosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS). Nearly all reports of this serious condition, which involves blood clots with low platelets, have been in adult women younger than 50 years old. Women younger than 50 years old should be aware of the rare but increased risk of this adverse event and that there are other COVID-19 vaccine options available for which this risk has not been seen.

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 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 ages 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.

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/covid19vaccine/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.

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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 pick-up. Small group classes for adults, children and youth at 10 a.m. Praise and worship and message at 11 a.m.
• Mondays-Fridays- Our 5 Points Ministry provide free hot meals for children and elderly 3:30-5 p.m. at the Cullman Housing Authority Community Center 1545 Vine Circle SW Please call Aimee at 256-841-2060 to register or for more information. Eat in or take out. Kids' activities are available. Kids do not have to come to the center to get a free meal. Adults can list the names of the children and do takeout meals. Sponsored by Kids Loving Kids, Raising Arrows Ministry and Spirit Life Church.
• Sundays-9 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call 256-841-2060 for pick-up. Small group classes for children, youth and adults at 10 a.m. Praise and Worship and message at 11 a.m.
• Sunday, May 2nd 11 a.m. Praise and Worship with message "HE'll Clean Our Mess" 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 a.m., 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.

American Legion Post 4 Bingo Night
• May 2 – This is an announcement that Bingo every Saturday night at 6 p.m. Is starting back in May.
• First game will be starting May 2, 2021. Come join the fun!
• Address - 181 Reid Road, Cullman, Alabama 35037

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 pm. 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 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 a T-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 a.m. April 22. Shirts are $20 and available in youth and adult sizes. (XXL and XXXL shirts are $22 and $23 respectively.)

Obituary Announcements: April 27

Bonnie Joy Daily Heatherly, 69, of Cullman
Bonnie Joy Daily Heatherly was born Oct. 23, 1951 to Virginia and Gresham Daily. She was an only child who attended Cullman City Schools and graduated Cullman High School class of 1969. Bonnie completed her bachelor's degree in home economics with the emphasis of early childhood development at the University of Alabama. In 1972, Bonnie, along with a group of friends, established Share Club of Cullman, which continues to be an active, respected women's service organization in our community. Bonnie began teaching public school in 1973 and completed a master's degree in education from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Bonnie married Michael Heatherly March 12, 1977. Bonnie was 26 years old. Her grandmother skipped down the aisle with bells on her shoes as a sign of relief that Bonnie narrowly escaped becoming an "old maid". Bonnie and Mike were leaders in their community, church and schools. They have two sons, Brian (Heather, Ashlen, Brooks) and Benjamin (Loren, Magnolia, Emory Kate). Bonnie retired the first time from Vinemont Elementary School in 2001. She began teaching adjunct classes at Athens State University in 2004. Bonnie then left retirement and returned to full-time teaching as an assistant professor at Athens State in 2008. As a teacher of future teachers, Bonnie continued to pour into learners and shape lives for the betterment of mankind until retiring for a second time in 2017. Bonnie was talented in so many ways. She played the piano and sang beautifully. She was a fabulous writer, a mentor and friend to many. Perhaps her greatest gift was the ability to speak right to the heart of the person in front of her. Her love and interest in everyone she encountered left them feeling seen, heard and valued. Bonnie was faithful to the people and things that she loved. Her faithfulness to God, to her family, to the church and to her many friends is to be admired and emulated. Her smile would light the room and her laugh would fill the room. She was spunky and witty. Where Bonnie was, fun was sure to follow. Bonnie sought the positive and found good in everything. She gave of herself to any need she encountered. Like Jesus, she loved freely and gave grace abundantly. She spoke the truth steeped in love. Bonnie was confident, competent, and capable; humility was her crown. She was not a complainer and never looked for a way out. Her life was an exhibition of selflessness. The Lord had planted Eternity in her heart. She was not one bit intimidated about death. Bonnie was committed to filling all her days on the earth, but she knew earth and all we see in it is temporary. Bonnie was welcomed home by our Lord and Savior April 26, 2021. She is now wearing her crown, reunited with her husband, worshiping at the feet of Jesus. Public visitation will be held at Vinemont Baptist Church Thursday, April 29 from 4 – 7 p.m. A family graveside service will be held at Vinemont Baptist Cemetery Friday, April 30 at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, send donations to Share Club, c/o Shara Yerby, Treasurer: 22 County Road 1310, Vinemont, AL 35179 or to Vinemont Baptist Church: P.O. Box 835, Vinemont, AL 35179.

Craig Alan Cadle, 50, of Cullman
Funeral service for Craig Alan Cadle, age 50, of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Gary Nunn officiating and interment in Cullman Heritage Cemetery. Visitation will be from 12 - 2 p.m. before the service. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Cadle died Monday, April 26, 2021. He was born July 15, 1970, to L.D. and Janice Cadle. He was preceded in death by his father: L.D. Cadle and brother: Kevin Cadle. Survivors include his wife: Kim Cadle; mother: Janice Cadle; sister: Kristi Cadle; nieces: Kaitlynn (Dawson) Campbell and Kortney Cadle; nephews: Karter Cadle, Jadon Parker and Carson Parker; great-nephew: Dallas Campbell and brother-in-law: Jim (Beth) Parker.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
APRIL 28, 2021

PREP BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

'Cats take game 3 over Hazel Green 13-7 to advance

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – After splitting their first two games with Hazel Green Friday night, the Bearcats returned to Bill Shelton Field for game three Saturday and posted 13 runs on 14 hits to power past the Trojans 13-7 and advance to round two for the 19th consecutive season. Hazel Green took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first, but Cullman responded with a pair of runs in the bottom of the second and tacked on seven more in the third to stretch the lead and went on to win it 13-7.

'Cats Head Coach Brent Patterson knew his team would come excited to play Saturday, but he was even happier with their approach at the plate compared to game two.

"I wasn't worried about them showing up with energy, I was more worried about them trying to do too much. Last night we were not good with runners in scoring position and every guy was trying to change the tide of the game on his own," Patterson said. "So, we talked about the delicate balance of trying too hard vs. being too nonchalant and to be honest with you, you just have to be in those situations."

Cullman is used to winning in round one, but Patterson believes this year's win carries even more significance. This year's Bearcats team doesn't have as much postseason experience as some in year's past and Patterson is excited to see them build on this experience as they go deeper into the playoffs.

"This year more than maybe ever its just really important to win the first round. It was ugly and we didn't play well but you have to advance. Now we can take the lessons from round one and start using them in later rounds. As a coaching staff we always want to play perfect, but we have to play well enough to advance. So, I was proud of the guys and I thought Austin Hurt was the player of the game," Patterson said. "He stepped into his position with confidence, stepped into the box with confidence, had two doubles and another one that was an out on the warning track and I really think he is the player that allowed us to exhale because he got those big hits. Now, if we can take what Austin did and let that spread that to a couple more people, we'll have a chance to win some more rounds."

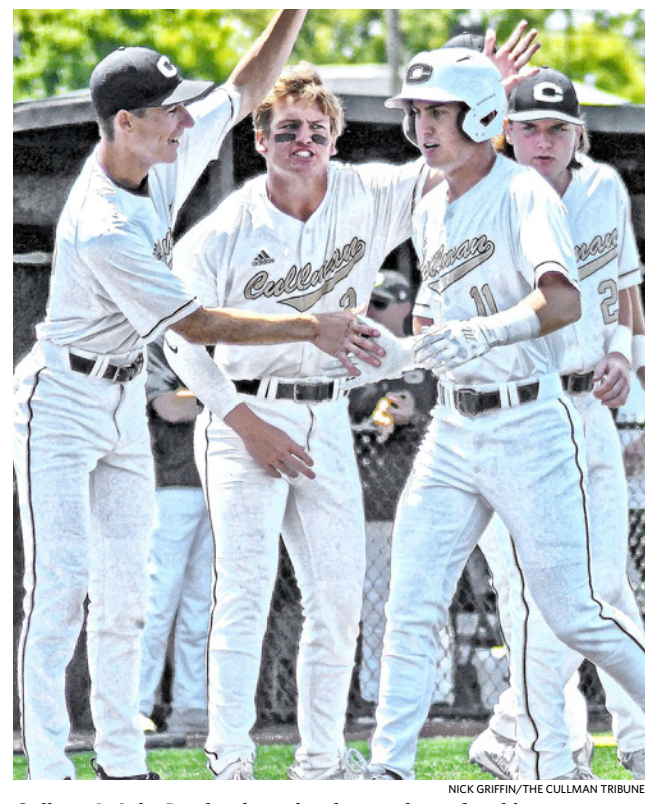
Hazel Green struck first in the opening frame to take a 1-0 lead, but the Bearcats answered in the bottom of the second. Jake Dueland drove a solo homerun over the right field wall to tie the game at 1 and after a single from Hunter Brooks and a double from Austin Hurt, Brooks scored on an RBI groundout from Paxton Ponder to put Cullman on top 2-1 going into the third. The Trojans were able to push a run across and tie the game at 2 in the top of the third but the 'Cats got that run back and a lot more in their half of the inning.

Brennen Norton led off the inning with a walk, Heatherly doubled into right field and Hayden Stancil was hit by a pitch to load the bases. Max Dueland was then hit by a pitch to bring in a run and give the Bearcats a 3-2 lead and Brooks drew another walk to make it 4-2. An RBI single from Hurt plated two more runs to stretch the lead to 6-2 and Ponder put an RBI double just in front of the fence in left-center to score two more and make it an 8-2 game. Norton laced an RBI single into left field to add another run to the lead and Cullman led Hazel Green 9-2 going into the fourth inning.

After a scoreless fourth inning, the Trojans scored a pair of runs in the top of the fifth to cut the lead to 9-4 but Max Dueland got those runs back in the bottom of the inning with a 2-run single up the middle to make it 11-4 going into the sixth.

Hazel Green led off the top of the sixth with a solo homer to trim the lead to 11-5 and an RBI single made it 11-6 later in the inning but an RBI single from Matt Brock and an infield error allowed the Bearcats to score two more in the bottom of the sixth and take a 13-6 lead into the final frame.

Another solo homerun put another run on the board for the Trojans but that was all they could get in the seventh and Cullman held on to win it 13-7 and advance to the next round of the state playoffs.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman's Jake Dueland reaches home plate after his solo homerun against Hazel Green Saturday.

Norton (one RBI) finished with three hits at the plate and Ponder (two hits) and Max Dueland (one hit) each posted three RBIs. Jake Dueland (solo HR), Brock (one RBI) and Hurt (two RBIs) each added a pair of hits in the win as well.

The Bearcats will be on the road next Friday to face Chelsea in round two.

PREP BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

Bearcats split round 1 matchups with Hazel Green; playoff scoring recap

Nick Griffin/Sammy Confer
Contributors

CULLMAN, Ala. – It's playoff time and that means the stands were packed with fans at Bill Shelton Field Friday night to see the Bearcats take on Hazel Green in the opening round of the AHSAA state playoffs. Cullman took game one 12-1 to take an early lead in the series but dropped a very tight game two 4-1, forcing a game three on Saturday for a spot in round two next week.

Cullman 12 – Hazel Green 1 (Game one)

Shortstop Brennen Norton rolled a 6-3 double play himself to get the 'Cats out of the top of the first but after loading up the bases with no outs in the bottom half of the inning, Cullman wasn't able to capitalize, and the game remained scoreless going into the second. Hazel Green was able to load the bases in the top of the second but another 6-3 double play by Norton got the Bearcats out of the inning unscathed once again.

The Trojans struggled to throw strikes in the bottom half of the second and the 'Cats took advantage. Matt Brock, Brennen Norton and Hayden Stancil all drew walks with the bases loaded to give Cullman a 3-0 lead and Kaleb Heatherly drove an RBI single into right field to make it 4-0. Max Dueland extended the inning with an RBI single to left to make it a 5-0 game and Stancil tagged up on a line out from Jake Dueland to make it 6-0. The Bearcats added one more run to their lead when Heatherly scored on an RBI groundout from Hunter Brooks, and they led the way 7-0 going into the third.

After a scoreless third inning, Cullman tacked on another run in the bottom of the fourth to make it an 8-0 game when Max Dueland laced another RBI single into right field. Hazel Green led off the top of the fifth with a solo homerun to trim the lead to 8-1 but the Trojans wouldn't get any closer than that and the 'Cats would end things early in the bottom half of the fifth.

After Zac Edwards and Paxton Ponder led off the bottom of the fifth with a pair of singles and Norton was hit by a pitch to load the bases, Heatherly launched a no-doubter over the field house in left field to plate four more runs and give Cullman a 12-1 win in five innings.

In addition to his three hits and five RBIs at the plate, Heatherly got the start on the mound and tossed all five innings, allowing just one run on five hits and striking out a pair of Trojans. Max Dueland finished a pair of hits and RBIs in the win and Edwards posted a pair of hits as well.

Hazel Green 4 – Cullman 1 (Game two)

After hanging 12 runs on the Trojans in game one, the 'Cats found themselves locked in a pitcher's duel in game two. After a scoreless first inning, Cullman managed to get on the board in the top of the second when Max Dueland crossed the plate on an error to make it a 1-0 game.

Hazel Green tied things up in the bottom of the third after scoring on a wild pitch and the Trojans drilled a solo homerun in the fourth to pull ahead 2-1. The Bearcats were able to get runners in scoring position in the top of the fifth but were unable to take advantage and stranded both of them.

Cullman couldn't get any runs on the board in the top of the sixth either and Hazel Green strung some hits together in the bottom half of the inning to build its lead to 4-1 going into the seventh.

Cullman got the leadoff man on in the top of the seventh, but a double play gave the Trojans a quick pair of outs and Hazel Green went on to take game two over the Bearcats 4-1 to force a game three Saturday.

Dueland posted a pair of hits in the loss and Matt Brock, Will Bradberry and Kaleb Heatherly each added a hit as well.

The 'Cats will be on the field Saturday at 1 p.m. for game three against the Trojans barring any schedule changes due to wet weather.

OTHER FRIDAY ROUND ONE SCORES

Vinemont 4 – J.B. Pennington 3 (Game one)

Vinemont looked to get off to a strong start offensively in game one and they got something going with two outs as Collin Teichmiller drew a walk and Deacon Samples hit a single to right field, but Austin Riddle grounded out to end the inning. J.B. Pennington hit a two-run double, then they added an RBI single as they jumped out to a quick 3-0 lead after one.

But Samples kept the Tigers off the scoreboard for the next three innings, and the Eagles looked to finally crack the scoreboard in the top of the fifth. Braden Boner hit a leadoff single, then Preston Williams drew a walk. Will Rhodes hit the first pitch that he saw to center field for a double as that brought home Boner to put Vinemont on the scoreboard, then later on, Teichmiller hit an RBI groundout to make it a 3-2 game.

Samples allowed a leadoff triple in the bottom of the fifth inning, but he retired the next three batters on a fly out and a pair of strikeouts to get out of the inning without allowing a run. Austin Riddle and Mason McKinney hit back-to-back singles to lead off the sixth, then a Pennington error allowed Riddle to cross the plate and that tied the game up at three.

Samples kept the game tied at three going into the seventh inning as Vinemont looked to take the lead. Rhodes got hit by the pitch, then Colby Miller reached on a fielder's choice.

Miller then stole second and later scored on back-to-back Tiger errors to give the Eagles a 4-3 lead. Samples retired Pennington in order in the bottom of the seventh inning as the Eagles is ahead 1-0 in the series after their 4-3 win over the Tigers.

Rhodes led the way for Vinemont as he finished with a hit and an RBI, while Teichmiller and Ayden Thomason each added an RBI in the game as well. Samples, Riddle, McKinney, and Boner each collected a hit. Samples went the distance as he allowed just five hits and three runs, two of them earned, walked two and struck out 13. After the first inning, Samples allowed just four Tigers to reach base.

J.B. Pennington 10 – Vinemont 0 (Game two)

Vinemont looked to move on to the next round in its game two matchup with J.B. Pennington Friday, but the Eagles were held to just two singles from Collin Teichmiller and Braden Boner as the Eagles got shut out by the Tigers 10-0 to tie the series at one game apiece. Vinemont will head back over to J.B. Pennington Saturday at noon for a rubber game with the Tigers to decide who will advance to round two.

Sardis 6 – West Point 2 (Game one)

The Warriors traveled to Sardis for their first-round matchup Friday night but were held to just a pair of runs in the opening game and fell to the Lions 6-2.

After a scoreless first and second inning, West Point struck first in the top of the third. Branson Smith drove in JD Cochran with an RBI single to make it a 1-0 game, but Sardis responded with a pair of runs in the bottom half of the inning to pull ahead 2-1. An RBI single from Isaac Hoffpauir tied the game at 2 in the top of the fourth but the Warriors couldn't take the lead and the Lions got the run back in their half of the inning.

An RBI single gave Sardis a 3-2 lead in the bottom of the fourth and the Lions tacked on two more runs in the bottom of the fifth and another in the sixth to take a 6-2 lead into the final frame. West Point was unable to push any more runs across and the Warriors dropped game one of the series 6-2.

Aubry Cleghorn posted a pair of hits for West Point in the loss and Smith (one hit) and Hoffpauir (one hit) each finished with an RBI.

West Point 4 – Sardis 2 (Game two)

An RBI single gave Sardis an early 1-0 lead in the top of the first but after driving a double into center field, Aubry Cleghorn came all the way around to score on an error to tie the game at 1 in the bottom of the second. Caiden Rodgers scored on a sacrifice fly from Branson Smith to give the Warriors a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the third and Chase Sibley drew a walk with the bases loaded in the fourth to stretch the lead to 3-1 going into the fifth.

After a scoreless fifth inning, West Point added another run to the lead in the bottom of the sixth when Cade Simmons drove in Carter Thornton with an RBI single to make it 4-1, and the Warriors got the final three outs they needed in the top of the seventh to take game two over Sardis 4-2.

Cleghorn and Thornton each posted a pair of hits and RBIs in the win and Simmons (one hit), Sibley and Smith each finished with an RBI for West Point.

The Warriors and Lions are slated to play game three at Sardis Saturday at 1 p.m. barring any schedule changes due to weather.

Cherokee County 7 – Good Hope 5 (Game one)

Good Hope traveled to take on Cherokee County in the first round of the Class 4A AHSAA state playoffs Friday night. In what was an evenly matched game, Cherokee County scored some late insurance runs, and the Raiders were unable to counter as they wound up dropping game one to the Indians, 7-5.

After a scoreless first inning, Good Hope got on the scoreboard first in the top of the second. Morgan Cook reached on catcher's interference to lead off the inning, then singles by Preston Seymore and Tyler Black loaded the bases with one out. Cook wound up scoring on a Cherokee County error, then a suicide squeeze play by Travis Brock brought home Seymore as that gave the Raiders a 2-0 lead. A sacrifice fly by the Indians in their half made it a 2-1 game, then they added four more runs in the third on two RBI singles and a two-run single.

Good Hope looked to counter in the top of the fourth. Seymore drew a leadoff walk, then Black reached on a bunt single. After a fielder's choice moved them both up 90 feet, Caleb Rusk lined a two-run double to center field to make it a 5-4 contest. Braxton Marshall scored on a two-out error in the fifth as that tied the game up at five, but the Indians added a run in their half on a sacrifice fly and they scored on an error in the sixth to give them a 7-5 lead.

Good Hope had one last shot to take the lead in the top of the seventh. Seymore and Colten Whatley drew back-to-back walks to lead off the inning, then a sacrifice bunt moved them to second and third, but back-to-back strikeouts ended the game, and the Raiders is down 1-0 in the series after losing to Cherokee County, 7-5.

Rusk finished with a hit and two RBIs for Good Hope and Brock collected an RBI in the contest as well. Paydon Bagwell added three hits. Black ended up with two hits, while Marshall and Seymore each finished with a hit.

Cherokee County 12 – Good Hope 0 (Game two)

Good Hope looked to even the series up at one and keep their season alive in game two against Cherokee County, but they were held to just singles by Preston Seymore and Colten Whatley as the Raiders' season came to an end at the hands of the Indians, 12-0.

Good Hope finished the year with a record of 11-17 and they will lose four seniors to graduation: Travis Brock, Lawton Farr, Caleb Rusk, and Lane Speegle. The Raiders will have a lot of great talent returning next season as they will look to get into the postseason again in 2022.

Madison Academy 11 – Fairview 0 (Game one)

Fairview started their postseason at Madison Academy in round one of the Class 5A AHSAA state playoffs, but things didn't go according to plan as they got shut out and no-hit by the Mustangs 11-0 to fall behind in the series 1-0.

Madison Academy 14 – Fairview 1 (Game two)

Fairview looked to keep their season alive in game two against Madison Academy, but a huge third inning by the Mustangs proved to be the difference and the Aggies' season came to an end on Friday as they ended up falling to Madison Academy, 14-1. Fairview's lone run came in the fourth inning as Preston Ryan scored on a passed ball.

Parker Martin and Brody Hogeland had the only two hits of the game for the Aggies, who finished the season with a record of 14-18. Fairview will lose a lot of key players to graduation this season, including Levi Garner, Jack Brown and Preston Ryan, but they will have a lot of key pieces returning in 2022 and they will look to have another successful year and make an even deeper postseason run.

Arab 11 - West Point 7 (Softball)

After winning a pitchers' duel against Jasper on Thursday, West Point traveled to take on Arab as they looked to end the season strong, but they ended up falling to the Lady Knights in a high-scoring affair.

Arab scored on a pair of errors and a wild pitch to start out their half of the first inning as they jumped out to a quick 3-0 lead. They made it 4-0 on an RBI single in the second inning, but West Point countered in the top of the third. Back-to-back two-out singles by Lexi Shadix and Carlie Wilkins got things started for the Lady Warriors, then Sydney Sellers hit an RBI double to make it a 4-1 game. West Point got the bats going in the fourth inning as Lexi Shadix scored on an error, Wilkins hit an RBI single, and Sellers hit a two-run double as that gave them a 5-4 lead.

But Arab got the lead right back in their half as they got their four runs on a two-run double, an RBI single and a passed ball as the Lady Warriors found themselves down, 8-5. But they cut into the deficit in the top of the fifth as back-to-back sacrifice flies by Lexi Kimbril and Bethany Minck made it a one-run game. The Lady Knights added to their lead in their half on an RBI double, an error, and a sacrifice fly and West Point was unable to cut into the deficit as they dropped a tough game on the road to Arab, 11-7.

Sellers finished with three hits and three RBIs for West Point (20-18-2). Wilkins added a pair of hits and an RBI, Minck collected a hit and an RBI, and Kimbril ended up with an RBI as well. Kylee Quinn added three hits, while Brindlee Phillips and Shadix each ended up with a pair of hits. The Lady Warriors will travel to take on Danville next Thursday.

EDUCATION

Wallace State's Shane Morrow takes advantage of Prior Learning Assessment to quickly earn degree

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – Shane Morrow said earning his degree in machine tool technology at Wallace State Community College opened many doors to further his career. The Jasper resident had worked in the field most of his adult life, but did not have the degree that has now allowed him to begin teaching others.

Morrow graduated Parrish High School in 2000 and took some classes at Bevill State before entering the workforce as an apprentice and earning certificates through the Department of Labor.

He spent the next 16 years working in the field before he was approached about possibly teaching. While he was making a good living as a machine tool technologist, without a degree, he wouldn't be able to teach. That's where Wallace State and the benefits of Prior Learning Assessment came in.

Prior Learning Assessment allows individuals transfer career experience and/or credentials earned on the job into credits for some college courses. With credits from core classes that he took at Bevill State shortly after high school and his work experience and credentials, Morrow was able to cut the credits needed to complete his degree by more than half.

"I had to take one ethics class and maybe six or seven machine tool technology classes," he said. "Out of the 45 or 46 credits I needed for MTT, I was able to do PLA for about 27-28 of those."

Morrow said being able to use Prior Learning Assessment was extremely beneficial to him, allowing him to complete his degree without taking classes he didn't need due to his prior experience in the field.

He expressed his thanks to both Susan Peek, who helped determine his PLA, and MTT Instructor Gary McMinn.

"Susan Peek was very informative and helpful," he said. "She was very quick to answer an email or answer a call and point me in the right direction.

"Gary McMinn was great to work around my work schedule," he added. "I called Gary after graduation and he took the time to 'coach' me for my interviews."

Morrow said Wallace State exceeded all of his expectations.

"I was blown away," he said. "Not only was I not just a number, but everyone I came in contact with at Wallace genuinely cared."

Morrow is now teaching machine tool technology at Bevill State in Jasper and plans to earn his bachelor's degree. He encourages anyone working in their field and who may want to advance in their careers to look into Wallace State and Prior Learning Assessment.

"Some shops you really don't have room to grow without an associate degree," Morrow said. "Some corporations want to see that degree before you get a supervisor or programming role."

This is one in a series of spotlights and events to be featured in April as Wallace State celebrates national Community College Month. Visit www.wscccalumni.org/ccmonth21 for more information.



WSCC

Shane Morrow

HEALTH

ADPH recommends resumption of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine use, guidance includes a warning for women aged 18-49

ADPH
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – The Alabama Department of Public Health has received final guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concerning use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.

After a temporary pause on its use since April 13, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the CDC recommended resumption of J&J vaccine use among persons 18 years of age and older, as available data show that the vaccine's known and potential benefits outweigh its known and potential risks. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices reaffirmed its interim recommendation under FDA's Emergency Use Authorization, which includes a new warning for women aged 18-49 years.

Reports of adverse events following the use of the J&J vaccine suggest a very low, but increased risk of a rare adverse event called thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome. Nearly all reports of this serious condition, which involves blood clots with low platelets, have been in adult women younger than 50 years old.

Women younger than 50 years old should be aware of the rare but increased risk of this adverse event and that there are other COVID-19 vaccine options available for which this risk has not been seen.

People ages 16 and 17 are only eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine. At this time, the available data suggest that the chance of adverse reactions occurring is very low, but the FDA and CDC will remain vigilant in continuing to investigate this risk.

The surveillance systems that are in place to monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines authorized for emergency use are effective, as demonstrated by both agencies' quick work to identify and investigate these rare, but serious adverse events. The FDA and CDC will continue with these efforts to closely monitor the safety of these vaccines.

Although the side effects of concern are extremely rare, the FDA and CDC recommend that people who develop severe headache or blurred vision, shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling, persistent abdominal pain or easy bruising/tiny blood spots under the skin beyond the injection site within three weeks of receiving the J&J vaccine should immediately contact their health care provider and seek medical care right away. There have been no reported cases of these side effects in Alabamians.

Advantages of resuming use of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine include flexibility, choice and improved access because this is a one-dose vaccine which has less strict storage and transport requirements.

As of April 23, TTS has not been linked to the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines. More than 1 million Alabama residents are now fully vaccinated. The full MMWR report may be viewed at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7017e4.htm?s_cid=mm7017e4_w.



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A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Relating to Cullman County, to amend Sections 45-22-242 and 45-22-242.11 of the Code of Alabama 1975, to decrease the county lodgings tax upon the retirement of certain debt and provide further for the use of the proceeds of the tax.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 45-22-242 and 45-22-242.11 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§45-22-242.

"(a) There is levied in Cullman County, in addition to all other taxes now imposed by law, a privilege or license tax paralleling the state tax on businesses renting rooms, lodging, or accommodations to transients provided for in Sections 40-26-1 to 40-26-21, inclusive, hereinafter referred to as state lodging tax, in the manner and at the rate hereinafter prescribed.

"(b) Upon every person, firm, or corporation engaging in Cullman County in the business of renting or furnishing any room or rooms, lodging, or accommodations to transients in any hotel, motel, inn, tourist camp, tourist cabin, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly furnished to transients for a consideration, in an amount to be determined by the application of the rate of five percent of the charge for the room, rooms, lodgings, or accommodations, including the charge for use or rental of personal property and services furnished in the room. Notwithstanding the foregoing, upon the retirement of existing debt for the Exit 305 Interchange, County Road 222 and outstanding debt on the building occupied by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, located at 301 2nd Ave SW, Cullman, AL 35055, the application of the rate to be charged for the room, rooms, lodgings, or accommodations, including the charge for use or rental of personal property and services furnished in the room shall be four percent. There is exempted from the tax levied under this part any rentals or services taxed under the state sales tax provided for in Chapter 23 of Title 40. The tax shall not apply to rooms, lodgings, or accommodations supplied for a period of 30 continuous days or more in any place.

"§45-22-242.11.

"(a) The State Department of Revenue shall charge Cullman County for collecting the county lodging taxes levied in this part the lessor of the actual ~~an~~ amount ~~or percentage~~ of total collections, ~~as may be agreed upon by the State Commissioner of Revenue and the Cullman County Commission,~~ but the collection charge shall not in any event exceed ~~10~~ 2.5 percent of the total amount of the special county taxes collected under this part. The charge for collecting the taxes for the county may be deducted each month from the taxes collected before certifying the amount of the proceeds from the taxes due to Cullman County each month. The State Commissioner of Revenue shall pay into the State Treasury all county taxes collected under this part as the taxes are received by the State Department of Revenue. On or before the first day of each successive month, commencing with the month following the month in which the department makes the first collections under this part, the commissioner shall certify to the Comptroller the amount of taxes collected under this part and paid into the State Treasury for the benefit of Cullman County during the month immediately preceding the making of the certification. Before certifying the amount of the taxes paid into the State Treasury for the benefit of Cullman County during each month, the commissioner may deduct from the taxes collected for the month the charges due the department for the collection of the taxes for the county. It shall be the duty of the Comptroller to issue a state warrant each month payable to the Cullman County Commission, in an amount equal to the amount so certified by the State Commissioner of Revenue as having been collected for the use of the county. ~~Upon receiving the tax proceeds, the county treasurer~~

"(b) Upon receiving the tax proceeds, the county treasurer shall transmit the proceeds as follows:

"(1) Two-fifths of the proceeds to the Cullman County Chamber of Commerce to be used~~. Two-fifths of the tax proceeds shall be used, in~~ at the discretion of the chamber of commerce to pay any operational expenses while promoting small businesses, promotion of marketing for Cullman being a destination shopping location, working with and enhancing the City of Cullman's and Cullman County's Industrial Boards, to working with the Cullman County Tourism Board;~~, exclusively for the purpose of developing and promoting tourism and conventions, one-fifth shall be used exclusively for economic and industrial development purposes in the county, and two-fifths shall be used to retire a bond issue on the Cullman Family Recreation Complex. Upon retirement of the bonded debt, the funds shall be used to promote the complex and other tourist attractions and events in the county.~~

"(2) a. One-fifth of the proceeds to the Cullman County Tourism Bureau to be used at the discretion of the bureau exclusively for the purpose of promoting tourism through festivals, events, and tournaments throughout the City of Cullman and Cullman County for the benefit of all of the residents of Cullman County.

b. The Cullman County Tourism Bureau shall be comprised as follows: (1) two members appointed by the Cullman City Council, of which one shall be an elected city councilman and one shall be a representative of tourism relating to the restaurant industry; (2) two members appointed by the full board of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, of which one shall be either the chairman of the chamber or the president of the chamber and one shall be a representative of tourism relating to the Smith Lake Community; (3) two members appointed by the Cullman County Commission, of which one shall be an elected county commissioner and one shall be a representative of tourism relating to the Agri-Tourism industry; (4) one member appointed by the Hotel Association; (5) one member appointed by Wallace State Community College president; (6) one member shall be the Cullman-County Parks & Recreation Director; (7) one member appointed by the Cullman City Parks & Recreation Board Director or President; and (8) one member who shall be a representative of the tourism industry selected by a majority vote of the State delegation; provided however, that in the event the delegation vote is tied, the Senator of Cullman would make the deciding vote.

c. Members of the bureau shall serve staggered, four-year terms as follows: (1) appointees of the Hotel Association, Wallace State Community College; Cullman-County Parks & Recreation, and the Cullman City Parks & Recreation Board shall serve six year terms; (2) one appointee each for the Cullman City Council, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Cullman County Commission shall serve four year terms; and (3) all other appointees shall serve two-year terms.

d. Upon enactment of this act, the Cullman County Treasurer shall open a separate bank account(s) for the Cullman County Tourism Bureau by October 1 of the year of enactment.

"(3) The remaining two-fifths of the proceeds that are sent to the Cullman County Commission from the Alabama Department of Revenue shall continue to be sent to the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce for the sole purpose of paying off the existing debt, which shall not be extended, of the Exit 305 Interchange, County Road 222. Once the existing debt of the Exit 305, Interchange, County Road 222 debt is paid off then one-hundred percent of the two-fifths will transfer for the sole purpose of paying off the remaining outstanding debt on the building occupied by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, located at 301 2nd Ave SW, Cullman, AL 35055, which shall also not be extended. Upon the retirement of the above-mentioned debt, two-fifths of the proceeds shall be transmitted to the Cullman County Tourism Bureau to be used at the discretion of the bureau exclusively for the purposes stated in subdivision (2) of this subsection. The remaining one-fifth of the proceeds shall expire on December 31, 2021.

"(c) Effective June 1, 2021, the balance of the proceeds remaining to be distributed to Cullman County after the cost of collection and distribution to the Alabama Mountain Lakes Association have been deducted pursuant to Section 40-26-20, shall be controlled by the Cullman County Tourism Board.

"(d) Effective June 1, 2021, the City of Cullman shall transmit to the Cullman County Tourism Board, an amount equal to one quarter percent (1/4%) of the privilege tax levied and collected, pursuant to Ordinance No. 2007-7, on persons, firms or corporations renting accommodations to transients in the City of Cullman."

Section 2. This act shall become effective June 1, 2021, following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

Dinner on First (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman City Council on Monday evening approved a special event request from Christy Turner of Cullman City Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism to hold the annual Dinner on First Avenue in the Warehouse District May 21, or May 22 as a rain day. The event will feature catering by Dyron's Low Country and a live performance by Avenue G in the Festhalle. First Avenue will be closed from Flavors Bakery to Arnold Street, along with the Festhalle and nearby city parking lot. According to Turner, all affected business owners were contacted and agreed to the street closure.

Turner also reminded the council and audience about the Strawberry Festival happening this Saturday, May 1. The event will feature crafts in Depot Park, live entertainment and, of course, thousands of gallons of strawberries for sale at the Festhalle.

Councilman Clint Hollingsworth shared that, once again, the state 1, 2 and 3-A track meet will take place at Cullman High School on the day of the festival. He said that many who come for the meet make their way to the festival after their events, and that local hotels are reporting sold out rooms for the weekend.

City cleanup a success

Councilman Johnny Cook told the council that the recent 2021 city cleanup went well. Crews picked up 229 tons of trash and items put out by residents, a 10% increase over 2020, and did so at a savings of $11,000 over last year's cleanup by using the city's new collection trucks.

Cook also said that demand is up for the smaller 65-gallon trash cans, and that a shipment is on order.

The council also approved a special event request from Katherine Sharpe of First United Methodist Sonshine Preschool for a 5k and 1-mile fun run in memory of Susan Waters Oct. 16 beginning at 8 a.m.

The council passed a resolution to enter into agreement with government human resources software company NEOGOV for software to assist with recruiting and new hire onboarding. According to NEOGOV's website, its recruiting package "accelerates time to hire by centralizing the process of attracting applicants, screening them and landing a qualified hire that's productive on day one, while ensuring compliance," and its Onboard program "ensures day-one readiness for new employees, expedites productivity and helps you keep hires longer. Allow new hires to complete paperwork prior to their first day, share organizational values and mission, reinforce job duties, assign mentors and schedule check-ins, all within one system."

The council also approved the renewal of the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Resolution.

The Cullman City Council meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the City Hall auditorium. The public is invited to attend.

Dixie Doodle (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman County Animal Shelter's Donna Ruttkay shares the Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week:

Dixie Doodle is a 2.5-3-year-old Aussie mix. She's a lively-but-not-hyper, medium-energy pet whom Ruttkay calls "a quiet, unassuming girl who just loves to be with you." She is great on her leash, respects personal space and enjoys getting brushed. She likes to get outside and relax in the shade of the walnut tree in the shelter's yard.

Dixie Doodle has the makings of a good companion, therapy or reading dog. Dixie Doodle'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.

Good news!

Ruttkay reported that recent POTW Applejack has been adopted! Thanks to the whole community for making forever homes a regular destination for our furry friends.

Report (from Front)

vented a full review, and approximately 5,700 schools went unranked after review, meaning that approximately 23,560 schools were able to be reviewed fully.

Taking these numbers into account, Cullman's actual percentile rank was in the top 7% among all public high schools fully reviewed, with Fairview and West Point were in the top 15%.

Cullman, Fairview and West Point all improved their standings over the rankings issued in 2020, which covered the 2017-18 school year.

Cullman was number 1,688 nationally in that report and Fairview was number 4,022. No other area schools made it into the top 25% in the 2020 report.

In rankings among 361 high schools in the state of Alabama, Cullman High ranked in the top 5% at number 16, followed by Fairview (35, top 10%), West Point (37), Good Hope (148), Vinemont (156), Cold Springs (199) and Hanceville (232). Holly Pond High School finished between 245 and 361, but was not assigned a specific number ranking.

On the state level, Cullman High improved three points over its number 19 ranking in 2020. Fairview improved from 48th place, and West Point made a leap from 110.

State rankings for other Cullman area schools in 2020 included:

- Good Hope - 148, same in 2021
- Holly Pond - 203, dropped in 2021
- Hanceville - 204, improved in 2021
- Vinemont - 226, improved in 2021
- Cold Springs - unranked between 251 and 359, improved in 2021

The U.S. News and World Report rankings are based on college readiness, reading and math proficiency, reading and math performance, underserved student performance, college curriculum breadth and graduation rates, as follows:

- College readiness (30% of the ranking): The percentage of 12th graders from the class of 2018- 2019 who took at least one AP or IB exam by the end of their senior year and the percentage of 12th graders who earned a qualifying score on at least one AP or IB exam in high school. Earning a qualifying score is weighted three times more than taking.

- College curriculum breadth (10%): The percentage of 12th graders from the class of 2018-2019 who took a wide variety of AP and IB courses across the multiple disciplines and the percentage of 12th graders who earned a qualifying score on them. Earning a qualifying score is weighted three times more than taking.

- Reading and math proficiency (20%): Measures how well students scored on state assessments that measure proficiency in reading and mathematics. Passing these assessments can be required for graduation. Examples of assessments include Smarter Balanced in California and STAAR in Texas.

- Reading and math performance (20%): The difference between how students performed on state assessments and what U.S. News predicted based on a school's student body. U.S. News' modeling across all 50 states and the District of Columbia indicates that the percentage of students from historically underserved subgroups – defined as black students, Hispanic students and students who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch – are highly predictive of a school's reading and math scores.

- Underserved student performance (10%): How well the student population receiving subsidized school lunch and black and Hispanic populations perform on state assessments relative to statewide performance among students not in those subgroups.

- Graduation rate (10%): For the 2021 rankings, the graduation rate corresponds to the 2019 graduation cohort who would have entered ninth grade in the 2015-2016 school year. The high school graduation rates were collected directly from each state along with the math and reading assessment data.



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of)
)
BELINDA KILGORE,) Case No. CV-2017-000060.00
)
an Incapacitated Person.)

NOTICE OF FILING OF PARTIAL SETTLEMENT

YOU WILL TAKE NOTICE that Shelbie Hankey, as Conservator of the Estate of Belinda Kilgore, an Incapacitated Person, filed her account and vouchers for a partial settlement of said Estate on the 21st day of April 2021, and that the 13th day of May 2021 at 1:30 pm has been appointed to hear said settlement.

DONE this 23rd day of April 2021.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain, Circuit Clerk

FILED IN OFFICE
APR 27 2021
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

PB MIN BK 195 PG 624 - 04/12/2021 04:22 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF * CASE NO PC-2020-149
LARRY JOE SIMMONS *
*
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Administration having been granted to SHIRLEY FAY NIX, as Personal Representative of the Estate of LARRY JOE SIMMONS, Deceased, on the 12th day of April, 2021, by Tammy Brown, Probate Judge. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claim against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Shirley Fay Nix
Personal Representative

Thomas E. Drake, II
Attorney for the Personal Representative
419 Second Avenue SW, Suite B
Cullman, Alabama 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
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

PB WIL BK 102 PG 1 - 04/26/2021 01:58 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF * CASE NO PC 2021-150
HARLIS DAREN MELTON *
Deceased *

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED
BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to **Daren Travis Melton,** as Personal Representatives of the Estate of Harlis Daren Melton deceased, on the 26th day of April, 2021, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Daren Travis Melton
Personal Representative

Annette Irons-Parker
Attorney for Personal Representative
215 Main Avenue, Southwest
Cullman, Alabama 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
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

PB WIL BK 101 PG 979 - 04/23/2021 02:26 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO.: PC 2021-156

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF OLEN TAFT WILLIAMS, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Pattie Williams on the 23rd day of April, 2021, by the Hon. 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.

Pattie Williams
Personal Representative

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

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4771

PB MIN BK 195 PG 997 - 04/23/2021 03:01 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE ESTATE OF)
)
BRENDA TURNEY) CASE NO.: PC 2021-153
)
Deceased)

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned on the 23rd day of April, 2021, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Cathy Mills

Roy W. Williams, Jr.
JACKSON & WILLIAMS
416 First Avenue, SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256) 739-5400

To: Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

Tammy Brown
Hon. Tammy Brown, Probate Judge

PB WIL BK 101 PG 631 - 04/13/2021 08:15 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CUILLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
WYNELLE DUKE, * **CASE NO.: PC2021-134**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Testamentary having been granted to CHARLES WILLIAM DUKE and WILLIAM THOMAS DUKE as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of WYNELLE DUKE, deceased, on the 12th day of April, 2021, 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.

Charles William Duke
William Thomas Duke
Co-Personal Representatives

Pamela E. Nail
Attorney for Co-Personal Representatives
200 Second Avenue, Southwest
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-3342

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

Please publish the above Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

PB MIN BK 195 PG 640 - 04/13/2021 08:46 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO.: PC 2021-108

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF DANIEL GARRETT PRESLEY, DECEASED,

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY ADMINISTRATOR

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to DANNY PRESLEY, as Administrator of the Estate of DANIEL GARRETT PRESLEY, Deceased, on the 12th day of April, 2021, by the Honorable Tammy Brown.

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

DANNY PRESLEY
Administrator of the
Estate of
Daniel Garrett Presley, Deceased

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

TO: The Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

Colony (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

COLONY, Ala. – The Colony Town Council meeting on Tuesday evening was brought to an unusual moment of silence as Councilwoman Ethel Alexander brought an unannounced motion to dismiss Town Clerk Patricia Ponder from the position she had held for eight years. They passed the motion with members Alexander, Samuel Ashford, Mary Parker and Mayor Curtis Johnson voting for, and Councilwoman Jasmine Cole abstaining. Councilman Eric Carwell was not at the meeting.

After the meeting, Alexander told The Tribune that she had made the motion after consultation with Ponder.

Ponder and Mayor Johnson had ongoing friction since his election last August. Just before he took office in November, Johnson delivered a letter to the clerk, telling her that "your services as Town Clerk for the Town of Colony will no longer be needed."

As state policy requires outgoing municipal clerks to remain in office following an election until a new clerk can be selected and sworn in, Ponder disregarded the letter and continued her duties.

On Nov. 3, 2020, his first day in office, Johnson told Ponder at the council's organizational meeting that she could not be there and threatened to have Sheriff's deputies remove her.

Ponder presented him the state policy and Johnson left, following which the council held the organizational meeting, required by law on that day, in his absence under Mayor Pro Tem Alexander.

At that meeting, the quorum of members present voted to keep Ponder on for the time being.

Several supporters of Johnson have challenged the legality of that meeting.

At the next council meeting a week later, Johnson invited a Birmingham attorney to speak and make the argument that Ponder was disqualified from holding office because she lived outside the town limits, but the quote the attorney read from the state law itself contained phrasing that exempted the clerk from the residency requirement.

Johnson's use of town funds to pay the attorney caused further controversy over the limits of the Mayor's discretionary use of funds.

After some time, the friction seemed to be easing, and the town was able to accomplish business at its meetings, but concerns and occasional confrontations continued until, as Alexander said of Ponder, "She just had enough."

After the vote, the meeting continued with Ponder keeping minutes, until the public comment portion of the meeting, when Gwendolyn Purifoy asked Ponder if she was going to stay on long enough to get a new clerk settled.

Ponder responded by rising from her seat, setting her Town Hall keys on the table in front of Johnson, and leaving the building.

As she walked out the door, Purifoy thanked her for her service.

Ponder could not be reached for comment afterward.

OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS

- The council approved a motion to purchase new tires for the town's car, though quotes were not presented and an amount was not specified.

- A motion for a resolution to change council meetings from twice per month to once per month died without receiving a second.

- A motion for a resolution that would limit the Mayor's discretionary spending was tabled amid questions about the amount of the limit.

- Cole, who heads up the Parks and Recreation committee, shared that the community center/gym had received a 97 Health Department rating, and that a broken window there needed to be replaced. She also asked that the council consider hiring someone to open the gym on Sundays for $30 per week. No action was taken at this meeting.

The Colony Town Council meets at 5 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at Colony Town Hall. The public is invited to attend.

WRECKER/TOW TRUCK Driver

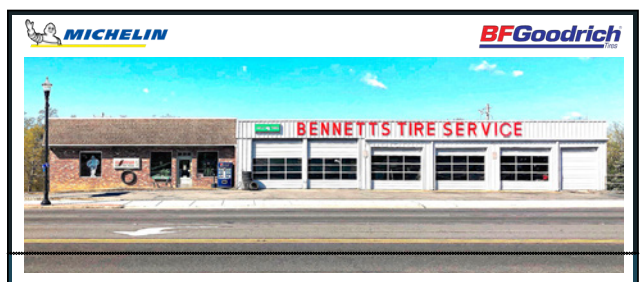
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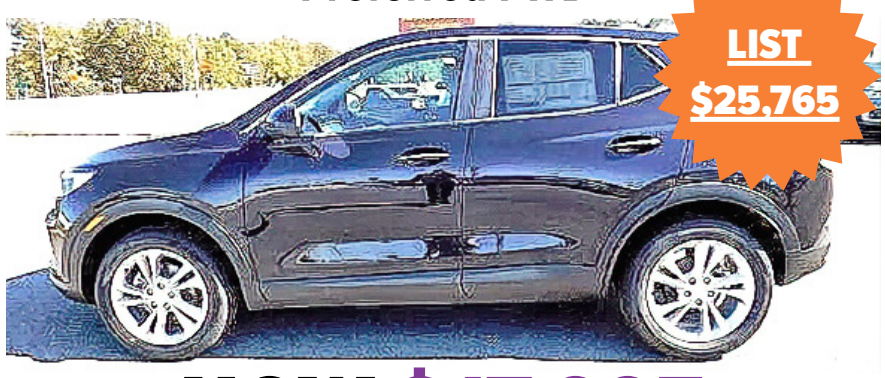
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