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EDUCATION

Wallace State clears past balances for students from previous semesters to ease pandemic burden

Kristen Holmes
Wallace State

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College has cleared the balances of 644 students with outstanding accounts from previous semesters, forgiving more than $585,800 in student debt.

Earlier this semester, eligible students were notified that their balances had been cleared, as well as any balance-related holds removed from their accounts, paving the way for them to continue their education if they so desire.

"The college is committed to easing the financial burden so many of our current and former students have faced during the pandemic and to removing barriers that prevent students from continuing their education," said Dr. Vicki Karolweics, Wallace State president, "This is just one of many ways we are supporting our students during this time."

The College used special institutional funding received from the U.S. Department of Education's Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds from the » PAGE 2

– SPORTS –

'I am so proud of Quanesha that I don't know what to do'

Family of local 2021 Olympic athlete Quanesha Burks discuss her accomplishments


CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

A cookout fundraiser was held to help the family of local Olympian long jumper Quanesha Burks with expenses needed to travel to Orlando.

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

HARTSELLE, Ala. — As the temperatures and humidity soared last Friday, James Evans continued to detail cars as the sweat poured down his face. He was determined, just like his stepdaughter, to push himself to do what he had to do in order to earn the money needed to get his family to Orlando, Florida.

Next door, USA Healthcare hosted a cookout fundraiser at the Falkville Health and Rehab Center to raise money to help the family of local Olympian long jumper Quanesha Burks with expenses needed to travel to Orlando. With families unable to attend Olympic events this year, Universal Orlando Resort is hosting the family and friends of Team USA athletes.

The family did not know until the Olympic Trials in late June that Quanesha had qualified for the U.S. Olympic Team, and this timing left little chance for family and friends to organize fundraising events. Quanesha's long jump event is scheduled to begin on July 30.

Evans was willing to take a short break to speak of how proud he is of Burks. He said, "I am her stepdad, but I am really proud of her because she has come a long way. She used to work at McDonald's. She's an ol' girl from Hartselle that used to work at McDonald's. She took another step and graduated from The University of Alabama and got her teaching degree. She just kept pushing herself, working out every day, and that's a big step when you fulfill your goal. I am very proud of her."

"We are trying to just get there so we can see. They are going to have it down there and I guess it's like a big picture thing you can watch it on from Tokyo. That's what we are doing this for » PAGE 8

HEALTH

CDC issues guidance as transmission of contagious Delta COVID-19 variant surges, prevention measures outlined

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MILITARY

Military Spotlight: PFC Destini Williams - U.S. Army



DESTINI WILLIAMS

Williams in uniform

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City of Good Hope to host luau-themed Back-to-School Bash

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EDUCATION

Wallace State's Dual Enrollment program only one in Alabama eligible to offer Federal Pell Grant to students

Russell Moore
Wallace State

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College is among a select number of colleges in the nation and the only one in Alabama to offer Federal Pell Grants for dual enrollment students.

Wallace State was chosen as a Dual Enrollment Pell Experiment Site for this special United States Department of Education initiative in 2016, and the program has been continued at least through the 2021-22 academic year.

High school students enrolled in public high schools are eligible to apply for the Pell funds for the 2021-2022 academic year.

They must also meet the requirements of the Wallace State Dual Enrollment program.

Students eligible for Wallace State's Dual Enrollment program must be in grades 10-12, have a GPA of 2.5 or higher, have written approval for admittance from a principal or superintendent, meet the Wallace State entrance requirements and complete placement exams.

According to new federal guidelines, dual enrollment students enrolled at Wallace State in coming semesters will also be eligible receive Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds from the college.

Dual enrollment students earn credit toward high school graduation and toward a college degree simultaneously, saving time and money, and easing the transition into college.

Those planning to transfer to the university routinely earn scholarships and are guaranteed seamless transfer of credits through the STARS statewide articulation system.

Fall 2021 registration is underway at Wallace State. Fall semester classes begin Thursday, Aug. 19.

For questions about eligibility for this program, please contact the Wallace State Financial Aid office at financialaid@wallacestate.edu or 256-352-8182. Students can complete the FAFSA at https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa.

For more information about Wallace State's Dual Enrollment program, www.wallacestate.edu/programs/dual-enrollment or call 256-352-8050.

Bash (from Front)

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — Get your hula skirts ready! The City of Good Hope will host an Aloha-themed Back to School Bash this year for Good Hope area students. The luau is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 5 from 5-7 p.m. at Good Hope Municipal Park.

Inflatables will be available for the kids including some with water features. The town will provide a free luau-style dinner, back-to-school pics, door prizes and much more. Free luau T-shirts will also be given to students while supplies last. "If you're lucky, you might see Corey Harbison in his hula skirt!" Mayor Jerry Bartlett said. The Sizzlin' Seniors of Good Hope's fundraiser, "You've been flocked!!" continues to be a huge success. Money raised from the flamingo-themed fundraiser will help to fund the senior centers various activities. Good Hope Clerk Christie Chamblee reported that "flockings" are scheduled throughout August.

Balances (from Front)

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and The American Rescue Plan to make the balance forgiveness possible.

Students enrolling in coming semesters will be eligible to receive additional HEERF stimulus payments from the College.

This additional money will be paid directly to students and may be used for any aspect of their education – tuition, food, housing, course material, technology, health care, child care and other expenses.

Wallace State will be distributing at least $7 million to students in the coming year.

Students who are enrolled and who qualify under the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and the American Rescue Plan will receive these additional funds during the semester(s) in which they are enrolled.

The majority of Wallace State students will be qualified for the award under federal guidelines. Payments will vary.

The grant allocation will also include high school students taking classes at Wallace State through the Dual Enrollment Program.

Wallace State will use existing enrollment information to allocate funds, which will be automatically distributed to all qualified students. Students do not need to contact the college to request these funds.

Wallace State Community College returned to normal operations earlier this year and is gearing up for a robust fall semester with new programs, classes and activities on campus.

The College offers numerous free and supportive resources for its students, including a tutoring lab, food pantry, success advising, mental health counseling, technology loans, veterans' services, a mother's lounge and more.

Guidance (from Front)

Karen Landers, M.D.
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — More than 900 COVID-19 patients are hospitalized in Alabama, the largest number since February, and too few Alabama residents are vaccinated. High vaccination coverage will reduce the spread of the virus and help prevent new variants from emerging.

State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris said, "The slope of the increase is unprecedented. This upward trend is extremely concerning, especially with the Delta variant being highly infectious and much more transmissible than earlier strains. Getting vaccinated is the best action you can take to protect yourself and those around you."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provided an update on the pandemic and issued the following recommendations Tuesday:

1. Getting vaccinated prevents severe illness, hospitalization and death; it also helps reduce the spread of the virus in communities.

• Unvaccinated individuals should get vaccinated and continue masking until they are fully vaccinated.

• With the Delta variant, this is more urgent than ever. The highest spread of cases and severe outcomes is happening in places with low vaccination rates.

2. Data show Delta is different than past versions of the virus: it is much more contagious.

• Some vaccinated people can get Delta in a breakthrough infection and may be contagious.

• Even so, vaccinated individuals represent a very small amount of transmission occurring around the country.

• Virtually all hospitalizations and deaths continue to be among the unvaccinated.

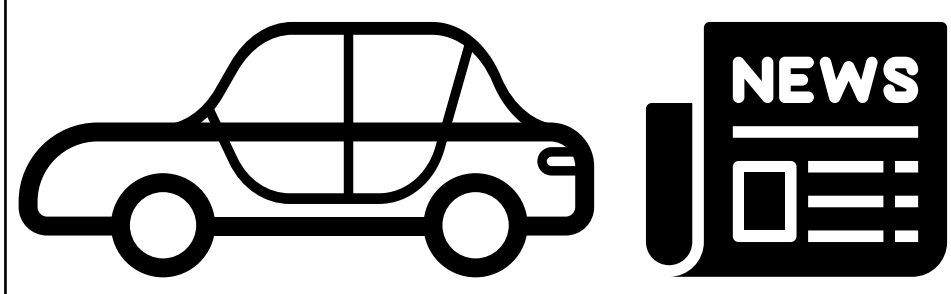
3. In areas with substantial and high transmission, the CDC recommends that everyone (including fully-vaccinated individuals) wear a mask in public indoor settings to help prevent spread of Delta and protect others.

4. CDC recommends that community leaders encourage vaccination and masking to prevent further outbreaks in areas of substantial and high transmission.

5. CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place.

Free COVID-19 vaccine is widely available in Alabama in 1,408 locations. Visit the Alabama Public Health Vaccination Portal at https://www.alcovidvaccine.gov/ to locate a clinic near you. For more information, go to alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19/index.html.

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COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Tuesday, July 27, 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: 438,563 (+ 3,494 since Friday)
• Probable cases in Alabama: 132,174 (+ 1,333 since Friday)
• Total confirmed deaths in Alabama: 9,163 (+ 9 since Friday)
• Probable deaths in Alabama: 2,320
• Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co.: 6,995 (+ 50 since Friday)
• Probable cases in Cullman Co.: 3,279 (+ 12 since Friday)
• Total confirmed deaths in Cullman Co.: 142
• Probable deaths in Cullman Co.: 62
• Total tested in Cullman Co.: 44,377
• Total tested in the last 14 days in Cullman Co: 2,097
• Cases in the last 14 days in Cullman Co.: 175
• Total tested in Alabama: 2,745,277
• Cases in the last 14 days in Alabama: 14,221
• Total tested in the last 14 days in Alabama: 115,200
• Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 916

Vaccine details (updated Tues, Thurs)
• Doses Delivered to Alabama: 4,814,025
• Doses delivered to Alabama providers: 3,194,025
• Doses administered: 3,426,757
• Number of people receiving one or more doses: 1,954,939
• Number of people who have completed vaccine series: 1,587,003
• Doses delivered to federal programs: 1,620,000

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

Variants of SARS-CoV-2
Variants of SARS-CoV-2 continue to circulate in Alabama and pose a significant threat of increased disease. Variants of concern reported, as of July 9, are Alpha (820 cases), Beta (2 cases), Gamma (31 cases) and Delta (56 cases). These variants are more transmissible, specifically the Alpha and the Delta, and some variants have less response to treatments such as monoclonal antibodies.

Percent positivity escalates
Alabama's current statewide percent positivity for COVID-19 has increased to its highest level since February, at 7.7%. This is equal to the percent positivity recorded April 3, when vaccines had not been readily available.

Percent increase in COVID-19 cases
The number of COVID-19 cases reported in Alabama has risen 39% from June 26 - July 9. The best way to prevent getting the highly infectious and easily transmissible Delta variant or any other strain of COVID-19 is to get vaccinated as quickly as possible. The vaccines we have are highly effective and their benefits far outweigh any risks. Only a very small percentage of deaths due to COVID-19 are among the fully vaccinated population.

COVID-19 hospitalizations increase
As of July 14, 341 persons were reported hospitalized as a result of COVID-19 disease. On July 3, 179 persons were hospitalized due to COVID-19. Increases in numbers of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations due to COVID-19 are the result of low vaccine rates and unvaccinated persons not following preventive measures for themselves such as wearing masks, good hand hygiene and social distancing. So long as Alabama has such low rates of vaccination, cases will continue to rise, posing risk of illness and death from COVID-19, as well as threatening the ability of our health care system to treat all Alabamians.

Make vaccination a priority
This July 14, 4,124 doses of COVID-19 vaccine were administered in the state. At the height of vaccine administration on April 8, 45,128 vaccine doses were given. Young people and others who are taking a wait-and-see stance on vaccination should be aware that they need to protect themselves, their families, friends and communities by getting vaccinated as soon as they can. Safe, effective and free vaccine shields vulnerable people and saves lives.

CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported July 27

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported July 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

July 26

- first-degree theft of property; Ingram Farms; 1st Way SE; '04 Dodge; $15,000
- harassment; person; 2nd Ave. SW
- third-degree criminal mischief; person; Dialsdale Dr. SW; damaged property; $200

ARRESTS

July 26

Cox, Westly D.; 32

- fourth-degree theft of property
- FTA- expired tag (2 counts)
- FTA- driving while revoked (2 counts)
- FTA- fourth-degree theft of property (2 counts)
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Hudson, Bobby R.; 30

- FTA- fourth-degree theft of property

Diego, Edvin Paz; 28

- DUI

Scott, Terry G.; 59

- DUI

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No incidents or arrests reported.

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

Looking For Help In Gas Station

Contact 678-755-3313. Must be 21 years or older.

IMMEDIATE JOB OPENING

Country Living, Incorporated, an Assisted Living in Vinemont, has 2 positions available – resident care and housekeeping, 3 days one week, 4 days the next week alternating weekends.

6:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **2:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

For more information contact Linda Wilhite at 256-338-9213.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

"Come to the Well" Community Women's Bible Study

- Tuesday mornings at 10 at the Hebrews Cafe at East Side Baptist Church, 1111 Third St. SE in Cullman
- Please wear a mask/face covering.

Baileyton Bargain Days

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

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

Church Services- Spirit Life Church of GOD

- Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
- Prayer meetings- Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Come and pray with us or come to receive prayer.
- Ladies' exercise classes- Wednesdays at 6 p.m. Children welcome.
- Classes- Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult class, "The Phases of Armageddon" by Pastor Bobby Dodd
- Sundays at 9 a.m. Van runs in 5 Points area. Call 256-841-2060 for pickup. Small group classes for adults, children and youth at 10 a.m. Praise and worship and message at 11 a.m.
- Mondays-Fridays- Free hot meals for children Mondays 11 a.m. – noon, Tuesdays 1-2 p.m. and Wednesdays-Fridays 11 a.m. – noon Cullman Housing Authority Community Center 1545 Vine Circle SW. 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.
- No Talent Talent Show - July 31 - Saturday 7 p.m. No admission fees! Donations accepted. Free meal at 6 p.m. Everyone welcome! Fun and entertaining! Come see impersonations of some of your favorite singers. We hope "Elvis" will be there!
- Wednesday- Aug. 4 - 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult men's class: "Be the Man" - Adult women's class: "Design Your Life"
- Kids Loving Kids Birthday Blessings serves children ages 1-18 in need of assistance to celebrate their birthday. Register your child and pick up a birthday box with cake mix, icing, sprinkles, decorations and toys! Pick up is the last weekend of the month. Saturday (Jasper 5100 Curry Highway Suite 100-B Jasper, AL 35504) from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. or the last Sunday of the month at Spirit Life Church Cullman from 12:30-1 p.m. Birth certificate is required at the time of box pickup. Register at https://form.jotform.com/203435614640045. For more information, text or call 205-717-7478.

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 Children's Summer/Fall Camp Programs

- Aug. 20 - 10 a.m., Little Farmers Farmer's Market: Run your pretend farm stand and then use tokens to shop with a local farmer.
- Aug. 26 - 9 a.m., Heritage Homeschool Solar Power: Celebrate the new solar panels producing electricity at the Agriplex with hands-on activities powered by the sun.
- Sept. 4 - 9 a.m., Farm Kids Club County Fair Crafts: Create handicrafts that can be entered in the Cullman County Fair and win prizes!
- Sept. 10 - 10 a.m., Little Farmers "The Very Hungry Caterpillar": Explore the miracle of the butterfly life cycle through the beloved Eric Carle classic.
- Sept. 30 - 9 a.m., Heritage Homeschool Harvest & Seed Saving: Harvest the falls bounty at the Agriplex and save seeds for your very own collection. We will pick, taste and learn how to preserve the harvest.
- Oct. 2 - 9 a.m., Farm Kids Club Pumpkin Patch: Pick a pumpkin out of our patch and join us for some fall-themed fun! We will play games, have snacks and carve a pumpkin.
- 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

- Aug. 10 - 6 p.m., Heritage Skills Beginning Brewers Class: The Cullman Brewers Guild will explain the process of brewing and demonstrate how to make homemade beer. See equipment and learn the science of brewing your own beer.
- Aug. 16 - 6 p.m., Learn to Sew Christmas in August: Get an early start on Christmas decorating and join us for felt ornament making for the tree using sequins and decorative thread.
- Aug. 18 - noon, Lunch & Learn presents Planting & Growing Fall Veggies. This is a free program, light lunch provided. Please call us at 256-297-1044 to reserve your spot.
- Aug. 31 - 6 p.m., Living Landscapes Growing Berries & Grapes: Retired Auburn Experiment Station Director Arnold Caylor will be back at the Agriplex sharing his vast knowledge on growing berries and muscadines best suited for our region.
- Sept. 9 - 6 p.m., Cowboy Cooking - Cooking with a Dutch Oven: Local ranchers Greg and Emily Anderson from Sullivan Creek Ranch will be demonstrating how to cook over an open fire.
- Sept. 13 - 6 p.m., Learn to Sew Projects for the Kitchen: This will be a fun class making things to use in your kitchen.
- Sept. 14 - 6 p.m., Heritage Skills Raising Pigs: Learn the basics of raising pigs for your family.
- 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.

UNITE Summer Encounter at Church at the Well

July 30-31 - This weekend is dedicated to students encountering the power and presence of God. There will be powerful worship and dynamic speakers that will take us further into all that God has! Services are nightly at 7 p.m. with pre-service games starting at 6:30 p.m. at Church at the Well (708 Ninth St. SE, Cullman, AL 35055). Saturday morning service is at 10:30 a.m. followed by Orphan Run 4 Hope!! We hope to see you there! Get ready to ENCOUNTER!

Orphan Run 4 Hope

July 31 – Starting at 12:30 p.m. at Heritage Park. Orphan Run for Hope Project helps ordinary people do extraordinary things by participating in a 5K to benefit orphan children around the world. OR4H exists to be a bridge between churches and passion-driven people to orphans and orphanages that truly need our help! Join us for this year's OR4H and let's make a difference!

White City Junior High Reunion

July 31 – The annual White City Jr. High Reunion will be held July 31. It will be at the Johnson Crossing Fire Dept building at 1542 County Road 617 Hanceville, AL (old school location) and is for anyone who ever attended White City School. It will start at 9 a.m. We will furnish paper products, ice, water and tea. Bring your favorite food and all your memories!! Call Ronnie McElroy Crocker at 256-347-6976 for more info or visit our Facebook page.

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/dieselbydistance.

United Way of Cullman Designer Bag Bingo Fundraiser

Aug. 3 – United Way of Cullman County's Women United will host their 2nd annual Designer Bag Bingo fundraising event Tuesday, Aug. 3, at The Loft 212 (212 Fourth St. SW Cullman, Al 35055). Doors open at 5 p.m. and bingo starts at 6 p.m. Tickets are $35 each or $350 for a table of eight. Each ticket includes light refreshments and 15 games. Donate a gently used purse filled with personal care items for a chance to win a door prize. For more information and/or to RSVP, call 256-739-2948 or send an email at dmcdonald@uwaycc.org. To purchase tickets, visit https://www.uwaycc.org/.

Quilters Retreat Bunch Annual Yard Sale

Aug. 7 -Saturday from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Christ Covenant Church (1310 St. Joseph Drive NW). Lots of fabric (all kinds), books, glassware, baskets, kitchen items, craft items, vintage table with four chairs, two bookcases, round table, odd chairs, pictures, sewing notions, tons of thread, grab bags, yarn, Christmas items and MUCH MUCH MORE. Don't miss it!

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.

WSCC Applied Technologies Open House

Aug. 17 – Wallace State Community College Dept. of Applied Technologies will host an Open House Tuesday, July 20 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Department tours and refreshments will be provided. Stop by the Bailey Center Lobby for campus maps, schedules and information. Call 256-352-8000 for more information.

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 St., Cullman, AL 35058

CST places 2nd at ARPA State Championship

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

ALBERTVILLE, Ala. – The Cullman Swim Team traveled to Sound Mountain Park in Albertville last weekend to compete at this year's Alabama Recreation & Parks Association (ARPA) State Swimming Championships and CST put together another stellar performance to earn a second-place finish. Troy Mann and Georgia Dowdy were the top boys & girls individual finishers and Cullman posted 1550 total points as a team to earn second place at this year's event.

INDIVIDUAL CST RESULTS

TEAM SCORE
- 1550 total points scored
- 2nd place finish overall

TOP POINT SCORERS
- Boys- Troy Mann: 60 Points
- Girls- Georgia Dowdy: 49 Points

COACHES
- Charis Peek, head coach
- Anna Hilb, assistant coach

6 & UNDER BOYS
- Hank Crow- 2nd Place- 25y Back, 6th Place- 25y Free
- Abram Lackey-1st Place- 25y Free ***NEW CST RECORD,** 3rd Place- 25y Back
- 100y Free Relay - 1st Place ***NEW CST RECORD** 1:41.64
- Hank Crow, James Hilb, Ezra Basch, Abram Lackey

8 & UNDER BOYS
- Griffin Berryhill- 2nd Place- 100y IM, 2nd Place- 25y Fly, 1st Place- 25y Back
- Harris Crow- 1st Place- 25y Breast, 7th Place- 25y Fly, 8th Place, 100y IM
- Wood Miner- 11th Place- 25y Breast
- Free Relay - 6th Place- Luke Bonds, Harris Crow, Grant Berryhill, Griffin Berryhill
- 9th Place- Wood Miner, Tucker Sinyard, Sawyer Hunt, Cross Miner
- Medley Relay - 2nd Place- Hank Crow, Harris Crow, Abram Lackey, Griffin Berryhill

8 & UNDER GIRLS
- Georgia Dowdy- 2nd Place- 25y Fly, 2nd Place- 25y Back, 4th Place, 100y IM
- Catherine Hughes- 4th Place- 25y Breast
- Azlynn Florence- 5th Place- 25y Breast
- Oakley Turner- 6th Place- 25y Fly, 15th Place- 50y Free
- Free Relay- 3rd Place, Medley Relay- 2nd Place
- Harper Rodriguez, Azlynn Florence, Oakley Turner, Georgia Dowdy

9-10 BOYS
- Briar Lackey- 9th Place- 100y IM, 10th Place 100y Free
- Tate Tysinger-5th Place- 50y Breast, 7th Place- 50y Back, 11th Place- 50y Fly
- Free Relay- 7th Place
- Tate Tysinger, Griffin Cole, Anikan Powell, Briar Lackey
- Medley Relay- 10th Place
- Griffin Cole, Tate Tysinger, Briar Lackey, Seth B Reese

9-10 GIRLS
- Leah Hilb- 10th Place- 50y Back
- Edie Hudson- 5th Place- 50y Breast, 12th Place- 100y IM, 9th Place- 50y Fly
- Free Relay-7th Place, Medley Relay- 7th Place
- Elizabeth Hughes, Leah Hilb, Elizabeth Hunt, Edie Hudson



CST

The Cullman Swim Team finished second at this year's ARPA State Championships in Albertville.

11-12 BOYS
- Mason Fuller- 3rd Place- 50y Free, 5th Place- 100y IM, 6th Place- 50y Breast
- Charlie Long- 9th Place- 100y IM, 11th Place- 50y Fly, 12th Place- 100y Free
- Magnus Mann- 7th Place- 50y Breast, 10th Place- 50y Fly
- Camp Smith- 16th Place- 100y IM
- Free Relay- 4th Place, Medley Relay- 4th Place
- Magnus Mann, Charlie Long, Camp Smith, Mason Fuller

11-12 GIRLS
- Ella Cupp- 3rd Place- 100y Free, 3rd Place- 50y Back, 10th Place- 50y Free
- Madeline Dowdy- 4th Place- 50y Fly, 3rd Place, 100y IM, 7th Place- 100y Free
- Mika Lackey- 7th Place- 50y Breast, 6th Place-100y IM, 12th Place-100y Free
- Caitlin Long- 3rd Place- 50y Free, 3rd Place- 50y Breast, 5th Place- 50y Fly
- Free Relay- 2nd Place, Medley Relay - 1st Place
- Ella Cupp, Madeline Dowdy, Mika Lackey, Caitlin Long

13-14 BOYS
- Hilson Cole- 8th Place- 50y Fly, 13th Place- 100y IM
- Chase Duncan- 2nd Place- 50y Back, 7th Place- 50y Free, 9th Place- 100y IM
- Troy Mann- 1st Place- 50y Free, 1st Place- 50y Fly, 1st Place- 100y Free***NEW CST RECORD**
- Rhett Tysinger- 10th Place- 50y Fly
- Free Relay- 1st Place ***NEW CST RECORD** 1:39.85, Medley Relay- 1st Place
- Hilson Cole, Chase Duncan, Troy Mann, Rhett Tysinger

13-14 GIRLS
- Peyton Arnold- 14th Place- 50y Back
- Morgan Fuller- 7th Place- 50y Back, 7th Place-100y IM, 8th Place-50y fly
- Medley Relay- 14th Place, Free Relay- 15th Place
- Peyton Arnold, Rebekah Hilb, Morgan Fuller, Frankie-Kate Kruger

15-18 BOYS
- CJ Arnold- 4th Place- 50y Back, 12th Place- 100y Free
- Jonah Hilb- 6th Place- 50y Free, 8th Place- 100y Free, 4th Place- 50y Fly
- Jacob Hilb- 15th Place- 50y Breast, 9th Place- 50y Fly, 12th Place- 50y Back
- Brody Schaefer-10th Place- 50y Breast, 14th Place- 50y Back
- Free Relay- 4th Place
- CJ Arnold, Jacob Hilb, Jonah Hilb, Logan Holley
- Medley Relay- 4th Place
- CJ Arnold, Jacob Hilb, Jonah Hilb, Brody Schaefer

15-18 GIRLS
- Ruby Hudson- 4th Place- 50y Breast, 3rd Place, 100y IM, 6th Place- 50y Fly ***NEW CST RECORD**
- Madelyn Long- 6th Place- 50y Back, 6th Place- 100y Free, 14th Place- 50y Fly
- Anna Page- 13th Place- 100y IM, 15th Place- 50y Fly
- Kelly Warren- 6th Place- 50y Breast, 10th Place- 100y IM
- Free Relay-3rd Place, Medley Relay- 3rd Place
- Madelyn Long, Kelly Warren, Anna Page, Ruby Hudson

Meet the Coaches: cornerbacks coach, Auburn alum Zac Etheridge

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. – Ten years to the day after his interception helped Auburn secure the 2010 national championship, Zac Etheridge returned to the back hallway of the Auburn athletic complex to a room he'd visited hundreds of times before.

Only this time, when he entered the office of the cornerbacks coach, it was his name on the door.

"It's been surreal," said Etheridge, a four-year starter from 2007-10 who captained the Tigers' national title team. "I've always said when I finished playing and got into coaching, Auburn was my dream job, to be able to coach at my alma mater."

Etheridge began his coaching career after injuries ended his NFL opportunity with the Raiders in 2011. After serving as a graduate assistant at Penn State and Georgia Tech, he stepped away from football to work in marketing for a year when his daughter, Mia, was born.

"I felt very successful, but I knew my calling was getting back into football," said Etheridge, who gained coaching experience as an assistant at Western Carolina, Louisiana and Houston before Auburn head coach Bryan Harsin hired him in January.

"A whirlwind 10 years," Etheridge said. "It all came full circle and it's a big dream to come back home and be part of Coach Harsin's staff."

When Etheridge talks to the student-athletes he coaches about winning championships and playing the Auburn way, he speaks from experience.

"Walking into that building every day knowing it's truly a family environment," he said. "It's a place where you helped lay a foundation to stand on that you felt proud about. Whenever you left here, you left your legacy and your name in the right place.

"Every day I get the chance to give our guys the blueprint on what it takes to win a championship, what it takes to be a person of integrity and be an Auburn man.

"Every time I walk into that meeting room, I know I'm giving back something for those guys to be successful, which is what drives me every single day.

"I've been through everything they're going to face, the ups and downs. I'm able to be there to talk them through it and be a mentor for them and a guy who can lead them the right way."

A native of Troy, Alabama, Etheridge shares his firsthand knowledge of the Auburn experience with the prospects he recruits.

"We're going to be very authentic," he said. "The things we say we're going to do, we're going to follow it up with actions. It's going to be a family. We're going to develop you on and off the field.

"We're going to do it with love, and we're going to go to work every day to do it better. The experience you're going to get from Auburn from an educational standpoint is top-notch.

"Coach Harsin has a plan he believes in and a coaching environment that we're trying to implement every single day for our guys to have that conviction to go out there and know they've been developed the best, they've been prepared the best, and giving themselves a chance to be prepared on Saturdays."

Auburn's cornerbacks group features standout Roger McCreary and includes seasoned returners Nehemiah Pritchett and Jaylin Simpson along with transfers Dreshun Miller and Ro Torrence.

"It's a talented room," Etheridge said "We wanted to bring in competition for us to be successful. I know we have depth there and we have some experienced guys. Being able to get a couple guys was my main thought process to go recruit guys to challenge each other every single day to go compete because every day is an interview.

"That's my motto: be your best when your best is needed. Every day they walk into that meeting room and onto the practice field they have to go compete, and they also have to compete in the classroom. Whatever your best is, give it that day.

"I'm excited to work with them. They've been working their tails off. We talk ball and we talk life. I'm excited to see what this group can do."

Zac Etheridge was on the field in 2010 when "All I Do Is Win" first became a Jordan-Hare Stadium theme song. Life imitated art.

All the Tigers did was win, going 14-0. He's seen the difference a sold-out stadium makes.

"We need our fan base behind us," Etheridge said. "We need the entire Auburn family this year to support our guys and support us in recruiting because we're going to prepare every single day.

"They need to know we're preparing and developing guys to be successful on and off the field. We're here to go win championships. We know what it looks like. We know what it takes to get there, and we're developing those guys to get to that point."



TODD VAN EMST/AU ATHLETICS

Auburn cornerbacks coach Zac Etheridge.





Williams (from Front)

Christy Perry
christy@cullmantribune.com

FORT PAYNE, Ala. — PFC Destini Williams is currently serving in the United States Army and is stationed with the 20th Group SF Fort Payne, Alabama 92 yankee/ airborne. Williams is from Cullman and a 2019 graduate of Wallace State Community College. She joined the Army September 29, 2020.

Williams is the daughter of Brandy Weissand and Buck Williams and has five siblings: Michael Gray, Brandon Gray, Dustin Williams, Courtni Williams and Ryley Williams, and sisters-in-law: Kandice Gray, Brittni Gray and Brandi Gray.

Williams is also mother to Britlee Dawsyn Williams and Rylan Reid Williams

Williams said of her decision to serve in the military, "I chose the military for many reasons. I wanted to serve my country and honor the uniform. I wanted to learn what it means to be brave. I wanted to be the difference--be a part of the 1% who serves in the best military in the world. I wanted to show women everywhere that no matter where you came from, what you've done, or who you were, you can always become something better."

She continued, "I want to become leadership that is trustworthy, caring and powerful. When I have my own soldiers, I can become the mentor I've always wanted and needed."

Two major factors led Williams to join the military. She explained, "I lost my sister-in-law when I was 15 from suicide. She was my best friend. She always believed in me; she was my rock. I still wanted to make her proud and I knew she would watch me and support me from heaven. My last-but-not-least reason is my children. I want to show them that even as a single mother who built her life up by herself, I could still be a hero for them. I needed to learn how to teach my son how to be a man. I needed to show my daughter that women can be powerful and strong. I prayed on my decision and God led me to the best choice I have ever made. I give all glory to Him."

Williams missed many things about Cullman and being at home. She said, "I missed all the little things. My children and family mostly. I missed kissing my children goodnight. Just the ability to get in my car and get food and drive around with the windows down. I miss wearing civilian clothes and being myself, but I didn't miss being a civilian in itself. I love the person I have become. The Army changed me in the best way."

There are many positives, along with some sad moments, Williams has experienced from joining the Army, sharing, "The Army is a huge family. I met so many friends who became family. I learned that no matter how hard it is, I'm fighting for something much bigger than myself. Hearing my children say, 'My mommy is a soldier' gives me the biggest smile.

"The hardest thing I have dealt with in the military is seeing my battles moving on to their next chapter and saying goodbye. I can't wait to see where the military takes us all.

"Most importantly, I will forever remember my battles whose journey came to a sad end. I will forever remember the times we spent laughing in the field after a week with no shower and MRE's while running missions at 0245 a.m. with our PC turned backwards and jumping through mud puddles. I will forever remember everything I have worked so hard to be and when it came true. I look forward to all the memories to be made and all the stories waiting to be written. I am so thankful to my family who supported me, and I love you all. And to my battles, HOOAH!!"



DESTINI WILLIAMS
Williams with her two children



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Cullman County Public Library hosts cardmaking class for children

Ashlyn Grey
ashlyn@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Renee Welsh from the Friends of the Public Library continued the library's summer fun as she led local children in cardmaking at the Cullman County Public Library Tuesday morning. With cardstock, a wide range of stamps and some double-sided tape, she led several children, and even a few library associates, in this personalized creative process.

With gentle guidance, Welsh told all in attendance, "There are no mistakes. There is no messing up when you are being creative."

She explained that each year, she makes her own cards for special occasions and that it allows an especially personal touch to be added to the process of giving.

With nearly 20 handmade cards at the end of the hour-long event, Welsh concluded the day by sharing, "The freedom of expression is what art is.

"You cannot make a mistake here because you made it how you saw it, and that is what makes it art."



ASHLYN GREY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



ASHLYN GREY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

A young participant prepares her card.

LEGALS

PB ADT BK 58 PG 851 - 07/12/2021 03:10 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF CHRISTOPHER O. DRANE and BRANDIE FAYE DRANE FOR THE ADOPTION OF

CASE NO AD 2021-032

M.J.D. A MINOR.
D.O.B. 09-19-2019

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

**TO: SHARLENE WHITNEY TWILLEY, NATURAL MOTHER
ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN FATHER OF MINOR CHILD, M.J.D., BORN TO SHARLENE WHITNEY TWILLEY**

The Petition for Adoption was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Christopher O. Drane and Brandie Faye Drane, Petitioners. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with Counsel for said petitioners, whose name and address are shown below, and with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 12th DAY OF July, 2021.

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

Johnny V. Berry
Attorney for Petitioners
405 Second Avenue SW
PO Box 1052
Cullman, Alabama 35055

PB MIN BK 198 PG 342 - 07/12/2021 01:54 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
ANTHONY YATES * CASE NO PC 2021-077
Deceased *

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to **Brian Carr,** as Personal Representative of the Estate of Anthony Yates, deceased, on the 12th day of July, 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.

Brian Carr
Personal Representative

Warren "Bo" Burke, Jr.
Attorney for Personal Representative
Klasing, Williamson, Burke & Bright PC
1601 Providence Park
Birmingham, Alabama 35242

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

United Way
United Way of Cullman County
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Victim Services of Cullman
Car, Truck, & Bike Show
Saturday, August 7, 2021
10 am-3 pm
Cullman County Fairgrounds
*1501 Sportsman Lake Rd NW
9 am – Check in
• $20 per auto - in advance
• $25 per auto - at the event
• Spectators get in FREE!
Pre-register your auto @ victimservices.online
For Vendor info call 256-775-2600
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Food Vendors!
Win ROCK THE SOUTH Tickets!
EVENT SPONSORS
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Domino's Pizza
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All proceeds benefit Victim Services Rape Crisis and Recovery Programs.

Obituary Announcements: July 27

Dale Lamar Garrison, 81, of Cullman
Dale Lamar Garrison, 81, entered into eternal rest Monday, July 26. There will be a local visitation at Anderson Funeral Home in Beaufort, South Carolina on Wednesday, July 28, from 6-8 p.m. He will be transported to his hometown of Cullman where visitation and services will take place at Cullman Funeral Home on Saturday, July 31. Visitation will be from 1-3 p.m. with services at 3 p.m. and burial at Sandlin Cemetery in Bremen, Alabama. Dale was born Nov. 5, 1939, in Phelan, Alabama to William Roosevelt and Lelya Estelle Garrison. His early childhood was spent in Bug Tussle, Alabama where he was the youngest of three sons. Dale worked in his father's sawmill and Garrison Lumber Company as a young boy and would later take over and operate Garrison Lumber Company until his retirement in 1996. Dale and Barbara were married June 4, 1961, in Birmingham and had two children, Dana and Doug. They would later move back to Bug Tussle to take over the family hardware store in 1969. Dale enjoyed many trips with Barbara and the kids as they traveled to hardware shows and made many lifetime friends from all over the country. He was a beloved church member at Sandlin Chapel UMC and Carteret Street UMC, Costa Rica mission trip volunteer, local community business owner, volunteer firefighter, loving husband, father, grandfather and legendary Rook player. It was after his retirement that Dale really began to enjoy life spending lots of quality time with his family and especially his grandchildren. Dale had a passion for being outdoors on his 4-wheeler, taking trips out west with close friends, shooting skeet with the kids, shooting pool and playing Rook whenever the family was together. Dale and Barbara moved to St. Helena Island, South Carolina in 2004 and lived on the coast until they decided two hurricane floods were enough and they relocated closer to town on Lady's Island in 2018. Dale is predeceased by his father: William Roosevelt; his mother: Lelya Estelle and his brother: Harold. He is survived by his wife: Barbara Sue Allen Garrison; his brother: Lloyd; his daughter: Dana Jo Garrison Mullins and her three children: Dylan Mullins (wife Kayleigh), Dustin Mullins (wife Ellie) and Jennifer Mullins (fiancé David); his son: James Douglas Garrison (wife Molly) and their two children: Jessie Blackmon (husband Phillip) and Braden Garrison. Memorial donations may be made to Carteret Street United Methodist Church (Beaufort, South Carolina), the Lewy Body Dementia Association or the Parkinson's Foundation.

Betty Joyce (Nichols) Baker, 87, of Cullman
Funeral services for Betty Joyce (Nichols) Baker will be 6 p.m. Saturday, July 31 at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow at Fairview West Cemetery. Visitation will be from 4-6 p.m. on Saturday prior to the service. Mrs. Baker was born Dec. 1, 1934, in Cullman to Gilbert and Georgia (Brown) Nichols. She died at the age of 87 at her residence in Hanceville on July 26. Survivors include her children: Denise Foucha Hudgen (Thomas), Greg Baker (Rhonda), Debbie Komater (Paul) and Donna Jordan (Victor); grandchildren: Danielle Stacey (Jason), Nicholas Komater (Ai), Lauren Dennis and Joseph Foucha (Ashley); great-grandchildren: Lana Dennis, Liam Foucha, Logan Foucha and Emery Grace Foucha and a sister: Ann Pugh (Charlie). Mrs. Baker was preceded in death by her husband: Charles Baker and grandson: Robert Dennis.

Steven Lloyd Wakefield, 56, of Double Springs
Steven Lloyd Wakefield, 56, of Double Springs, passed away Saturday, July 24, at DCH Regional Medical Center in Tuscaloosa, after his battle with cancer. Steven was born Dec. 23, 1964, to Lloyd Isaac "Buck" Wakefield and Jean Wakefield in Birmingham. He graduated from Winston County High School in 1983. Steven was a member of the First Baptist Church in Double Springs. Steven worked 35 years for the Alabama Department of Transportation in many positions and offices during his career. From 1985-1989 he worked as the Highway Maintenance Technician in Hamilton. From 1989-1996, he worked as the Stock Clerk in Tuscumbia. From 1996-2000, he worked as the Stock Clerk and Acting Warehouse Superintendent in Birmingham. From 2000-2015 he worked as the Warehouse Superintendent in Tuscumbia. From 2015 until his retirement in May 2020, he worked as the Equipment Maintenance Manager in Fayette. Steven made lots of lifelong friends over the years, through his work with ALDOT. He loved them all dearly. Steven loved Alabama football, playing golf, hunting, and working with flowers, but most of all, Steven loved his family and friends and spending time with them, and loved his son. Steven loved life and was always a friend to everyone, and always had a smile on his face. Steven is survived by his wife: Kathy Wakefield; his daughter: Rachel Gilbreath; his brother and sister-in-law: Gary and Karen Wakefield; his sister and brother-in-law: Gina and Bill Tittle; his father-in-law: Jim Wilson; his brother-in-law and sister-in-law: Jeff and Cathy Wilson; his nephews and nieces: Josh, Julie, Caroline, Grant and James Wakefield; Jobe Wakefield; Jared, Whitney, Maggie, and McCoy Courington; Jordan, Maddy, and baby Courington; Tim Wilson; Tom Wilson; Macayla Ridgeway and a host of other relatives. Steven was preceded in death by his beloved son: Bradley Wakefield and his parents: Buck and Jean Wakefield. Visitation will be held Thursday, July 29, from 6-8 p.m. at First Baptist Church Double Springs with funeral services Friday, July 30, at 1 p.m. Reverend Phillip Twilley and Dr. Bill Tittle will officiate. Burial will be at Winston Memorial Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Josh Wakefield, Jobe Wakefield, Jared Courington, Shandy Porter, Ken Mobley and Tim Webb. Honorary Pallbearers will be Darrell Cleghorn, Lee Page, Butch Hodge, Norris Ricks and Bobby Kee. https://www.nicholsfuneralhomes.com/obits.

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CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH
JULY 28, 2021

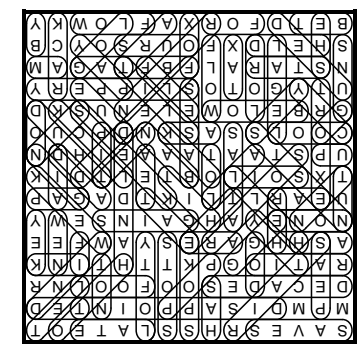
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU
JULY 28, 2021

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Family (from Front)

- so we can watch it," Evans explained. Universal Orlando is offering four-day accommodations for two family members or friends of each U.S. athlete, but Evans hopes to take the entire family, including Burks' mom, grandmother and three younger siblings.

The family is looking to rent a vehicle for the trip rather than fly. When asked if the family would consider flying, Evans responded, "Oh no! I can't fly."

Evans is proud of all his girls. He took the opportunity to not only point out the accomplishments of Quanesha, but he quickly switched gears to brag about the accomplishments of her younger siblings who were helping with the fundraiser.

Ja-Mira Davis, a sixth grader at Hartselle Middle School, said of her big sister, "I am really proud of her. She's come a long way. I get to see her from the Olympics, and I am really proud." When asked about the moment Quanesha appears on the big screen as they watch from Orlando, sister Jayla Dobbins, also in sixth grade at Hartselle, simply squealed as she tried to convey her delight, adding, "It's going to be amazing!"

Davis and Dobbins both say that they are inspired by their big sister but admit the comparisons can be difficult. Both are involved in school sports, basketball and track. Currently, they are fully focused on their big sister and, though disappointed they can't see her compete in person, the opportunity to watch with the other Olympic families is very special for them.

Quanesha's sister Olivia Dobbins, a seventh grader at Hartselle, also participates in track and field at her school. "I don't do long jump, no. I do 100m, 200m, 400m and relays. I'm not as fast as my sister - yet!" she smiled. She too is incredibly proud and excited to see Quanesha compete.

Leasha Dobbins, Burks' mother, who currently works at Falkville Health and Rehab, was amazed that so many people were willing to come out and help her family, including Falkville Mayor Ken Winkles. Winkles came by to offer his support and personally donate to the family. As he and Dobbins posed for a picture in front of the Olympic rings display, the joy emanating from each of them was contagious.

Dobbins has dreamed of this moment for Quanesha, saying, "It will be amazing. I know Quanesha is going further in life and me, being a mom, I am behind her every step of the way. With the rest of her sisters, I am behind them every step too. I love them. I am a proud mom and I love my baby. I am excited for her. Now, I have never been to Orlando, Florida, it's my fit time, and it's going to be amazing."

Dobbins added that Evans has all their Team USA gear, flags and things packed that the family will need once they arrive in Orlando to cheer on Quanesha and the entire team. USA Healthcare had T-shirts made with Quanesha's photo printed on them and the phrase, "One Spirit, One Team, One Win." The family was brought to tears by the gifts.

"I greatly appreciate everybody who has supported my daughter. I really appreciate that, especially her coaches. It all started at field day at Crestline Elementary School. She came in first place in every event," Dobbins said.

Quanesha's grandmother, Cathy Williams, who played an enormous role in raising her and is retired from USA Healthcare, was speechless upon arrival to the fundraising efforts. Williams said through her incredible smile, "Oh my God! I am so..." as the tears kept her from being able to speak. As she finally caught her breath, she said, "I am so happy! I am so happy. God is good!"

Williams said of Quanesha's degree in education and her future as a teacher, "She is going to have some amazing stories to tell her students. What an inspiration she will be! I am so proud of Quanesha that I don't know what to do. I give God all the praise and thank Him for everything. God wakes her up in the morning time and she always prays with Him before she goes out to do the long jump. She says, 'Grandma, you know what we've got to do.' I say, 'Yes, baby.'"



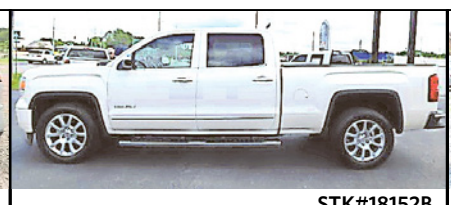
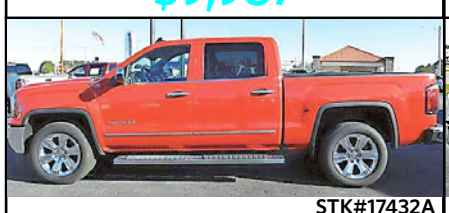
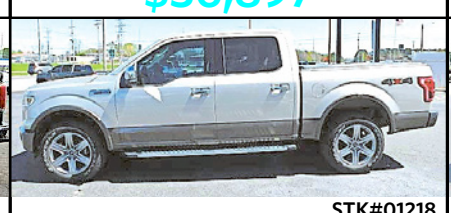
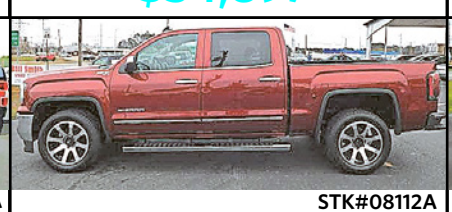
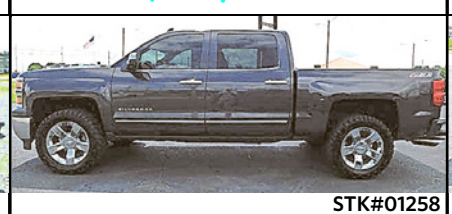
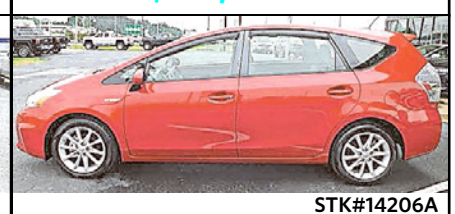
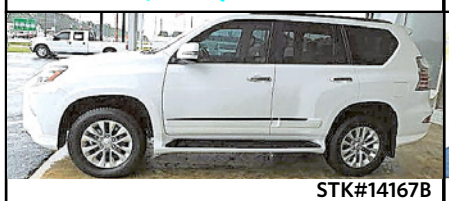
UA ATHLETICS

Hartselle's Quanesha Burks will be competing in the Long Jump for Team USA at this year's Olympics in Tokyo.

Will this be the end for Burks after the Tokyo Olympics? Evans doesn't think so, saying, "She is probably going to be a prospect for 2024. It takes a lot of work to do stuff like that and she's got to come on with it. If she wants it bad enough, she's got to go get it. If she wants that gold, she's got to go get it!"

If you would like to donate to help Quanesha's family travel to Orlando, please email srcoleman@usahealthcare.net.

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