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From books to battalions

Spotlighting Good Hope's military-bound Aiden Gonzalez

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

Aiden Gonzalez is a 2021 graduate of Good Hope High School and he will soon leave for the United States Navy. Aiden is new to Cullman County, having moved here recently from California, though even before the move, he had already decided to join the Navy.

Aiden had an experience when he was a young boy that sparked his interest in being in the military.

He explained, "It had to be when I was 7 or 8. I went to this day care and they had these military guys come in and I really, really liked this one guy. I thought he was so cool.

"I think he was in the Army. I remember giving him a piece of paper and asking for his autograph because I thought he was the coolest dude ever. I really wanted to go into the military after that." » PAGE 2



Aiden Gonzalez with his girlfriend Kayla Brunner »

AIDEN GONZALEZ

Taking the American Challenge

Cross-country bicyclists stop in Holly Pond



CARLA HART

Holly Pond Mayor Carla Hart, center, with members of the Overland team at the Holly Pond fire station Monday.

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. – The east Cullman County town of Holly Pond has spent a few days hosting students and leaders from bicycle tour organization Overland Summers, as they travel through on a cross-country journey that will take them from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific. Starting on Tybee Island, Georgia just over a week ago, the group is scheduled to reach Los Angeles, California and hit the beach at Santa Monica in another five weeks. Along the way, the group is enjoying the hospitality of small towns like Holly Pond.

Each group has 12 students between the 9th and 12th grades with two adult leaders.

"Overland Summers is basically like summer camps, but on the go," said group leader Bronson Cvijanovich of Chappaqua, New York.

According to Cvijanovich, the groups cover approximately 85 miles per day.

The guide added, "We're all self-supported; no van carrying our stuff. We carry everything on the bikes--basically, these saddlebags called panniers--and anything that can't fit in those bags we just strap onto the rack with bungees, and then we just try to get up hills with all the weight."

Cvijanovich said of the experience of riding cross-country, "I think the best way to see a place is on a bike, because you roll through much slower and you really get to stay there at night. You camp and you really get to see the towns on the way, as opposed to driving, like a road trip. Six weeks is a lot of stays in different towns, you know, passing through these really cool places that you might pass by all of them in a couple of days in a car."

The two groups that stopped in Holly Pond were part of an Overland program called American Challenge.

According to the description of American Challenge on Overland's website, "This trip is hard. Really hard. But it's simple, too. Just wake up every day for six weeks, get on the bike, and head west. It's no more complicated than that.

"Sharing the experience with your group and your Overland leaders makes all the difference. » PAGE 8

STATE

Tribune nets 13 APA awards including Community COVID award



NOAH GALILEE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Community COVID Award

» PAGE 2

Chambers Fall Festival in the works for September

» PAGE 6

LIFESTYLE

Keeping safe while working out, summer training

» PAGE 2

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Gonzalez (from Front)

When he got older and time for Aiden to choose which branch of the military, he met with a Navy recruiter that Aiden said, "My recruiter in California was just really nice and very open.

"We talked a lot and he convinced me to join the Navy and I really found it appealing."

Aiden hopes to be a part of the Navy's Warrior Challenge Program.

Aiden will leave July 20 for boot camp at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center near Chicago. Afterward, he will be headed to Jacksonville, Florida.

Aiden thanked his parents. He said, "My dad, he's helped me out a lot and supported me through all of this. He thinks this is a great idea. I also want to thank my mom and stepmom as well." Aiden is the son of Richard (Joyce) Gonzalez and Charlotte Jordan.

Safe (from Front)

CDC
Contributor

WASHINGTON – People who exercise in extreme heat are more likely to become dehydrated and develop a heat-related illness.

If you plan to exercise while it's hot outside:

• Limit outdoor activity, especially during the middle of the day when the sun is hottest.

• Wear and reapply sunscreen as indicated on the package.

• Schedule workouts and practices earlier or later in the day when the temperature is cooler.

• Pace activity. Start activities slow and pick up the pace gradually.

• Drink more water than usual, and don't wait until you're thirsty to drink more. Muscle cramping may be an early sign of heat-related illness.

• Monitor a teammate's condition and have someone do the same for you.

• Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.

• Follow additional tips on how to prevent heat-related illness.

Learn how to spot heat-related illness

• Seek medical care immediately if you or a teammate has symptoms of heat-related illness.

• Take a CDC training course. Learn more on how to spot heat-related illness by participating in this course designed for coaches, teachers, parents and high school athletes. https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/extreme/heat_illness_training.htm.

• Heat-related illness in athletes can be prevented if coaches and athletes are properly educated about heat safety.

Warning
If you feel faint or weak, STOP all activity and get to a cool place.

Award (from Front)

Ashlyn Grey
ashlyn@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – This past weekend, members of The Cullman Tribune attended the Alabama Press Association to celebrate 150 years of journalistic integrity in the state, with Gov. Kay Ivey among many others in attendance.

"It is an honor to be represented in any category, but to bring home a one-time only category for the coverage during the difficult year of COVID-19 is a bit special," said Noah Galilee, Tribune publisher.

Along with bringing home the Community COVID award, The Tribune also swept the breaking online news category, one Galilee says will be seeing some improvements in the coming months. "Last year, former editor Wendy Sack was at the helm of the breaking news," he said. "Now with some changes and a couple future additions, our breaking news should be at an improved level for the readers. We can't give too much away but we are making some drastic changes to that particular department."

The Tribune's Christy Perry won for Best Headline for "Have Still, Will Travel," along with Best Business Story or Column and Best Feature Story Coverage. Perry shared, "The Best Headline win is wonderful, but it's the other two awards that really mean the most to me. Best Feature Story Coverage and Best Business Story or Column were both wonderful stories about people from Cullman.

"As a writer, you always want to be deserving of telling these special stories and do your absolute best for those who trusted you enough to share their stories with you. Having your work chosen as 'the best', is always a great honor, but it also shows that the people we write about--the folks from Cullman County--are the best."

First time winner and resident Tribune photographer Mike Witcher took home first place in Best Feature Photo for his shot of Alan Jackson during the artist's Drive-In concert series that kicked off in Cullman. "I am stunned, honestly," Witcher said after learning of the win. "To be nominated next to all of these talented photographers in the state is an honor."

While The Tribune took home second place in Best Use of Video of 2-minutes for its "Local Debates" coverage, there is still room for improvement in the future.

"When we began over a decade ago, audio and video clips were a staple and one we are trying to get back to," Galilee said. "I am humbled that the debate coverage, which W.C. 'Craig' Mann, myself and Dustin Isom performed, even placed as it is hard to make politics look appealing. However, it was a good series of debates for those who participated, and a series we look to grow each election cycle."

Below is a list of awards won by The Cullman Tribune in Category B at the 2020-2021 APA Awards:

• Best Local News Coverage – The Cullman Tribune (3rd place)

• Best In-Depth News Coverage – "Summer Protests," W.C. Mann, Heather Mann for The Cullman Tribune (3rd place)

• Best Business Story or Column – "For the love of Claire: Local dad launches patient advocacy service," Christy Perry for The Cullman Tribune

• Best Feature Story Coverage – "True love always finds a way," Christy Perry for The Cullman Tribune

• Best Feature Photo – "Alan Jackson's Small-Town Drive-In," Mike Witcher for The Cullman Tribune

• Best Feature Photo – "Prost!," W.C. Mann for The Cullman Tribune (3rd place)

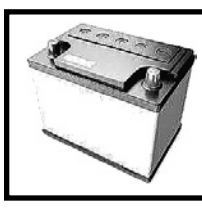
• Best Headline – "Have Still, Will Travel," Christy Perry for The Cullman Tribune

• Online Breaking News Coverage – "Plane Crash," "New Canaan Shooting," "Adam Clark," Wendy Sack for The Cullman Tribune (1st - 3rd)

• Best Use of Social Media – "Cullman Municipal Election Debates," The Cullman Tribune (2nd place)

• Best Use of Video (Longer than 2 minutes) – "37th Annual Cullman County Band Exhibition," The Cullman Tribune (3rd place)

• Community COVID Award – The Cullman Tribune


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United Way of Cullman County

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COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Monday, July 5, 2021 COVID-19 update from the Alabama Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Dashboard Hub (https://bit.ly/3iVJwXK)

ADPH COVID-19 dashboard changes
Along with decreases in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths, ADPH will be updating its dashboard less frequently. Effective June 7, the Data and Surveillance Dashboard will update Monday, Wednesday and Friday; the Vaccine Distribution Dashboard will update Tuesday and Thursday and no weekend updates will be made. Additional information may be provided in the future as ADPH gathers more data on the pandemic.

Case details (Updated Mon, Wed, Fri)

• Total confirmed cases in Alabama: 424,371 (+ 0 since Friday)
• Probable cases in Alabama: 126,927 (+ 0 since Friday)
• Total confirmed deaths in Alabama: 9,059 (+ 0 since Friday)
• Probable deaths in Alabama: 2,299
• Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co.: 6,809 (+ 0 since Friday)
• Probable cases in Cullman Co.: 3,205 (+ 0 since Friday)
• Total confirmed deaths in Cullman Co.: 139
• Probable deaths in Cullman Co.: 62
• Total tested in Cullman Co.: 43,498
• Total tested in the last 14 days in Cullman Co: 1,578
• Cases in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 42
• Total tested in Alabama: 2,685,129
• Cases in the last 14 days in Alabama: 1,997
• Total tested in the last 14 days in Alabama: 74,839
• Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 216
• Presumed recoveries in Alabama (reported weekly): no update available

Vaccine details (updated Tues, Thurs)

• Doses Delivered to Alabama: 4,618,925
• Doses delivered to Alabama providers: 3,154,965
• Doses administered: 3,246,997
• Number of people receiving one or more doses: 1,839,512
• Number of people who have completed vaccine series: 1,516,263
• Doses delivered to federal programs: 1,463,960

Alabamians in Phases 1a, 1b and 1c (including those 12 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

Texting and WhatsApp resources for locating COVID-19 vaccine
Finding a COVID-19 vaccination location near you is easy and available on multiple platforms. Text your ZIP code to 438829 or call 1-800-232-0233. Another exciting effort is underway to help connect people with vaccine resources and information: the CDC's new Spanish-language vaccine finder on WhatsApp. You can try it by texting the word "hola" as a WhatsApp message to the CDC at 1-833-636-1122.

COVID-19 vaccine incentives
Companies across the United States are offering rewards to their vaccinated customers and employees. These include free rides to and from your vaccine appointments and free child care for parents and caregivers to get vaccinated and recuperate. Visit the COVID-19 vaccine incentives page at www.vaccines.gov/incentives.html to read about these and other incentives offered by companies across the country. ADPH encourages businesses throughout the state to help improve the vaccination rate by being vaccinated yourself and offering incentives to your employees, customers and others in your area to be vaccinated.

Vaccine scheduling assistance for close contacts of someone positively diagnosed with COVID-19
In collaboration with the Alabama Department of Public Health, the School of Public Health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) is providing assistance to many in our state seeking vaccine appointments or locations. If you are a close contact of someone who was positively diagnosed with COVID-19, you may receive a telephone call from a UAB representative. The caller will be able to provide assistance in finding a vaccination location nearby.

Delta variant B.1.617.2
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has designated the Delta variant, which is also known as B.1.617.2, as a variant of concern. This means the CDC officially recognizes that the variant may carry a risk of more severe illness and transmissibility. The Delta variant, which first emerged in India, now accounts for about 20% of new U.S. cases. The number of cases of Delta in the U.S are likely to be higher, as not all SARS-CoV-2 specimens are sequenced. The variant is highly contagious and has the potential to infect more persons, resulting in more hospitalizations and deaths. At the moment, data indicates that two doses of Pfizer vaccine are 88% protective against the virus. The two other COVID 19 vaccines, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, are likely to be effective against this variant as well. The message about this variant, as well as other variants, is that the more persons who are vaccinated, the less likely the opportunity for variants to emerge. Now is a critical time for persons in Alabama to take advantage of the multiple opportunities to be vaccinated.

National Month of Action continues through July 4
The Alabama Department of Public Health joins in encouraging everyone in the state to work toward the goal of having 70% of U.S. adults getting at least one COVID-19 vaccination by July 4. President Biden announced the National Month of Action initiative which encourages national organizations, local government leaders, community-based and faith-based partners, businesses, employers, social media influencers, celebrities, athletes, colleges, young people and thousands of volunteers across the nation to work together to get their communities vaccinated. Decreasing numbers of Alabama residents are being vaccinated even though vaccines are available, so promotions and actions are needed now to defeat COVID-19. Visit www.alcovidvaccine.govto find a place to get vaccinated nearby.

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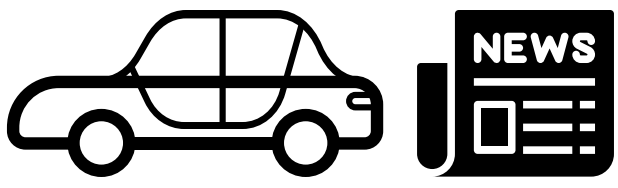
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LEGALS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

ERIN CARVER,
Plaintiff

Vs. Case Number: **DR-2021-000160.00**

MARCUS CARVER,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

Marcus Carver, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Erin Carver's Complaint for Divorce by August 23, 2021 or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against him in Case Number 25-DR-2021-000160.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 22nd day of June, 2021.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain,
Clerk of Circuit Court

PETITIONER:
Erin Carver
99 Frost Rd
Eva, AL 35621

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Olivia Law – Editor
Christy Perry - Lifestyle/Reporter
W.C. Mann - Senior Reporter
Sammy Confer-Youth/JVSports Editor
Nick Griffin -VarsitySports Editor
JoeMcElroy -Photographer
Bill Piper - Photojournalist
Howard Cole - Photojournalist
Martha Needham - Photojournalist
Robin Winton - Newsroom Manager
Janet Chandler - Marketing Specialist

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- Free hot meals for children Mondays 11 a.m. – noon, Tuesdays 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. and Wednesdays-Fridays 11 a.m. – noon Cullman Housing Authority Community Center 1545 Vine Circle S.W. Please call Kristie 256-636-5362 for more information. Eat in or take out. 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.

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

Guy Hunt Library Summer Children's Programs
• July 8 – Mrs. Nance's Painting Party
• July 15 – McWane Science Center
• July 22 – Soil and Water, Animal Tracks
• All programs start at 1 p.m. For more information, send an email to guyhuntlibrary@gmail.com or call 256-796-5226.

Agriplex Children's Summer Camp Programs
Saturdays, beginning at 9 a.m. at Festhalle Farmers Market, Power of Produce: Kids up to age 12 can sample fresh produce while earning market money (pop bucks) to buy produce from local farmers.

Agriplex Adult Programs
Thursdays: noon - 1 p.m., Yoga under the Pavilion, Join us for a beginner yoga class in the serenity of nature. $5 per person, summer family special of $10 per family. Ages 10 & up, must be able to follow along with class. No registration required. Please bring your yoga mat & water.

Country Legends Rediscovered Exhibition
• Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State Community College.
• Through Aug. 31. Tuesday-Friday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Burden Family Reunion
July 10 - The Burden family reunion will be July 10 at the West Point Town Hall. It will begin around 10 a.m. Please bring a covered dish and prize for Bingo. Hope to see you there!

Let's go to Italy!
July 10 - Join us 2 p.m. Saturday, July 10 to learn about Red Door Travel's Spring Break's Italian Adventure March 25 - April 3, 2022. There is no cost or obligation to attend. We will enjoy some Italian snacks, stroll through Italy for a time, talk about what you can expect, and answer any questions you might have. This affordable, small group trip includes round-trip airfare from Birmingham, hotel, most meals and guided tours in Florence, Venice, Cinque Terra, Tuscany and an optional Rome extension. If you plan to attend, please contact us at Bill@TheRedDoorCullman.com or call 256-338-3074 so we will know how many to plan for. If you can't come, but want to know more, we'll be happy to send you a brochure. Meeting at Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold Street, Cullman, 256-734-0599.

David Speegle Family Reunion
July 11 - The annual reunion of the David Speegle family will be held Sunday, July 11, at the Speegle Family Point (334 County Rd 321, Crane Hill, AL 35053) beginning around 10:30 a.m. Please join us and bring a covered dish for lunch at noon. Contact Judy Shannon at 256-734-3460 or Norman Calvert at 256-734-0389 if you need additional information. Come eat and enjoy the day with us!

Davenport Reunion
July 11 - The Davenport reunion will be held Sunday, July 11, at the Moody Center in Hanceville. All relatives come and bring a covered dish. Meal will be served at noon.

Pleasant View Revival and Singing
July 18 - Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church will have their summer revival the third week in July beginning with a singing Sunday night, July 18, at 5 p.m. "The Williamsons" from Wetumpka, Oklahoma will be the guest singers. Services will be day and night, Monday, July 19 – Friday, July 23. Morning services will begin at 10:30 a.m. and evening services at 7 p.m., with Brother Jack Thomason as the evangelist. Lunch will be served each day after the morning service and we will have prayer band at 6:45 p.m. before each evening service. On Sunday night, Aug. 1, we will have a singing with "New Ground" from Scottsboro at 5 p.m. Everyone is invited. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278, approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. For more information call 256-796-5986.

West Point High School Class of '62 School Reunion
July 24 – The Class of '62 School Reunion will be Saturday, July 24 at 1 p.m. at the Brandin' Iron Steakhouse in West Point (87 Co Rd 1242, Cullman, AL 35057). For more information, contact Linda Jordan 256-747-6863.

Wallace State Diesel by Distance Open House
July-Aug. - Wallace State's Diesel by Distance program will host a series of open house events to learn more about the program, experience virtual reality lessons and more. Open house will be held from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. in the Diesel Technology building on the Hanceville campus on the following dates: July 1, July 8, July 29, Aug. 5, Aug. 12 and Aug. 19. For more information, contact Anna Parrish Beard at 256-352-8356 or anna.parrish@wallacestate.edu or visit www.wallacestate.edu/dieselby-distance.

Cullman County Sports Hall of Fame
Aug. 14 - The Cullman County Sports Hall of Fame will hold its annual banquet and induction ceremony Aug. 14, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Stonebridge Farms. Tickets can be obtained at First Southern Financial and are $20 each. For more information call 256-737-5120 or 256-736-4445.

Free Community Movie Night at Vinemont Community Center
Aug. 21 – Bring a blanket or chair and come enjoy "Toy Story 4!" Start time will be announced at a later date. Vinemont Community Center – 88 Ridgeway Street, Cullman, AL 35058

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JULY 6, 2021

Smith Lake Park Fireworks and Music Festival sees successful 2021 return

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN COUNTY, Ala. – Smith Lake Park was packed with visitors Sunday for its annual fireworks and music festival. While many took to the water, others enjoyed the live music, food trucks and vendors over at the park's event venue.

Cullman County Parks and Rec Director Doug Davenport was pleased with the weekend's attendance and proud of the great job of his staff.

He said, "It was a huge success! I think people really enjoyed it, especially since they didn't get to do anything this past year. We always strive to have a better event each year."

Davenport continued, "Without Matt Gentry and the support of the Cullman County Commission, it would not be possible. Also, I want to give a big shoutout to the Cullman County Parks and Rec staff.

"They worked around 17 hours to make this Fourth of July special for everyone. I am truly blessed to get to be a part of this great staff."

The Cullman County Sheriff's Department set up a Mobile Command Center at Smith Lake Park prior to the weekend event. Sheriff Gentry explained, "We have approximately 25 deputies on-site. We are patrolling the park area, playground and water area.

"We also have our dive team deployed on the water. Once the fireworks show is over, we have deputies assigned to work traffic exiting the park."

The cooperation between the parks and rec staff and sheriff's department resulted in a fun and safe day for families as they gathered to celebrate America's birthday.











PHOTOS COURTESY CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

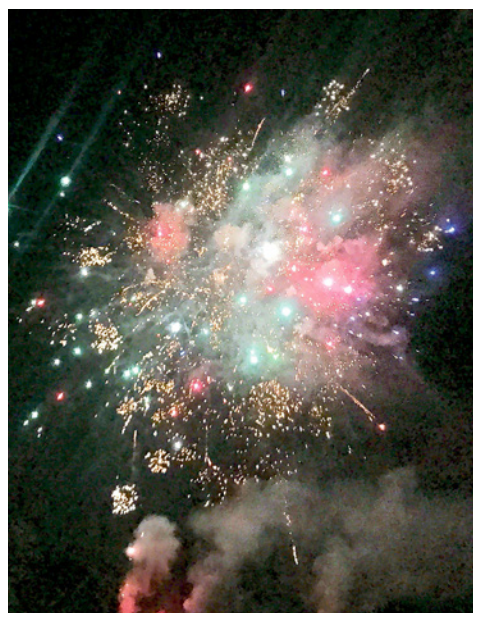
GOOD HOPE HOSTS FIREWORKS SHOW

The Faith, Family, Freedom Firework Show took place Sunday evening at Good Hope Municipal Park. Hosted by Branded by Christ Cowboy Church, this event featured a horse parade at 7:30, with the firework show beginning at dark.













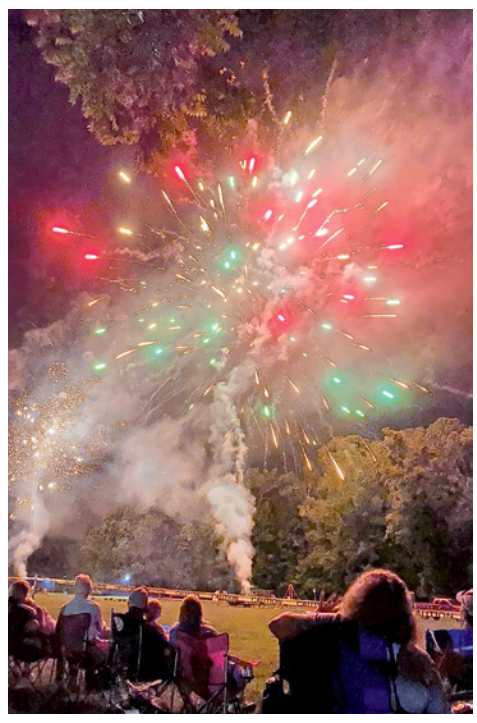


PHOTOS COURTESY CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

FIREWORKS IN FAIRVIEW

Sunday, Fairview Park hosted the 20th Annual Freedom Celebration fireworks and music show. The event was hosted by First Baptist Church of Fairview, Merchants Bank, Temple Baptist Church, the Town of Fairview, Welcome Baptist Church, Brandin' Iron Steakhouse, Brindley Mountain Barbeque, Fairview Superette and Walker Brothers.









PHOTOS COURTESY ASHLYN GREY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE









THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JULY 6, 2021

‘We want to serve these kids’ Day 1 of Stu Stuedeman Cullman Basketball Camp in the books

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – This year’s Stu Stuedeman Basketball Camp at Cullman High School officially tipped off Monday morning and over 50 kids turned out to learn from Bearcat varsity coaches and players. Head Coach Stu Stuedeman is entering his first season at Cullman and after he and his team spent most of June competing in summer play dates, they have a chance this week to work with the younger generation of players in the community. Camp got underway at 8 a.m. Monday morning and players were led through a variety of drills and skills competitions by the players and coaches at Cullman High School.

Stuedeman wasn’t quite sure what to expect on day one but was happy to see more than 50 young players turn out to compete and get better. The holiday weekend may have taken a toll on most of us but the campers at Cullman High were ready to play hard and hit the hardwood with plenty of energy.

“I’m very pleased with the turnout. I think we had over 50 campers and the energy was through the roof. I’m also really pleased with our players that worked the camp; they were all about it. They were energized, they were pouring into these kids and the kids really responded to that and gave a lot of hear and soul and effort out there,” Stuedeman said.

“It was fun to watch. I was a little bit apprehensive and didn’t know what to expect coming off the July 4 holiday and with a gym full of kids at 8 a.m. they might’ve been sleepy, but they were ripping and roaring and ready to go so it was a lot of fun. Our players were great, the campers were great, and it was really just a great day.”

Young players at this year’s camp got the chance to work on the same drills and techniques the varsity Bearcat team uses and Stuedeman wants to see the campers continue building on those skills as they get older.

“We start every morning with the first hour of camp doing skill work stations. We did five, 10-minute skill work stations where we worked on the same stuff we do with our varsity team, down drives, jump stopping, kicking for shots. We did some passing drills to help their passing form and we did some shooting drills to help their shooting form and we worked on some attacking moves off the bounce,” Stuedeman said.

“Basically, all the skills we work on with our varsity guys every day, we did with our campers and just scaled it down to make it a little bit easier for them. We worked on a lot of ball handling and basically just had practice for an hour so that was great. Those are things that kids can take home and take with them and get better at as they keep moving on.”

The basketball knowledge and hands on coaching that campers receive throughout the week will be a big help to them in their basketball careers going forward but what may be even more valuable is the time these young players get to spend with some of their role models. A lot of these campers will grow up to join the varsity teams themselves and this week is a great chance for the current varsity players to meet some of their biggest fans.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Campers celebrate at the end of a drill during day 1 of this year’s Stu Stuedeman Basketball Camp at Cullman High School Monday.

“It’s extremely valuable. We had a players and coaches meeting this morning before camp to talk about what we need out of our players for camp, and I touched on something I thought about when I visited Pearl Harbor. I talked about how humbling it is to think about those men and women who passed away and served their country to the highest level.

“I’m sure they were thinking ‘Why are you talking about this with us at 6:30 a.m.’ but I told them they have an opportunity to serve their community and there’s no better platform to do it than with the game you love,” Stuedeman said.

“Our players really responded, and they served their community today. That’s what its really about and I think the campers just fed off of that energy and fed off our players pouring into them. It’s important for those kids to see those players that they want to be one day, and they look at them and remember ‘Hey that guy was a great guy and he really helped me at camp. I want to do that one day. I want to play basketball one day.’ That’s our biggest thing, we want to serve these kids and use our platform to pour into them, to help them get better and to have fun at the same time.”

This year’s camp will resume Tuesday morning at 8 a.m. and will continue through Wednesday and Thursday.

Meet the Coaches: Auburn tight ends coach Brad Bedell

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. – After playing seven seasons in the NFL, Auburn tight ends coach Brad Bedell briefly considered pursuing a career in the FBI.

“I’d always wanted to do that, but coaching took over,” Bedell said. “The passion for the game is what it comes down to for me. This is a game that I absolutely respect and cherish.”

The bureau’s loss is Auburn’s gain.

An All-American offensive lineman at Colorado, Bedell returned to his alma mater to start his coaching career, hoping to impact his players in the same manner as his college offensive line coach, Tom Cable.

“He taught me things about the game, and I grew under him,” Bedell said.

“He coached us hard, but you always knew where you stood, you always knew he loved you. From there, my passion for football took off. It’s the greatest game of all-time.

“Once I was done playing, you always have that itch to compete. I thought I can help young men grow and develop, not only as a football player but as a person. I’ve always wanted to be a part of this game and coaching was the closest thing to stay in the game. That was really important to me.

“I’m an intense guy but I don’t demean. Players are always going to understand what they mean to me and what they mean to the Auburn football family.

“You’ve got to love these kids. That’s so important, to have them know that you care about them more than just wins and losses, you care about them as people.

“You can push them if they know you care about more than that. That’s the way I go about things.”

Bedell’s NFL background gives him a firsthand perspective of what it takes to simultaneously prepare for the rigors of professional football, and a post-football career.

“The NFL doesn’t last very long,” he said. “It’s important to get a degree so that when they leave Auburn University, they’re developed and prepared to take on life. If it’s the National Football League, awesome, but 80 percent are going to have to get jobs after they’re done playing.

“Are they developed to do that? Are they mature enough to do that? Have they gotten the right contacts to do that? Are they prepared for that? You’ve got to prepare them for both.”

Auburn head coach Bryan Harsin has hired Bedell three times: at Arkansas State in 2013 in Harsin’s first head coaching opportunity, at Boise State in 2017, and at Auburn in 2021.

“Coach Harsin does a phenomenal job at of having an understanding of this is why we do things,” Bedell said. “There is no gray area. This is what we’re going to do and this is what’s going to help us be successful.

“He’s got an unbelievable vision.

“He’s had it everywhere we’ve been. He’s very deliberate in putting in the game plan for that vision by instilling his culture, which he’s phenomenal at.

“We’re very competitive. We want to do things the right way.

“As you develop and you learn the way of doing things at Auburn, that’s going to transition to every part of your life.”

When talking to prospective student-athletes, Bedell emphasizes two reasons why players would be wise to consider Auburn.

“No. 1, you’re going to be held accountable, off the field, on the field, in the classroom,” he said.

“The other thing is development is the key to this game. Whether or not you’re the No. 1 player in the country, everybody is going to be developed.

“Everybody needs to be developed in some facet of the game coming out of high school. You’ve got to be developed coming out of college. It’s just the way it is.

“At Auburn, you can get developed to be the player that you want, but you’ve got to be willing to put the work in. There’s a reason why we have, ‘Work, hard work.’”

After coaching O-line at each of his first six college jobs, Bedell brings a lineman’s mentality to the Tigers’ tight ends.

“What a phenomenal group,” he said. “Just great kids. We’re excelling in the classroom right now which means we can dive into football faster.



TODD VAN EMST/AU ATHLETICS

Auburn tight ends coach Brad Bedell.

“Their work ethic is unbelievable. John Samuel Shenker came in this summer after playing baseball and just dove in. He worked extremely hard in the spring of the practices he could get to. He studies the game.

“Tyler Fromm, Luke Deal and Brandon Frazier really did a nice job in the spring. Landen King comes in as a mid-year kid. He’s fast and he does things really well.

“The identity in that room has got to be details. You’re going to have to be detailed in that room and you’re going to have to be physical to help us be successful.”

As Brad Bedell concluded his NFL career at age 30, a friend who once worked for the Secret Service on President Clinton’s security detail told Bedell he would be getting a late start if he applied for the FBI.

Thus began the coaching journey that led him to the Plains.

“I love to work, and I could not be more appreciative to be at Auburn,” he said. “This is an unbelievable opportunity with a great fan base. I can’t wait for the season. It’s time to go.

Festival (from Front)

Ashlyn Grey
ashlyn@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – On Sept. 25, Chambers Farm & Garden Supply will be hosting a fall festival for the entire community. The event will be held from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the lot behind Chambers at 404 McNabb Drive SW across from West Elementary.

At least 60 vendors are already scheduled, offering things such as animals, handmade soaps, body butters, Christmas ornaments, jewelry, candles, clay figurines, Tupperware, massage therapy, honey, home décor and baked goods.

The festival will also feature food trucks, a bouncy house, DJ and several giveaways from vendors throughout the day. Of course, there will also be in-store specials at Chambers.

Longtime customer of Chambers, Judy Snead has been working with them closely on the festival planning.

Snead shares a passion for these types of events, as she hosts farm tours at her personal farm, Snead’s Farmhouse. Recently, she held an event with large success, with 20-30 vendors and over 600 people in attendance.

Chris Chambers, manager of Chambers Farm & Garden Supply, shared his hopes of starting an annual event, “I want to start an annual event here. We will see how this year goes but I believe it will be quite well. Obviously with the vendor turnout, I imagine we will have a good turnout. Just as long as the weather permits.”

There is a $20 fee to become a vendor for the festival. Registration also includes a free T-shirt and goody bag. For more information contact Judy Snead at judysnead9522@gmail.com.

Obituary Announcements: July 5

Joshua Alexander Hallex, 44, of Cullman
Memorial services are incomplete at this time for Joshua Alexander Hallex, 44, of Cullman. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Hallex family. Mr. Hallex passed away July 3 at his residence. He was born Dec. 25, 1976. He loved his family and friends. He was preceded in death by his grandparents: Mary and Leroy Hallex and Chester and Della Ray Martin and brother-in-law: Wade Wise. Survivors include his parents: Carol and Don Hallex; grandmother: Ruth Muskoph; brothers: David (Jenny) Hallex and Shane Hallex; sisters: Sharon (David) McDaniel, Jennifer (Bo) Winfrey, Beth Hallex, Marla (Brad) Jordan, Joy Hallex and Donna (Shawn) Prestridge; aunt: Patricia Howse and family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com

William Richard "Dickie" Smith, 76, of Cullman
Funeral service for William Richard "Dickie" Smith, 76, of Cullman will be at 7 p.m., Friday, July 9, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, with Pastor Austin Rowell and Bro. Burton Sampson officiating. The family will receive friends Friday from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the funeral home. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Smith family. Mr. Smith passed away July 3 at Shepherd's Cove in Albertville. He was born March 4, 1945, to William Perry and Jewell Lessie Young Smith. He loved music and playing the guitar. He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his daughters: Amy (Casey) Sigouin, Tammy (Matt) Rowell and Montana Smith; brother: Dale (Angie) Smith; grandchildren: Blake (Cyndey) Rowell, Austin (Erin) Rowell, Cassie (Kyle) Stephenson and Jessy (Mason) Tidwell; great-grandchildren: Noah and Brindley Rowell, Lawson and Luke Rowell, Lily Rowell, Pacey Stephenson, Kaiden Tidwell, Jackson Tidwell and a host of family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com

Gregory James Grund, 51, of Cullman
Funeral Service for Gregory James Grund, age 51, of Cullman, will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 6, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home, with Herman Lambert officiating and interment at Cullman Memory Gardens. Visitation will be 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. prior to the service. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Greg passed away on Friday, July 2, at his home. He was born March 24, 1970, to James Oscar Grund and Edna Grund Warren. He was preceded in death by his father: James Oscar Grund. Survivors include his mother: Edna Grund Warren (Doug); daughters: Hannah Grund Benton and Jace Grund; brothers: Keith Grund (Amanda) and Les Warren (Lynn) and sister: Stephanie Sorrow (Rex).

Virginia "Jenny" Carol Tyree, 71, of Cullman
Virginia "Jenny" Carol Tyree, 71, of Cullman entered into rest Sunday, July 4, at Cullman Healthcare. Jenny was born March 26, 1950, in Hollywood, Florida. No services are planned at this time. Jenny is survived by her son: William (Lori) Moore; brothers: Jerry (Donna) Teague and James (Wanda) Wilkins; sisters: Joyce (Gary) McLamb and Julie Key and a host of family and friends. She was preceded in death by her son: Jimmy Moore; mother: Muriel (Ellis) Wilkins and father: James Teague.

Anthony Sherman Murphree, 72, of Holly Pond
Anthony Sherman Murphree, age 72, of Holly Pond, Alabama passed away Friday, July 2. Anthony was born Feb. 22, 1949 in Cullman, Alabama to Harold Newman and Audie Faye Shaw Murphree. Anthony is survived by sons: Eric Scott (Samatha) Murphree, Anthony Shawn (Bethany) Murphree; grandchildren: Eric Scott Murphree II, Dexter Wyatt Murphree, Deklin Knox, Madison Murphree, Lake Murphree and Kaidence Murphree; sisters: Debra Murphree (James) Earl, Paula Jean Murphree Smith and Daphane Sue Murphree Stone and sister-in-law: Angela Murphree. Anthony was preceded in death by mother: Audie Faye Shaw Murphree; father: Harold Newman Murphree and brother: Harold Dexter Murphree. A celebration of life visitation for Anthony will be held Saturday, July 24, from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue, NW, Cullman, Alabama 35055, followed by a celebration of life memorial service at 5 p.m. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.mossservicefh.com for the Murphree family.

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CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

JULY 6, 2021 - POETS

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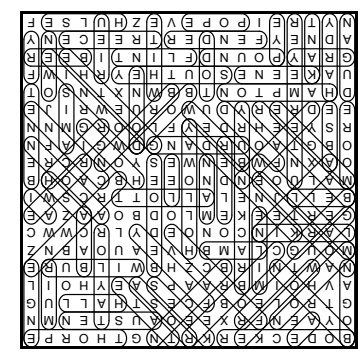
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

JULY 6, 2021

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Challenge (from Front)

We can promise you this: you have never relied on the support and encouragement, the friendship and fun of any group of people as much as you will on the American Challenge. That is what makes it so great.

"There are markers all along the way of our steady progress toward the Pacific. Reaching the Mississippi. Rolling across the Great Plains. Climbing the Rockies. Marveling at the desert. Riding up and over the San Gabriels and into Los Angeles.

"On the last day of the trip, we'll reach the coast. We'll sprint across the sand, front wheels in hand, and dive into the crashing waves. Surrounded by trip mates with whom we have shared every day, every mile and every moment of these past six weeks, we'll scream, yell, shout and hug. And you'll know then how hard, how simple and how wonderful the American Challenge is."

Group member Sam Solomon, who will arrive home when the group reaches California, first read about Overland's American Challenge at eight years old and decided then that a cross-country bike tour was in her future. During 2020's pandemic shutdown, she was determined to hit the road when things reopened.

Solomon told The Tribune, "I needed something to look forward to, so I signed up for this trip. I'll get outside, I'm going to see the country; it's going to be awesome. So I guess it's really been a dream of mine for a long time, just because I love biking, I love camping and I like meeting people and getting outside. Yeah, I'm really excited about it!"

The young bicyclist has found the experience "Definitely a little more challenging than I expected; I knew it was going to be hard, but I just didn't appreciate the hills in Georgia — like where I live, there's not a lot of hills, so I didn't really have the opportunity to train on them. Seeing them here is a new experience.

"There was definitely some difficult days, but I think what's made this trip the most worth it is we've met so many nice people. Like here, we met the mayor of Holly Pond and they're letting us stay here in the air-conditioned firehouse, which is amazing! And when we were in Millen, Georgia on one of our first nights, and we met a very nice woman named Joyce, and her and some of her friends from church, they cooked dinner for us, which was fun. We got to meet them and talk to them.

"And it's really cool. I'm from California, which is like really far away, so it's really cool to come to different places in the country and meet all these nice people who are just really excited to meet us and help us out. And we're so grateful to have benefited from their generosity, to meet them and get the experience to learn from them."

The Overland team will stop next in Double Springs before heading into Mississippi.

For more on Overland Summers, visit https://overlandsummers.com.

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