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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OBITUARIES
Ruby Jean Martin Pitts, Johnny "Toby" Ford, Cynthia Ann Mazur
» PAGE 10

WEATHER
51 40
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
MOSTLY CLOUDY

Arrests and Incidents
» PAGE 2

Community Calendar
» PAGE 3

Games
» PAGE 11

JOY & GERONTOLOGY
52 Odes to Joy
The FOUR GARDENS to GROW JOY
BEN SOUTH
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– LIFESTYLE –

52 Odes to Joy: The Four Gardens to Grow Joy

» PAGE 8

7 93888 98541 4

CRIME

Local man sentenced to 99 years in prison for murder

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County District Attorney's Office announced that Circuit Judge Martha Williams sentenced Andrew Jacob Maresh to 99 years in prison for the intentional murder of Daniel Ray Osborn, II, Tuesday, Feb. 22.

According to a press release from the Cullman County District Attorney's Office:

"As promised after his conviction in October, our office requested that Maresh be sentenced to life in prison," said District Attorney Blaylock. "The testimony at trial revealed that Maresh and his accomplices took elaborate steps in the planning and the cover-up of their murder of Daniel Ray Osborn, II. It is apparent that these actions were considered against Maresh by Judge Williams when she handed down the lengthy sentence. Now that Maresh has been sentenced to 99 years in prison, our office will continue forward with the prosecution of Maresh's two accomplices."

The account of the murder included:

"In February 2018, Daniel Ray Osborn, II was with Andrew Maresh » PAGE 6



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Andrew Jacob Maresh

Hanceville's Abigail Long named Head Majorette at University of Tennessee



ABIGAIL LONG
Former Hanceville majorette Abigail Long was selected as the new Head Majorette at the University of Tennessee last week.

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Working hard toward your goal is always important. It doesn't matter if you are looking to start your own business one day, or if you are looking to continue your athletic or academic career after high school. You always have to work hard to reach the goals you want to achieve. That came true for former Hanceville majorette Abigail Long, who tried out for the head majorette position at the University of Tennessee, along with several others. Last Thursday, Long received the news that she had earned the position as the head majorette. She's still » PAGE 6

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cullman celebrates 34 years as Tree City USA

» PAGE 10

EDUCATION

CCSO looking to instill positivity, trust in regard to law enforcement

» PAGE 12

EDUCATION

Holly Pond High competes in first round of state math tournament

» PAGE 5

Friends of the Library sees success with first Books and Brews event at Goat Island Brewing

» PAGE 7

– PET OF THE WEEK –

Share a smile with Salvatore!



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER
Salvatore » PAGE 6

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Feb. 25

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Feb. 25, 2022. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Feb. 22

- domestic violence; criminal mischief; CR 384
- domestic violence; CR 233
- theft of property; CR 1246
- domestic violence; resisting arrest; CR 1693
- harassment; CR 601
- theft of property; CR 970
- domestic violence; Hwy. 69 N
- harassment; CR 743
- assault; CR 1545

Feb. 23

- possession of controlled substance; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1534
- theft of property; CR 437
- possession of drug paraphernalia; I-65 NB at MM 299
- theft of property; CR 384
- dog bite; CR 827
- domestic violence; Freeman Rd.
- harassment; CR 52
- harassment; Apple Ln. NW
- harassment; Welcome Rd.
- domestic violence; Hwy. 31

ARRESTS

Feb. 22 – 23

Borden, Robert E.; 67
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- resisting arrest

Boyd, Tyler E.; 30
- damaged property-destruction of property by prisoner

Brasher, Rocky; 38
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- attempting to elude police officer

Campbell, Charles David R.; 42
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs

Cornelius, John B.; 41
- FTA- assault-domestic-menacing-intimidation only
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-2nd offense
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- negotiating worthless instrument
- FTA- obstructing police-interference with a domestic violence emergency
- FTA- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Flanigan, Cory D.; 33
- FTA- assault-harassment
- FTA- criminal trespass

Hall, Chyrssa L.; 25
- damaged property-criminal mischief

Harbison, Alexander E.; 29
- FTA- illegal possession of prescription drugs
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs

Lindsey, Stephen C.; 35
- larceny/theft-shoplifting less than $500

Lynn, Brent T.; 32
- possession of dangerous drugs

McCarty, Tabitha J.; 27
- assault-child abuse-simple-family
- FTA- larceny/theft-miscellaneous $500 less than $1,500
- FTA- illegal possession/use of credit/debit card

McDonald, Joseph A.; 30
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- liquor-open container-alcohol in a vehicle

Owens, TJ J.; 32
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Powell, Daiquiri T.; 32
- public intoxication

Raines, Brian A.; 34
- assault-domestic violence- third-degree- harassing communications

Rice, Adrin C.; 47
- FTA- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- FTA- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle (no theft)
- FTA- driving while license suspend

Roberson, Brandy N.; 36
- probation violation- possession of dangerous drugs

Rodriguez-Mora, John D.; 45
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Rutledge, Billy J.; 55
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- second-degree possession of marijuana

Smallwood, Eric W.; 34
- manufacture, use, sale, etc. of synthetic urine or urine additive

Speegle, Daniel E.; 36
- probation violation- possession of dangerous drugs

Twilley, Allyson Claire R.; 23
- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Walker, Kevin O.; 41
- FTA- driving while license suspended

Whitaker, Brian K.; 40
- FTA- burglary-residence-force

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Feb. 23
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; third-degree criminal mischief; First Church of the Nazarene; Hwy. 157; damage to '11 Ford E350
- third-degree domestic violence-criminal mischief; person; 2nd Ave. SW; damage to '17 Kia Forte; $500

Feb. 24
- first-degree theft of property; second-degree theft of property; person; Commerce Ave. NW; motorcycle; trailer; miscellaneous
- third-degree domestic violence-harassment; person; 7th St. SE
- fourth-degree theft of property; Walmart; Olive St. SW; miscellaneous; $60

ARRESTS

Feb. 23 – 24

Flanigan, Cory D.; 33
- harassment
- harassing communications

Lambert, Adam K.; 42
- violation of court order

Aldijali, Michael H.; 25
- DUI-combined substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Fowler, Dawson C.; 21
- third-degree theft of property

Ford, Jeffrey E.; 51
- FTA- third-degree criminal trespass

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Friday, Feb. 25, 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.

*The dashboard has been redesigned to help people better understand the current transmission levels in their communities and the impact of COVID-19 in Alabama. The moving 7-day sum is updated daily instead of weekly--instead of a 3, 7 and 14-day average, the dashboard will provide a 7-day moving sum for cases. The 2020 and 2021 breakdowns of cases and deaths will be provided - not just a total sum over both years.

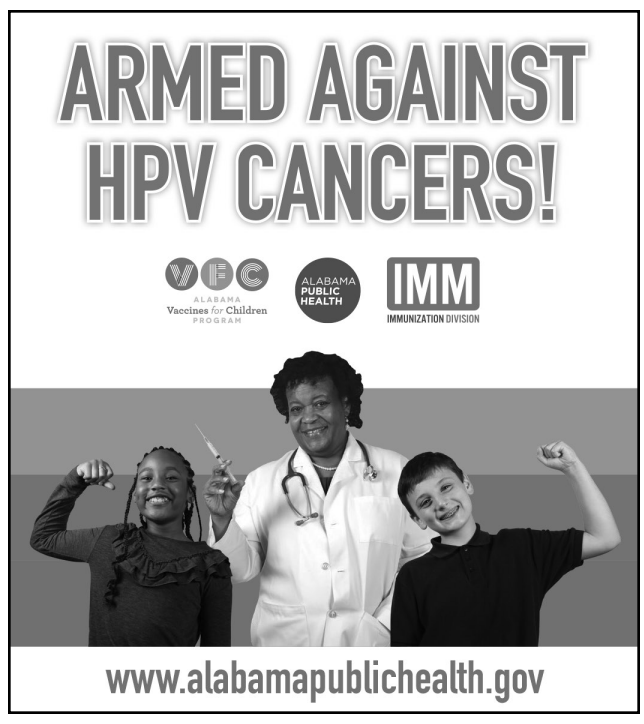
Case details* (Updated Monday, Wednesday and Friday)
- Positivity in tests in Alabama: 8.5%
- Confirmed cases in Alabama (2020): 387,454
- Confirmed cases in Alabama (2021): 535,633
- Confirmed cases in Alabama (2022): 352,391 (+2,359 since Wednesday)
- Total confirmed deaths in Alabama (2020): 7,187
- Total confirmed deaths in Alabama (2021): 9,515
- Total confirmed deaths in Alabama (2022) 1,484 (+177 since Wednesday)
- Positivity in tests in Cullman Co.: 4.2%
- Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co. (2020): 7,562
- Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co. (2021): 9,740
- Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co. (2022): 6,996 (+40 since Wednesday)
- Deaths in Cullman Co. (2020): 128
- Deaths in Cullman Co. (2021): 188
- Deaths in Cullman Co. (2022): 31 (+6 since Wednesday)
- Total tested in Cullman Co. in the last 7 days: 1,143
- Total tested positive in Cullman Co. in the last 7 days: 48
- Total tested in Alabama in the last 7 days: 36,709
- Total positive tests in Alabama in the last 7 days: 3,104
- Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 817

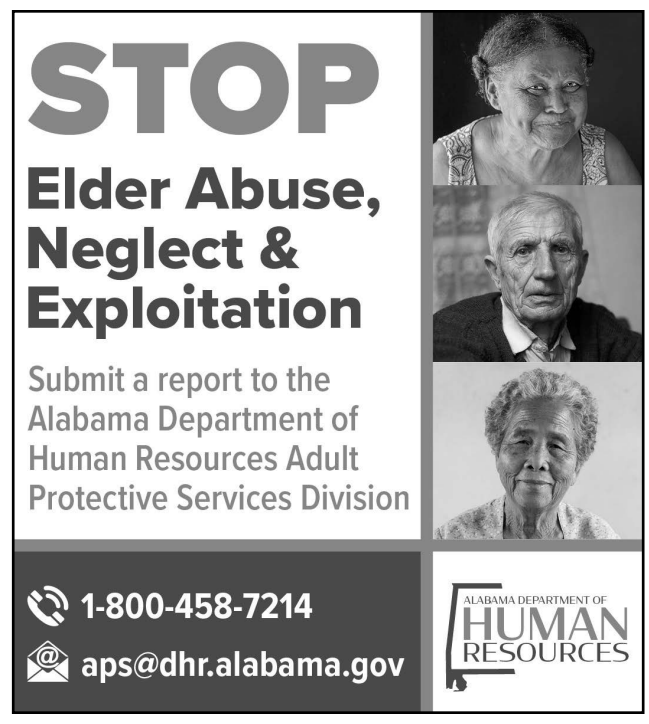
Vaccine details (updated Tuesday and Thursday)
- Doses delivered to Alabama: 8,921,295
- Doses delivered to Alabama providers: 4,659,865
- Doses administered: 5,833,681
- Additional doses administered: 757,518
- Number of people receiving one or more doses: 2,842,623
- Number of people who have completed vaccine series: 2,315,774
- Doses delivered to federal programs: 4,261,430

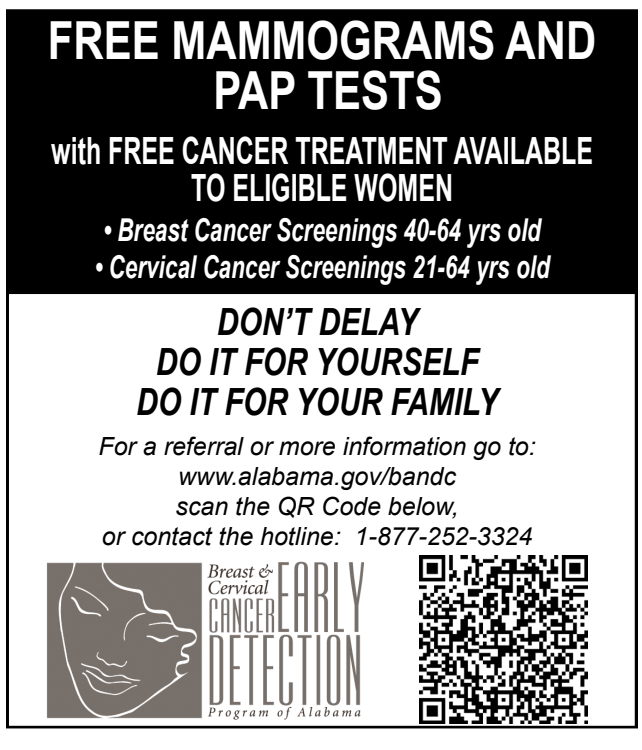
Alabamians in Phases 1a, 1b and 1c (including those 12 and older) are now eligible to receive a vaccine.

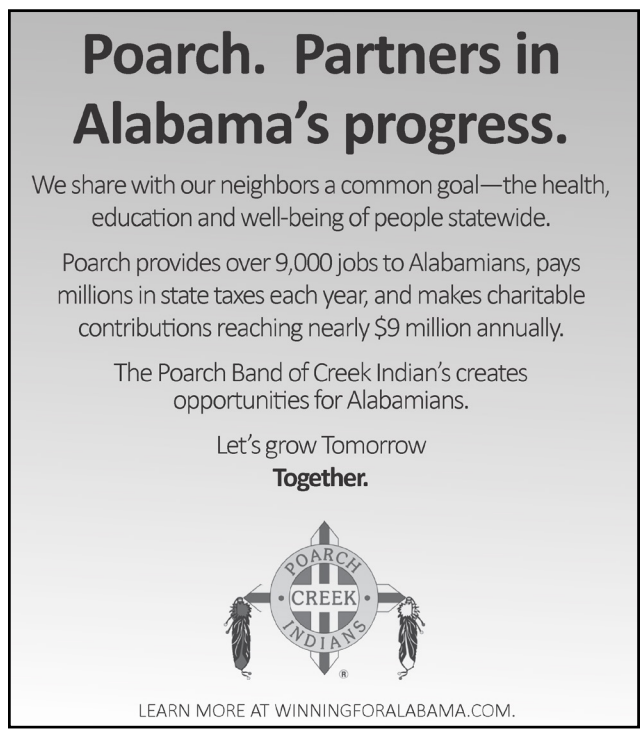
View the Alabama COVID-19 Vaccination Allocation Plan at: www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19vaccine/assets/adph-covid19-vaccination-allocation-plan.pdf.













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 Street 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 Drive 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.
• Van runs in 5 Points Area. Call 256-841-2060 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Small group classes for children, youth and adults at 10 a.m., 11 a.m.
• 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.
• 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 (5100 Curry Highway Suite 100-B Jasper, AL 35504) from 3-5 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.

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.

Agriplex spring program schedule

Child and home-school programs
• March 3, noon: Heritage Homeschool Secondary Spring Herbs for Your Health: We have an abundance of spring herbs popping up that can be useful to help spring clean our bodies. Instructor Paula Smith will share how to use herbs to help students feel their best and will have a hands-on salve making project. $15 per student, no family max.
• March 5, 9 a.m.: Farm Kids First Peas to the Table: Join us as we find out how Thomas Jefferson's garden is inspiring even the youngest gardeners today.
• March 8, 10:30 a.m.: Library Storytimes Five Senses at Guy Hunt Library Holly Pond. FREE
• March 11, 10 a.m.: Little Farmers Feathered Friends: Explore the world of birds with hands on fun as we learn how to bring birds to our own backyards.
• March 24: Heritage Homeschool Seed Starting: What does a seed need to grow? Find out as we learn all about how to grow our own vegetable transplants for the garden.

Adult programs
• March 8, 6 p.m.: Beginning Farmer & Rancher-Small Scale Vegetable Production: Learn which summer vegetables are the most profitable and learn the best practices for growing them. Registration required, contact Tony Glover at gloveta@aces.edu, or by phone 256-568-0005
• March 14, 6 p.m.: Living Landscapes Growing Shitake Mushrooms: Inoculate your own shitake mushroom log to take home and grow. $40 per person.
• March 16, noon: Lunch & Learn Growing Succulents: Bethany O'Rear will be here to talk about succulents. Free program, light lunch provided. Must call 256-297-1044 to register.
• March 22, 6 p.m.: Heritage Skills Growing & Using Gourds and Pumpkins: Katie Westmoreland will be here teaching us how to grow these useful cucurbits, avoid pests and diseases and also will be demonstrating how to use them in crafting recipes and more!

Register for programs at https://agriplex.org/WPtest/services/.

CASA volunteer training
Cullman County CASA (court appointed special advocates) is looking for dedicated volunteers to speak up for abused and neglected children in foster care. They need YOUR VOICE! A training class will be beginning soon! For more information, please contact Candace Lingo at cullmancountycasa@msn.com.

T.O.P.S (Take off Pounds Sensibly) Meetings
• Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m., at Cullman Housing Authority Community Center (1545 Vine Circle SW, Cullman, AL 35055).
• First meeting is free. TOPS, a national program, is a hands-on/pounds-off approach to weight loss and management through weekly meetings providing information, accountability, support and encouragement where you make the changes that make sense to you.

Cullman NAR-ANON Group Meetings
• The NAR-ANON family group meetings are a worldwide fellowship for those affected by someone else's addiction.
• We offer Help by sharing our experiences, strength and hope. We carry the message of hope by letting others know that they are not alone by practicing the 12 Steps of NAR-ANON and changing our own attitudes.
• We Respect Your Anonymity. Our program is not a religious one, but a spiritual way of life. Meetings will be held at The Ruehl Building (family life center of St John's Church) Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. Contact Jamie Weathersby Smith 256-708-7122 or Don or Nancy McKenzie 256-736-3327 or 256-736-3470 for more information.

Wallace State Fine and Performing Arts fall – spring performances

Dazzle Me, Disney!
• April 7-9, 7 p.m.
• Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre
• Featuring the Wallace State Singers
• Info: 256-352-8277, jessica.chairez@wallacestate.edu

Big Band Dance
• April 15, 7 p.m.
• Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts
• Featuring the Wallace State Jazz Band
• Info: 256-352-8277, jessica.chairez@wallacestate.edu

Dance Spring Showcase
April 22, 7 p.m.
• Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre
• Featuring the Allegro Dance Theatre
• Info: 256-352-8277, jessica.chairez@wallacestate.edu

Spring Under the Stars
• April 26, 7 p.m.
• Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts (bring lawn chairs, blankets etc.)
• Featuring the Wallace State Concert Choir and Concert Band
• Info: 256-352-8277, jessica.chairez@wallacestate.edu

Cullman County Soil & Water Conservation scholarship application open
Jan. 22 – March 4: The Cullman County Soil & Water Conservation District is now accepting applications for a $500 scholarship sponsored by the Alabama Conservation District Employees Association. Applicant must be a U. S. citizen, high school senior, and living in the State of Alabama. Deadline to receive completed applications in the district office is March 4. For more information, please contact Kathy Holmes at 256-734-1431 or at cullman@alconservationdistricts.org.

Fairview Lions Club Pancake Breakfast
Feb. 26: The Fairview Lions Club is having a pancake breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 26 from 7-10 a.m. at Fairview Town Hall (7525 Alabama Highway 69 N). Plates will be $6, with both dine-in and carry-out options available. All proceeds will go to the Fairview Lions Club projects fund. For more information, call Kita Chambers at 256-385-8805 or William Criscoe at 256-385-5596.

East Point Swamp John's Dinner
March 10: East Point Cumberland Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Swamp John's dinner on Thursday, March 10 from 4-7 p.m. (1441 U.S. Highway 278 East, Cullman, AL). Dine-in and carry-out options available. For more information, call 256-962-2116.

Valley Springs Baptist Church Youth Revival
• March 12-13: Beginning at 5 p.m. at Valley Springs Baptist Church (6979 County Road 437, Cullman). The evangelists will be Colin Long, Ethan Yarbrough, Clay Rollo and Kenny Shelton.
• Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers in word in conversation, in charity, in faith, in purity. 1st Timothy 4:12 (KJV).

5th Annual Hanceville Irish Festival
March 19: The 5th Annual Hanceville Irish Festival will take place on Saturday, March 19 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., hosted by Snead's Farmhouse. Booth fees are $30 per booth. For more information about becoming a vendor Snead's Farmhouse at judysnead9522@gmail.com.

Cottontails Arts & Crafts Festival
• April 9, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
• 905 SE Commercial St., Hanceville
• Willow Brook Boutique & Design will host a spring arts & crafts festival in downtown Hanceville.

Bloomin' Festival Arts and Crafts Fair
• April 23-24, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
• 1600 St. Bernard Ave. SE, Cullman
• Food, music and artisan crafts all weekend at St. Bernard Preparatory School.
• Admission $7, children 5 and under get in free.

2022 Hanceville Grilled Cheese Festival
May 28: The Hanceville Grilled Cheese Festival is back for the second year! The festival will take place Saturday, May 28 starting at 9 a.m. Features will include vendors, food trucks, live music and plenty of activities for adults and kids alike. Most food trucks will feature their own signature grilled cheese. There will also be a grilled cheese cook-off. Follow them on Facebook for more information: https://www.facebook.com/events/265071822436868/.

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PREP BASKETBALL

Cullman's Winfrey signs with Wallace State

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman High School's Tillman Hall was packed with friends, family, teammates and coaches Thursday afternoon to help a Bearcat standout celebrate the next step of their athletic career. Lady Bearcats senior Jaden Winfrey signed her letter of intent to play for the Wallace State Lady Lions and she's leaving behind quite a resume. In her prep career, Winfrey played in 113 games, recorded over 1,240 points (fifth all-time in Cullman history), over 580 rebounds, more than 300 assists and more than 350 steals. She also posted a career shooting percentage of 51% from the field, 37% from three-point range and 72% at the free throw line.

Cullman Head Coach Josh Hembree has seen Jaden develop into an elite player on the court and he'll miss having her in the starting lineup but what he'll miss just as much is the time he got to spend with her off the court.

"Jaden is a great young lady. She comes from a good family; she knows right from wrong and she's just a kid who enjoys being a kid and happens to be really good at basketball," Hembree said.

"It's been a blessing for me to have her not only as her coach, but I also see these girls every day in what we call Bearcat Enrichment for about 45 minutes and just to laugh with them and hear them tell stories and jokes, it's just a neat relationship.

"Then to be able to step on the court and focus and move everyone towards a common goal is unique, and it's something that I'll cherish for a long time."

Winfrey knew pretty quickly that Wallace was where she wanted to take her talents after high school. She's enjoyed the time she's spent on campus and has already known her new coach for years so she's excited to get to work with the Lady Lions.

"It just felt like home, it's close and it's just a really good college," Winfrey said. "I just loved it once I went over there. I also love the coach and I've known her for a long time so I'm really looking forward to it and it's going to be good."

Jaden has made a lot of friends and a lot of memories in her time at Cullman. She's going to miss playing with her Lady Bearcat teammates and her head coach who she credits with helping her reach this goal.

"I'm definitely going to miss all the girls I played with, it broke my heart when we got put out, but I'm also going to miss Coach Hembree a lot," Winfrey said.

"He just pushed me to be a better player and I think that is what has helped me get here to be able to sign with Wallace."

Wallace State Head Coach Jessica McBrayer was in attendance at Winfrey's signing Thursday, and she's known for many years that Jaden would be a great fit in her program.

"Jaden is a special person to me. I've been coaching her now for about 12 years but only in softball and soccer, never in basketball.

"So, I've known since she was a little girl what kind of athlete she is. She's super competitive, gritty, does all the small things right and I've known that since she was little, so it's been really cool to watch her develop in high school.

"We knew as soon as her senior year started that she was someone we didn't wanted as part of our program.

"That's how we play, we're all about fast pace, grit and tenacity and she's got all those things.

"We're super excited because she's going to fit in so well with us."



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman's Jaden Winfrey signed her letter of intent to play at Wallace State at Cullman High School Thursday.

PREP FOOTBALL

Fairview's Martin signs with Jacksonville State

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — The Fairview High School library was full of friends, family, coaches and teammates Thursday to help celebrate a big moment in one Aggie's athletic career. Parker Martin accepted an offer as a preferred walk-on at Jacksonville State and has now officially signed to play for Head Coach Rich Rodriguez and the Gamecocks. Martin has collected several All-State honors as a defensive back in his prep career and he'll continue to play in the secondary when he arrives at JSU.

Aggies Head Coach George Redding knows as well as anyone what Parker can do on the field but what he's most proud of is the person that he is off of it.

"He's just a phenomenal person. He's a great athlete but an even better person and that's very important," Redding said. "He's always willing to do whatever it takes to help others around him be successful and we're super excited about what he's getting to do and the opportunity he has to go earn something there at Jacksonville, which is a great institution. It's great not only for Parker but it's great for our school, our program and our community. He'll hold that name up to a high standard.

Redding loves to brag on Martin's character but something else he knows he'll be remembered for is racking up wins on the football field. In his three years as a starter at quarterback and in the secondary, the Aggies posted a record of 31-7 and as a senior he helped lead them to their most wins in school history (12) and to the 5A State semifinals for the first time in school history.

"I think there's always a right way of doing things and success has to be more than just the scoreboard. I think our kids understand that and I know Parker understands that, but you can't get away from what he has helped accomplish with his teammates," Redding said. "Lots of wins, lots of successes here and I truly believe he'll continue that, no matter what program, what organization, what company or whatever he's a part of."

Parker felt comfortable at Jacksonville State as soon as he arrived and got along with the new coaching staff right away.

"When I went over there, I loved it," Martin said. "I felt right at home as soon as I got there, and I loved all the coaches on the new coaching staff. I liked all of them and I really feel honored that they want me to come play there and I think I'm going to enjoy it very much."

Martin still has one more baseball season to play on the diamond at Fairview and he's going to miss a lot about his time as an Aggie, but he's also excited to get his career with the Gamecocks underway.

"There's so much to miss and there are so many memories I could go through," Martin said. "I'm definitely going to miss my boys, my coaches and the community but I'm also ready to get to Jacksonville and start my new path there. I'm looking forward to it."



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Fairview's Parker Martin signed to continue his playing career at Jacksonville State Thursday.

PREP BASEBALL

Simmons' walk-off lifts West Point over Sardis 3-2

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

WEST POINT, Ala. — After splitting their first two games of the season, the West Point Warriors returned home on Thursday night to take on the Sardis Lions in their home opener. It was a pitcher's duel for the entire game, but West Point quickly got a rally started in its final at-bats and a game-winning RBI single by Cade Simmons helped give the Warriors a 3-2 win over Sardis.

Caiden Rodgers got the start for West Point and gave up a leadoff single, but quickly retired the next three batters to end the top of the first inning. The Warriors went down in order in their opening at-bats, but they got on the scoreboard in the bottom of the second inning. Rodgers led off the inning with a single to right field, then he went to second on a wild pitch. Colton McCoy lined a single to center field and moved to second on the throw-in to put runners on second and third with no outs. One out later, Taylor Curtis, the courtesy runner for Rodgers, scored on a dropped third strike to give West Point a 1-0 lead.

Sardis tied the game on a two-out RBI single in the top of the third inning. Neither team could break the tie, until the top of the fifth inning, as a Warrior error and a two-out walk put runners on first and second with two outs.

An RBI single to center field gave Sardis a 2-1 lead; they looked to add to their lead in the top of the sixth inning as back-to-back one-out bunt singles quickly put them in business. One out later, a walk loaded the bases for the Lions, but Aidan Maddox got a huge strikeout to end the Sardis threat.

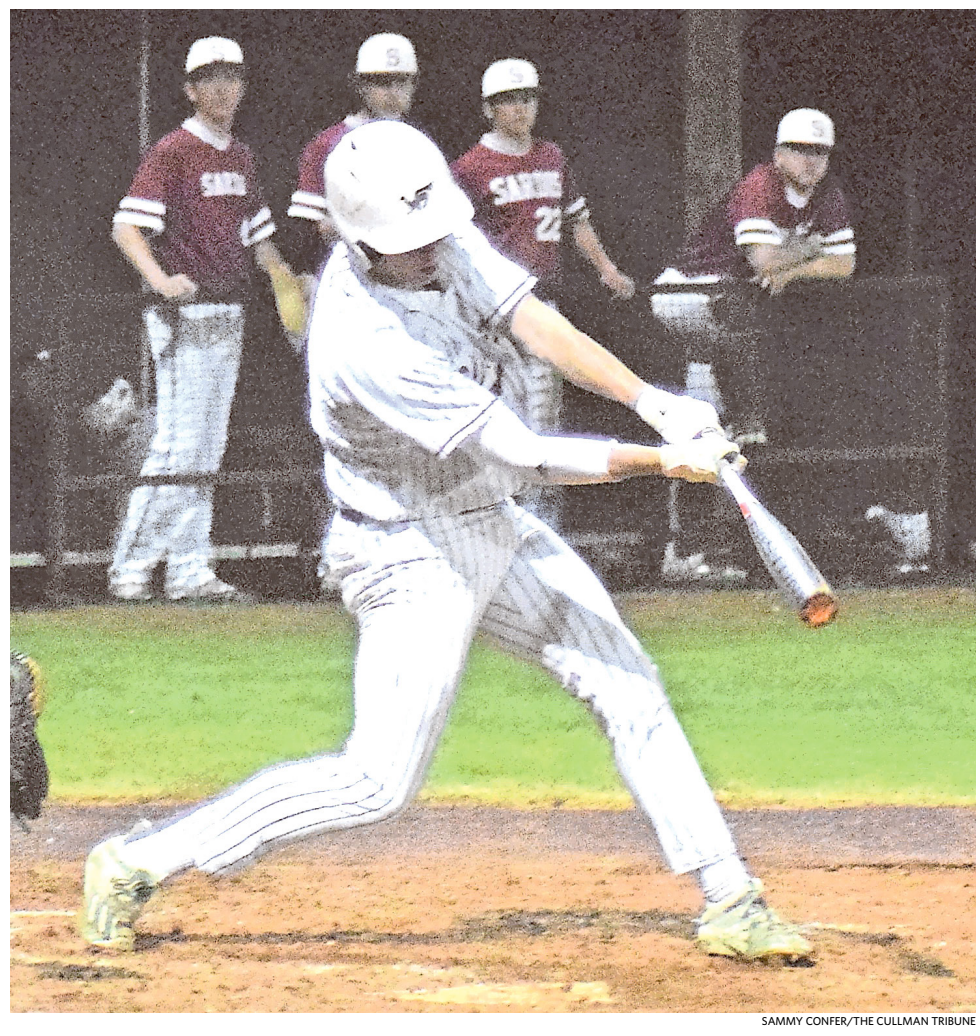
Eli Folds and Andrew Putman each drew walks in the bottom of the sixth, but Folds got picked off at first and Putman got caught trying to steal second.

A strikeout quickly ended the inning for West Point, but after allowing a leadoff single, the Warriors quickly got out of the inning without any problems. West Point quickly got things going in their final at-bats as Rodgers got it all started with a single to right field.

He then advanced to second on a wild pitch and McCoy reached on an error, which allowed Rodgers to move to third on the play. Isaac Hoffpauir got hit by the pitch to load the bases with no outs. Brody Freeman popped out for out number one, but a passed ball allowed Rodgers to score to tie the game up at two. Simmons then promptly ended the game on the next pitch as he hit the game-winning RBI single to right field to give the Warriors a huge 3-2 win in their home opener.

Simmons finished with the game-winning RBI single for West Point (2-1). Rodgers added two hits and McCoy ended up with a hit. Rodgers went five innings, allowing just four hits and two runs (one unearned), walking five and striking out four. The duo of Maddox and Folds gave up just three hits in the final two innings.

West Point will play a doubleheader on Saturday at Decatur against the Red Raiders and Athens, starting at 11 a.m.



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

West Point's Cade Simmons hit the game-winning RBI single to help give the Warriors a 3-2 win over Sardis Thursday night.



CITY OF CULLMAN

Member of HPHS Math Team, Top row: Austin Marsh, Rebecca Bell, Hunter Holmes; Bottom row: Kollin Brown, Jayden Holloway, Lysa Ring



CITY OF CULLMAN

Member of HPHS Math Team, Top row: Joshua Phillips, Evan Roden, Hayden Ritchie, Maddi Ham, Lee Shaw, Lexie Smith; Middle row: Levi Kelso, Onnie Bolzle, Alivia Farr, Marleigh Arthur, Elli Burks; Bottom row: Darla Fredrick, Megan Fry, Ava Roper, Kursten Putman, Brenna White, Lana Todd

Holly Pond (from Front)

Sara Gladney
sara@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. — The Holly Pond Geometry, Algebra II and Comprehensive math teams recently participated in the state math tournament Friday, Feb. 25. The state competition consists of two rounds, with the first round being a self-proctored test held at each of the competing high schools. If schools place high enough, they will be invited to the second round for the ciphering competition which will be held on UNA's campus on April 2.

The Holly Pond High Math Team typically competes each year. The geometry team placed 3rd in the state in the small school division for the 2019-2020 school year.

Algebra I and Geometry teacher Susan Sellers stated, "We prepare all year for our tournament. We begin weekly practice in September.

"The teams practice on tests, speed questions, memorization, math websites, etc." Any students who have an interest in math may join the team. There are usually 10-12 students on each team.

The year culminates with the county tournament, held at Wallace State on March 18. The county winners will be determined by a 25-question test and ciphering (speed questions).

The state competition is a two-hour test with 50-questions. At a tournament, the final score is decided by the top four test scores and ciphering (speed round) scores.

Holly Pond High hosted a geometry ciphering competition Feb. 16 and will host an Algebra II ciphering competition March 2 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Each student has four questions and there are four rounds of ciphering. All county schools will be participating as a practice for the county tournament.

The schools will have the results of the first round of the state tournament in a couple of weeks, so they will know which schools will be asked to compete in the ciphering round.





www.cullmanlions.com
CULLMAN LIONS CLUB
Annual
FISH & HAM
Dinner
At The
Cullman Middle School
CAFETERIA
Saturday, March 5, 2022 11:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
DINE IN - CARRY OUT - DRIVE THRU
$15.00 per plate
Choice of catfish filet or ham, baked potato, slaw, hushpuppies, dessert





Advanced Tickets may be purchased AT, or from any *Cullman Lions Club Member*
The Brandin' Iron Restaurant * Cullman Veterinary Hospital * Doug Doggett Jewelers
East Side Barber Shop * Ed White Jewelers * Mary Carter Store * Merchants Bank, Main Branch
Peek Auto Parts * Ponder Wrecker Service

Recycling Collection
Now Available in Cullman County
for Residents and Businesses
Cardboard | Plastic | Paper | Metal | Glass
Reduce your garbage volume
with Bi-monthly Recycling Pickup
It's Free to Try!
OSIRIS
RECYCLING SOLUTIONS LLC
(256) 615-2510
osirisrecycling.com
Not affiliated with Cullman County Sanitation Dept.
No drop-off location

Salvatore (from Front)

Olivia Law
olivia@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Animal Shelter's Donna Ruttkay shares this week's Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week: Salvatore!

According to Ruttkay, Salvatore is an approximately 3-4-year-old Corgi mix. He is a medium-energy little guy who practices his great special awareness through his solid understanding of leash training. He is a lovely soul who cherishes being close to his people. A fun fact about Salvatore is he has a big appetite! Salvatore is sure to make someone a wonderful therapy, companion or hiking dog! Salvatore's adoption fee includes DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet, microchip, free 30-day health insurance policy issued by 24PetWatch (with valid email only) and a free bag of food from Cullman Pet Depot (you must pay sales tax).

Animal shelter staff and volunteers work with their dogs to make sure they are accustomed to being around people, walking on a leash and practicing good behavior. Several of the shelter's canine friends have even been "hired" to work as therapy and special needs service dogs.

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

Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or visit them at 935 Convent Road NE. Reach them by email at cullmancountyanimalshelter@gmail.com.

Murder (from Front)

and Tyler Hudson at the residence of Susan Smith, who is Maresh's grandmother, in the Fairview community. Osborn was killed after suffering a gunshot wound to the back of his head. The defendants eventually returned to the property where they buried his body in a shovel-dug grave. They also took steps to stage a cover-up in an attempt to conceal that they had killed Osborn.

"Shortly after his disappearance, the family of Osborn filed a missing persons report with the Hartselle Police Department. At trial, the jury heard testimony that the defendants continued to use Osborn's cellphone to mislead his family, friends and law enforcement into believing that Osborn was still alive.

"Approximately seven weeks later, the Cullman County Sheriff's Office went to the property, after receiving a tip from a concerned citizen, where they recovered Osborn's body. Investigators then obtained evidence leading to the indictments issued against Maresh, Hudson and Smith."

In October 2021, Maresh was convicted of intentional murder for his role in the killing of Osborn. Pursuant to Alabama law, Maresh faced a possible punishment of 10-99 years or life in prison. Maresh is not eligible for good-time incentive credit due the length of his sentence and the nature of his conviction.

D.A. Wilson Blaylock and A.D.A Jeff Roberts represented the State at the sentence hearing. The case was investigated by the Hartselle Police Department and the Cullman County Sheriff's Office.

Due to the co-defendants having conflicting defenses, Alabama law requires that their cases be tried separately.

The cases against Hudson and Smith remain pending and will be scheduled for a trial at a later date. As for the pending cases against Hudson and Smith, the law requires prosecutors to make the following disclosure: Any indication of an indictment does not mean the individual identified has been convicted of a crime. All persons indicted are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Long (from Front)

handling the excitement of the news but Long already can't wait to get started.

"It still doesn't feel real. This was something that I have dreamed about and working toward since I was 7, so hearing my name being called out as head majorette was an emotional moment that was a culmination of all my hard work and dreams finally coming to fruition!" Long said.

"It is a big responsibility, but I am so excited and ready to take on this new position! Being named the head majorette means everything to me. It has been my dream to twirl at Tennessee since I was 7, so being able to achieve my biggest goal is still just unreal.

"I have worked so hard my entire life to earn this title and it is such a blessing and honor to be named the next head majorette."

Long learned a lot about being a majorette during her time at Hanceville from some great band directors and from someone who used to be a head majorette at Tennessee, her coach and her biggest role model, Jamie Medlock.

"Twirling at Hanceville was a great experience." Long said. "My band directors taught me about discipline and the fundamentals of marching band, which were crucial lessons I had to learn before twirling in a college marching band. But I owe being head majorette to being a competitive twirler for 15 years.

"My coach, Jamie Medlock, who was also head majorette at Tennessee, is the reason I dreamed of doing this one day. She constantly pushed me and showed me that I could accomplish anything I set my mind to. I'm not only the twirler I am today because of her, but I'm the person I am today because of her.

"Without her and my family's constant support and their underlying belief in me, I would not be where I am today."

Abigail added, "Without her, I wouldn't be twirling at Tennessee, much less be head majorette. She instilled in me a love for Tennessee, but also a drive and desire to set lofty goals and to never stop until I reached them."

There are some major differences between performing in high school and college and Abigail says that you have to be ready at all times no matter what.

"It is a totally different ballgame," Long said. "We learn a new halftime show every week, not to mention our pregame performance, and multiple other game day performances.

"College marching band, especially for the Pride of the Southland, requires so much more discipline and commitment. Our band is made up of 400 members, but there are about 10 'shadows' as we call them waiting on the sideline to take your place if you mess up.

"It is highly competitive, and you are expected to be on your A-game at all times, or else, you'll be sitting on the sidelines. I don't say all that to scare people away from college marching bands because it is the most rewarding experience, but the Pride of the Southland is known as one of the best marching bands in the country and it takes a level of excellence and diligence to uphold that."

Abigail became a leader and a great teammate during her time at Hanceville and that experience has helped her right away when she started twirling at Tennessee.

"It was a major asset. It's one of the reasons I got head majorette," Long said.

"I was able to showcase my leadership from the time I sent foot on the practice field as a freshman and the band directors took notice of that.

"They saw how I put my teammates before myself and truly became a leader on and off the field, so they trusted that I could be the leader and be a great head majorette."

Long gave some great advice to any young girls out there that are wanting to follow in her footsteps.

"My advice to any young girls wanting to follow in my footsteps is to dream big and work harder," Long said. "Have the drive and desire to set big goals for yourself, but also have the work ethic, dedication, and commitment to actually work for it and achieve those goals.

"I'm also going to give a shoutout to my studio, Genesis Performing Arts, for all the twirlers out there.

"Our coaches will push you and pour into you and make you become the very best version of yourself that you can be.

"They will help you achieve whatever dreams and goals you have for yourself."

Long is currently majoring in Social Work. She will graduate a year early in May and will be in Tennessee's Advanced Standing program to receive her master's degree in social work.

After she graduates, she plans go to law school to become a child advocacy attorney.

FOR SALE
Aussie Poodle Dog - female
17 weeks old, rehoming fee $900, updated shots, house trained, crate trained
$1,000.00
256-200-2325

LEGALS

PB MIN BK 203 PG 987 - 02/11/2022 11:53 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ROBBIE C. DAVIS, Deceased. CASE NO PC-2021-345

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration having been granted to Huey Michael Davis, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Robbie C. Davis, Deceased, on the 11th day of February, 2022, by the Honorable Tammy Brown. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claim against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Huey Michael Davis
Personal Representative

C. Blake West
Attorney for the Petitioner
1701 Main Avenue, SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

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

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

PB WIL BK 107 PG 794 - 02/16/2022 04:14 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JOYCE BEATRICE JACOBS, Deceased. CASE NO.: PC2022-040

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to NANCY DIANE WATSON MEYER, as Personal Representative of the Estate of JOYCE BEATRICE JACOBS, deceased, on the 16th day of February, 2022, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

NANCY DIANE WATSON MEYER
Personal Representative

J. BRADLEY WILSON
BAGGETT & WILSON, LLC
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER
206 NINTH STREET SW SUITE 102
CULLMAN, AL 35055
256-737-0740

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

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

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

PB ADT BK 60 PG 808 - 02/11/2022 10:58 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF CHARLES CALVIN BRATTON, JR. FOR THE ADOPTION OF
N.Y.C. A MINOR.
D.O.B. 5-15-2006
CASE NO AD 2022-005

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: SERGIO ALBERTO CARRILLO, BIOLOGICAL FATHER OR ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN FATHER OF N.Y.C. A MINOR CHILD

The Petition for Adoption was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Charles Calvin Bratton, Jr., Petitioner. 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 11th DAY OF February, 2022.

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

Jerry Kilgo
Attorney for Petitioner
105 1st Ave. NE, Ste. G
Cullman, Alabama 35055

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice once a week for four (4) successive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

RICKY GRAVEMAN, PLAINTIFF, VS. CASE NO. CV-2022-900019

Lot Number 20 according to the Map of Piney Point Subdivision as recorded in Misc. Book 56, Page 173 in the Probate Records of Cullman County, Alabama, being part of the West half of the Southeast Quarter, of the Southeast Quarter in Section 8, Township 10 South, Range 3 West.

AND

PATRICIA DIANE LILL, And A, B, C, D and all other persons claiming any present, future, contingent remainder, reversion, or other interest in said lands, DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE

The Defendant, Patricia Diane Lill, and any unknown Defendants, must answer the Complaint in Rem to Quiet Title filed by Ricky Graveman on or before the 28th day of March, 2022, or, thereafter, a judgment by default may be rendered against her in case number CV-2022-900019 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County Alabama.

DONE this the 31st day of January, 2022.

LISA MCSWAIN, Circuit Clerk

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

MARY HOLLOWAY,
Plaintiff

Vs. Case Number: **DR-2022-900035.00**

BRIAN JEANES,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

Brian Jeanes, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Mary Holloway's Complaint for Divorce by April 11th, 2022 or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against him in Case Number 25-DR-2022-900035.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 10th day of February, 2022.

Lisa McSwain,
Clerk of Circuit Court

PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY:
Sara Baker
100 5th St SE
Cullman, AL 35055

PB ADT BK 60 PG 961 - 02/25/2022 10:37 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL
IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF WILLIAM SHANE STISHER and TERESA ANN STISHER FOR THE ADOPTION OF
M.J.S.. A MINOR.
D.O.B. 4-19-2011
CASE NO AD 2021-093

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: JEROMY LLOYD HENDERSON, SR., ALLEGED FATHER OR ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN FATHER OF M.J.S. A MINOR CHILD BORN TO PATRICIA JOANN STISHER

The Petition for Adoption was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by William Shane Stisher and Teresa Ann Stisher, 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 25th DAY OF February, 2022.

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

G. Edward Coey
Attorney for Petitioners
100 Main Street, SE
Hanceville, Alabama 35077

PB MIN BK 203 PG 958 - 02/10/2022 09:18 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

HUGH C. HARRIS and CLIFFORD HOYT HARRIS, PLAINTIFFS. V. MISTY HARBOR RESORT, LLC and ESTATE of VENIE WILSON, deceased, DEFENDANTS.
CASE NO PC 2012-125

NOTICE OF HEARING
APPLICATION FOR REQUISITION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY BY PRIVATE PARTY
AMENDED APPLICATION FOR REQUISITION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY BY PRIVATE PARTY
SECOND AMENDED APPLICATION FOR REQUISITION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY BY PRIVATE PARTY AND
THIRD AMENDED APPLICATION FOR REQUISITION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY BY PRIVATE PARTY

TO: ROBERT L. WILSON
MISTY HARBOR RESORT, LLC

The Application for Requisition of Right-of-way by Private Party, Amended Application for Requisition of Right-of-way by Private Party, Second Amended Application for Requisition of Right-of-way by Private Party, and Third Amended Application for Requisition of Right-of-way by Private Party has been set for hearing on the 8th day of April, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

All persons in interest residing or being without the state are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

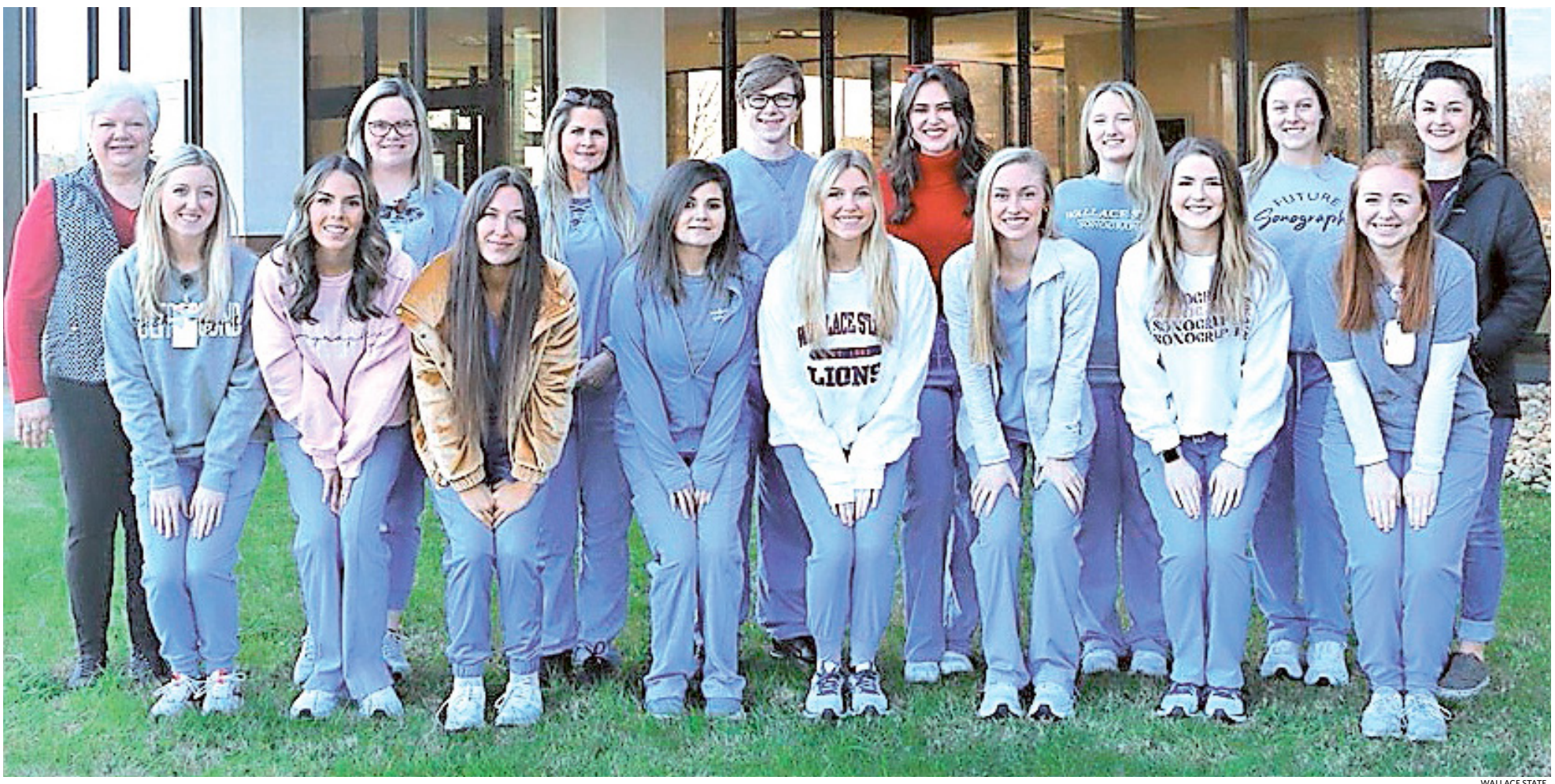
Done this the 9th day of February, 2022.

A. LEE TUCKER, SPECIAL JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper

Hugh C. Harris
Attorney at Law
401 Second Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055



WALLACE STATE

Diagnostic Medical Sonography students at Wallace State Community College are promoting healthy hearts during February and spent Valentine's Day spreading the word about the importance of being aware of heart health. Participating were from left, in front: Kayla Wade, Shelbie Bell, Emily Stephens, Megan Stephens, Lani Adams, Mattie Hice, Mikayla Vandiver, Cheyenne Martin; in back: Wallace State Vice President and Dean of Health Sciences Lisa German, Lindsie Still, Lisa Wesby-Lindley, Owen Smith, Ally Naylor, Madison Pryor, Kacie Sanford, and Cardiovascular Sonography Instructor Jorden Flack.

EDUCATION

Wallace State Sonography students encourage healthy hearts

Gail Crutchfield
Wallace State

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Students in Wallace State Community College's Diagnostic Medical Sonography program spent Valentine's Day spreading the word about the importance of being aware of heart health.

The Sonography program at Wallace State offers as one of its degree options a specialization in Cardiovascular Sonography, along with its General Sonography option which focuses on abdomen and OB/GYN.

"As students and soon-to-be-professionals in a career explicitly dealing with aspects of the heart and all of the many vessels from it, we cannot adequately express to you what your lifestyle equates to," said class president Mattie Hice.

"This is the month to begin your healthy heart lifestyle. Heart disease is still the leading cause of death in the United States; let's change that statistic."

Hice added the best way to improve those statistics is to work to prevent heart disease.

"Taking care of our heart starts with exercise, healthy eating, reducing stress and not smoking," she said.

On Valentine's Day, Hice and her classmates in the Cardiovascular Sonography Class of 2022 spread across campus sharing bags of treats that included tips on ways to prevent heart disease. They also created a video sharing that message as well.

They paid special attention to high blood pressure, which is one of the leading risk factors.

Untreated high blood pressure puts patients at risk for stroke, heart failure, kidney failure, vision loss and even cognitive decline.

"So, with utmost emphasis, do this for you, and if not for you, do it for us, your family or the people you love most," Hice said.

"One in four deaths should not be from something we can predominantly prevent. Let's get educated."

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program and most other Health Science programs at Wallace State will begin taking applications for Fall 2022 admission beginning March 1. For more information, call 256-352-8000.



WALLACE STATE

Wallace State Sonography students Ally Naylor, left, and Cheyenne Martin, right hand out treats and tips on being heart healthy.

EDUCATION

Wallace State's free short-term training programs hosting new bootcamp March 4

Russell Moore
Wallace State

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State's Adult Education Department and the Center for Career and Workforce Development are hosting a new bootcamp orientation for the next round of free training in the following campus programs: certified nursing assistant, culinary arts, diesel technology, phlebotomy and welding.

Orientation is scheduled for Friday, March 4 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on the 12th floor of the James C. Bailey Center.

The initial bootcamp, held in January, attracted more than 100 individuals. Among others, training for phlebotomy reached the max capacity.

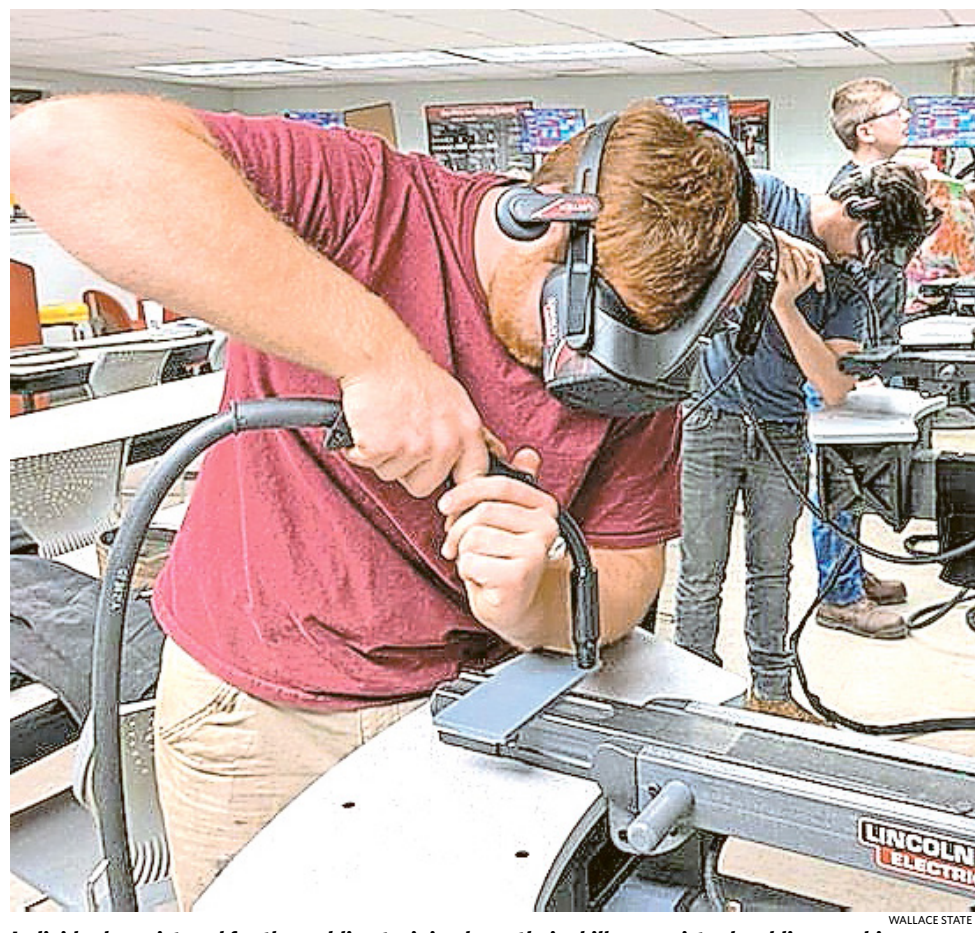
"We were thrilled with the response we received in January. It's a great opportunity for individuals who are looking to change their career path. Others may have had finances holding them back from pursuing a specific skill or their work schedules didn't align with a program," said Jamie Blackmon, director of the Center for Career and Workforce Development. "We look forward to broadening the offerings in the future."

Those interested in the training aren't required to have earned a high school diploma or degree to be eligible to begin the training.

Training in culinary arts begins March 7, diesel technology begins March 14, phlebotomy March 24, welding April 4 and CNA April 8.

Interested individuals are encouraged to register at https://www.wsccalumni.org/bootcamps.

For more information on the training opportunities, please contact Tia Rutledge at 256-352-8077/tia.rutledge@wallacestate.edu or Blackmon at 256-352-8241/Jamie.blackmon@wallacestate.edu.



WALLACE STATE

Individuals registered for the welding training hone their skills on a virtual welding machine.

Event (from Front)

Sara Gladney
sara@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Friends of the Public Libraries of Cullman County held its first Books and Brews event at Goat Island Brewing Wednesday evening. The book sale featured a wide selection of books donated to the Cullman County libraries.

The event was even more popular than expected, with all of the eight book tables surrounded by curious readers as soon as the event began.

The book sale was created to reach a wider audience to spread awareness about the Cullman County Libraries and to raise funds for literacy projects done by the Friends.

Friends of the Public Libraries President Tanya Allcorn was excited by the good turn-out.

She stated, "The Friends of the Public Libraries are so thankful to Goat Island Brewery for hosting a library fundraiser and increase awareness of our local library system.

"We are so grateful for all the community support in making our fundraising events a wonderful success."

The Friends of the Library is a nonprofit made up of Cullman businesses and community members.

To join the Friends of the Library, fill out the online form at: http://www.ccpls.com/friends.html.

The Friends may attend meetings to offer suggestions for specific library needs, volunteer to plan and carry out fundraising activities and encourage community awareness by sharing their passion for libraries, as well as enjoy 50% off book sale purchases.

Cullman County Public Libraries supported by the Friends include: Cullman County Public Library, Tom Bevill Library, Garden City Public Library, Hanceville Public Library, Guy Hunt Library and the Cullman County Bookmobile.

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
FEBRUARY 26, 2022

52 ODES TO JOY: THE FOUR GARDENS TO GROW JOY

Ben South
Tribune Columnist



ALLRECIPES.COM



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AN ODE TO GARDEN JOY

A book and a glass of wine in a garden is all I need;

A sip, the sunshine, some slumber and a read.

All the planting and watering was hard work, indeed.

Now a relaxing reward—WAIT! Is that a weed?

God Almighty, according to the story in Genesis 2:8, first created man from the dirt and then because He loved His creation, "the Lord God planted a garden. Out of the ground He gave growth to every tree that is pleasing to the eye and good for food."

Gardening has been giving humans joy since the beginning of recorded time. Octogenarian essayist Phyllis Theroux says "I think this is what hooks one to gardening: it is the closest one can come to being present at the creation."

After four decades as a gerontologist, I heartily recommend this set of tools for enhanced positivity—a garden hoe, rake, shovel, shears and gloves. Gardening is a perfect antidepressant. Using the four, easy-to-remember elements of "The S.U.N.S. Age Joy System" – when gardening you are: SMILE-MAKING with positive changes and positive actions, UNITING with others like a fellow garden lover or Master Gardener group, NEIGHBORING as you share your bounty and SPELLBINDING transported to "the zone" in a state of "flow."

What is spirit-lifting, garden joy? Well-read in both theology and botanical science, the English poet Alfred Austin answered this way, "The glory of gardening is: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul."

It's almost springtime and my fellow Master Gardeners and I are especially eager after two years of pandemic lockdown to muck about and make magnolias bloom in the mud. We joyfully agree with Lindley Karstens who says, "Gardening is about enjoying the smell of things growing in the soil, getting dirty without feeling guilty, and generally taking the time to soak up a little peace and serenity."

There are an estimated 1,014 public gardens in the United States and millions more privately owned and maintained ones, some grand but most modest like my own. However, for increasing your likelihood to grow joy as you garden, let's explore these:

THE FOUR GARDENS TO GROW JOY

I. SMILE-MAKING GARDENS

"Coffee. Garden. Coffee. Does a good morning need anything else?" — Betsy Canas Garmon

SMILE-MAKING while gardening has two aspects: POSITIVE-THINKING about the joys you experience in a garden like the beauty of a blossom or even the determination of weeds. Also, POSITIVE-DOING like the workout your body gets with all the tai-chi stretching and the heavy lifting.

Gardens delight all the senses. This can be about the goofiness of a spinning whirligig or a scarecrow in a vegetable garden, the fragrant scent of roses and lavender in a formal garden, the texture of tomato leaves in a kitchen garden, the gentle gurgle of a fountain in a sanctuary garden or the exquisite tastes of a garden-to-table luncheon.

SMILE-MAKING GARDENS INCLUDE THESE FAVORITES

ROCK CITY (Lookout Mountain, Tennessee)—Vast wooded acreage conjured as a fairyland with flower plantings and painted, garden gnomes and so much kitsch that it would make a rock smile. This tourist attraction opened in 1932 and was memorably promoted with the message "SEE ROCK CITY" painted on more than 900 barn roofs.

MONET'S COLOR GARDEN (Giverny, France)—We all find joy in the French Impressionist paintings of Claude Monet. This is where he studied color combinations. As the landscape architect William Kent said a hundred years before Monet was born, "All gardening is landscape painting."

BUTTERFLY GARDEN & CONSERVATORY (Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia)—Plantswoman Dr. Kira Sims suggests this, "I would highly recommend Callaway Gardens in the spring, especially for those who love azaleas and dogwoods. It's just breath-taking to see...in their perfect environment, filtered sun beneath a stand of pines."

II. UNITING GARDENS

"I've always felt that having a garden is like having a good and loyal friend."—C.Z. Guest

"Plant and your spouse plants with you; weed and you weed alone."—Jean Jacques Rousseau

UNITING is about the deep connections that gardening allows us. Day after, mostly enjoyed, day my parents worked together in their large, ornamental gardens for years after both retired from teaching careers. Mom had the creative vision to imagine a half-acre, fan-shaped garden, segmented in five slices which were populated with plants dear to each of their five children and our family. Together, with very little hired help, created and maintained the gardens. They planted the peripheral arc of the "family fan garden" with a dense hedge of Nellie Stevens hollies which eventually grew to 20' high. This was to create a windbreak for the butterflies who thronged to the garden to sip on the nectar plants. It was thought to be the largest, privately owned butterfly garden in Alabama. Gardening provided this productive duo a source of joy together and supported their six decades of marriage.

UNITING GARDENS INCLUDE THESE FAVORITES

RAISED-BED GARDENS—These are terrific for loved seniors and other-abled persons in your life. There are easy building/planting/maintaining instructions online.

CONTAINER GARDENS—You may not have the time to take on even a small garden plot with someone else, but you could still delight someone with a good-sized pot or urn planted with ornamental grasses and cascading, peppery petunias. Remember to allow for drainage and provide a bit of instruction on watering.

HEART-SHAPED GARDEN AND PLANTS—Hearts are a long-established symbol for the joy of uniting. I remember a "Dick and Jane" story in first grade that was about those beloved characters planting a small, heart-shaped flower bed as a surprise for Mother's Day. There are also many common, affordable plants with heart-shaped leaves you might consider: String of Hearts, cyclamens, philodendrons and anthuriums for indoor valentines, and Jack Frost, Redbud Hazel, Bleeding Heart, hostas, Grandpa Ott (beautiful, blue climber), Northern Catalpas, Silver Linden and Henry's Lime for outdoor valentines.

III. NEIGHBORING GARDENS

"A society grows great when old men (and women) plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in."—Greek proverb

"Garden sharing" is an others-centered concept where a landowner allows someone to garden on the landowner's property. It's been practiced since people started owning claims to land. The National Gardening Association estimates more than 2 million Americans each year communicate this "sharing is caring" message with their neighbors, friends and family.

The first plant growers were thriving as early as 10,000 B.C. in the aptly named "fertile crescent" of the Middle East, but the first gardens demarcated from farming are thought to have been created by the slaves as ordered by the Egyptian ruler, King Ramses III.

American garden history has Mediterranean roots from the Ancient Greeks and Ancient Romans. Ultimately, the pilgrims are credited with bringing seeds and practices to our shores in order to survive and help their neighbors survive in self-imposed exile. Add in native plants like tomatoes and peppers and it brings everything to a neighborly harvest-to-home table today.

NEIGHBORING GARDENS INCLUDE THESE FAVORITES:

TEACHING/DEMONSTRATION GARDENS—Just this week, in our Master Gardens Demonstration Garden we shared the best techniques and tools for pruning. We want our neighbors to prune effectively for more food, better use of natural resources and for the uplifting joy of being around beautiful plant-life.

GLEANING—The book that popularized the "Love Thy Neighbor" phrase also provides instruction on the neighboring love of gleaning. I learned about gleaning from the collaborative work of the North Alabama Agriplex (Cullman, Alabama) and The Society of St. Andrews. In a nutshell, or on a post-harvest fruit/vegetable farm, gleaning is allowing neighbors to collect the remainder of crop bounty. Oftentimes, these are apples, sweet potatoes and such deliciousness that are deemed too unattractive for retail. The gleaned harvest is donated to feed neighbors who come to food banks and soup kitchens.

GROW-A-ROW—Vegetable gardening is darned hard work. As gardener/writer, Lou Erickson, said "Gardening requires lots of water—most of it in the form of perspiration." If you're motivated to grow a few rows for yourself and your family, it simply feels joyful to grow another row to share with your neighbors.

IV. SPELLBINDING GARDENS

"My garden of flowers is also my garden of thoughts and dreams. The thoughts grow as freely as the flowers and the dreams are as beautiful."—Abram L. Urban

"If you never experience the joy of accomplishing more than you can imagine, plant a garden."—Robert Breault

Gardening guru, Dr. Kira Sims of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Cullman County), who wrote her doctoral dissertation on weeds, shared these words of wisdom with me this week: "Joy in gardening comes from being able to escape the busyness of our lives and hone in on one simple task like pulling weeds. Gardening gives the freedom of thinking about nothing else but the task at hand, whether it's raking leaves, pulling weeds or planting seeds. Joy in gardening also comes from observing and participating in the circle of life. As we plant seeds, take precious care to nurture the plants and reap the reward of eating the crop (or view the ornamentals), we experience that process of life, death and life again. So much joy can be found in gardening, so slow down, smell the roses and enjoy the life and peace a garden can bring." (ACES sponsors the Alabama Master Gardener program.)

Some gardens are designed to mesmerize. Let's mind-meld with the spellbound visitors who have been transported to the dream world—gardening wizard, Le Notre, materialized at Versailles. Recently, I had taken a break from writing about gardens and met with my Master Gardener, mentee, Teri Mobley. She and I both gushed about the fountains and topiary each of us had seen at Versailles. But, coming back to earth, Teri also talked about the magic of feeling "grounded," that spellbinding pleasure of being entranced in the moment of digging in the dirt. Palatial gardens like those at Versailles are magical but less grandiose designs like corn mazes and losing track of time mowing and edging are spellbinding as well.

SPELLBINDING GARDENS INCLUDE THESE FAVORITES:

- **CORN MAZE NEAR ME—BEST CORN MAZES IN EVERY STATE,"** this is the headline from a popular article in "Parade Magazine" (August, 2020). Yes, apparently Alaska has two corn mazes and the 40-acre corn maze in Dixon, California holds the "Guinness World Record" for the largest.

- **FLOWER CARPET** (Brussels, Belgium)—Every summer since 1971, volunteers convene at the Grand Palace to weave 19,000-square feet, magical carpet of more than a

million begonias. This is on my "Gardens Bucket List." Google Images for this real-but-fantastical magic.

Looking for tools to add more joy to your life? They're in the garden shed. Plant what makes you smile. Unite with a gardening pal. Share your bounty with your neighbors. And, be spellbound with GARDEN JOY.

JOY-GIVERS CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK

Feb. 26—Levi Straus

Feb. 27—Marian Anderson

Feb. 28—Frank Gehry

March 1—Justin Bieber

March 2—Dr. Seuss

March 3—Alexander Graham Bell

March 4—Antonio Vivaldi

GARDEN JOY JOKES

"Have others' gardening skills improved during the pandemic? Early on, I planted myself on the sofa and have grown significantly."

"One of my fellow Master Gardeners is Jewish and his azaleas look awful. He told me he fears the soil is too Hasidic."

"What's the best part about gardening? Getting down and dirty with your hoes."

CALIFORNIA AVOCADO GARDEN PARTY APPETIZERS

(Source: allrecipes.com)

Each week, Joy & Gerontology shares a recipe saluting healthy food produced in America. The delicious and nutritious collection is called "The S.U.N.S. USA Longevity Cookbook" and highlights vitamin B-3 (niacin) which many research gerontologists believe holds the promise for a long, healthy, joyful life.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 ripe, California avocado
- ½ cup fresh basil leaves
- 1 tablespoon lime-juice
- 1 clove garlic
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 cucumber, cut into ¼-inch rounds
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, sliced in halves
- 1 tablespoon yogurt

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Blend avocado, basil, lime juice, garlic, salt and pepper together in a food processor or blender until smooth.

2. Spread avocado mixture onto each cucumber slice and artfully top with a cherry tomato slice and a dab of yogurt.

1,070 JOY-GIVING THINGS FROM MY FIRST 70 YEARS (continued)

184. Electric-powered Weed-eaters.

185. Captain Kangaroo.

186. The Captain and Tennille.

187. Miss Manners.

188. "Do be a Do Bee. Don't be a Don't Bee."

189. The paintings of Helen Frankenthaler.

190. Sitting beneath a frame watching a quilt being stitched.

191. Picking cotton to earn spending money.

192. "The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis."

193. The Magic Slate.

194. Wiping the slate clean.

195. "No matter what shape your stomach is in."

196. "The Cell Block Tango."

197. Sleeping baby.

198. Beer for breakfast in Los Angeles.

199. The smell of mom's new Oldsmobile.

200. Penny loafer with beef rolls.

201. Tassel loafers.

202. Calling BINGO numbers at the nursing home.

203. Chartering the Delta Queen steamboat.

204. Kentucky Derby.

205. Sponsoring a NASCAR driver and team.

206. Seed catalogs.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
FEBRUARY 26, 2022

Tree City (from Front)

Leanne West
City of Cullman

CULLMAN, Ala. — "This is a fun one!" Those were Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs' words as he prepared to open the 2022 Tree City Dedication/Arbor Week Celebration ceremony held Thursday, Feb. 24, inside the City Hall auditorium.

Arbor Week celebration

The ceremony began with Mayor Jacobs proclaiming the week of Feb. 20-26, Arbor Week, in the City of Cullman. Arbor Day began in 1872 when J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees.

This holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and is now observed throughout the nation and the world. In Alabama, Arbor Week is recognized each year during the last full week of February.

Upon receiving the official Arbor Week proclamation from Mayor Jacobs, Charles Chandler, who assumed the role of City Arborist in October 2021 following the retirement of Darrell Johns, thanked Mayor Jacobs and introduced himself, saying: "I am a registered forester, but I'm retired from the timber industry. I have some things to learn still about being an arborist, but I'm enjoying my new position so far."

In conjunction with Arbor Week each year, local fifth graders participate in the Arbor Day Poster Contest. This year's poster contest them was "Trees are Terrific ... and Energy Wise!" Posters are judged at each school and winning posters from all schools are then judged at the state level.

In addition, the City of Cullman awards second place poster winners $15 and first place poster winners $25. This year, three schools participated in the contest: Cullman Christian School, Sacred Heart Catholic School and St. Paul's Lutheran School.

"This is the part I look forward to," said Mayor Jacobs. "All of the other stuff is important, but to have the kids participating in this poster contest and learning about the value of trees in our community is what it's all about. We know with everything that's going on this year, and the past couple of years, it's a bit tougher on teachers so we appreciate all of the schools that participated this year."

Second place winners in the poster contest were Maylie Smothers of Cullman Christian School, Caroline Sanders of Sacred Heart Catholic School, and Sipsey Drake of St. Paul's Lutheran School.

Maylie and Sipsey were unable to attend, but Caroline received her certificate and $15 check from Mayor Jacobs.

First place winners in the poster contest were Lily Kate Powell of Cullman Christian School, Jordyn Black of Sacred Heart Catholic School and Libby James of St. Paul's Lutheran School.

"I am so thankful to these kids for participating in the poster contest," said Mayor Jacobs.

"Trees are very important, and this is a great way to teach that lesson. The City of Cullman tries to be a great steward of our trees. We plant many more than we cut down."

In addition to the Arbor Day Poster Contest, the annual Tree Sale was held Saturday, Feb. 19, at the North Alabama Agriplex, hosted by the Cullman County Natural Resources Planning Committee. Ten tree and six shrub species were sold, with all proceeds benefiting the Cullman County Forestry Awareness Week Now school program for 6th graders and National FFA Organization Forestry judging contest.

Tree-city dedication

Cullman was recently named a Tree City USA for the 34th consecutive year by the Arbor Day Foundation! Cullman achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: Having a tree commission, having a tree care ordinance, having an annual community forestry budget of at least $2 per capita and having an annual Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Mary Claire Smith with the Alabama Forestry Service (Jefferson County) will be joining Forestry Specialist Jason Downs in the Cullman office March 1, following the retirement of longtime Forestry Specialist Albert Mayo.



CITY OF CULLMAN

Front row: Lily Kate Powell, Charles Chandler, Mayor Jacobs, Mary Claire Smith, Caroline Sanders, Jason Downs and Jordyn Black; Back row: Tree Commission members Peggy Harris, Jan Barnett, Amy Leonard, Barry Slatton, and Michael Sullins (not present: Nona Moon)

"I am excited about going to work here in Cullman and am proud to present these Tree City materials today," said Ms. Smith.

"In Jefferson County, I'm not used to seeing numbers this large, so 34 years is a great accomplishment!"

Mary Claire Smith with the Alabama Forestry Service presented the Tree City "34 Years" stickers and the new Tree City flag to Mayor Jacobs. "I know we're not the oldest Tree City in the state, but we've maintained Tree City status a really long time," said Mayor Jacobs.

Dan Lambe, president of the Arbor Day Foundation, sent the following statement:

"Tree City USA communities benefit from the positive effects that an urban tree canopy has year after year. The trees being planted and cared for by Cullman ensure that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life. Additionally, participation in this program helps cultivate a sense of stewardship and pride for the trees the community plants and cares for."

This year's ceremony featured a lot of new faces, as several of those who have played a vital role in Cullman's 34-year Tree City history were not present. In addition to the retirements of Darrell Johns and Albert Mayo mentioned above, longtime Cullman County Extension Coordinator Tony Glover recently retired. That position is now held by Dr. Kira Sims.

Also, longtime Tree Commission member and chairman Everett Wier passed away recently. Mr. Wier was not only an active member and leader of the Tree Commission, but was also a member of the Master Gardeners and the Arbor Day Foundation.

At the Tree Commission meeting held just prior to the ceremony, a moment of silence was held in honor of Mr. Wier and his contributions to the commission. Commission member Michael Sullins was elected to fulfill the role of chairman.

"A lot of folks over the years have helped us get to this point," said Mayor Jacobs. "And we have good people here now who will continue to move us forward."

The new Tree City USA flag was raised in front of City Hall by City Arborist Charles Chandler and Forestry Specialist Jason Downs of the Alabama Forestry Service.

Additional information

Planting trees in an urban space comes with a myriad benefits past the recognition of this program—Urban tree plantings:

- Help reduce energy consumption by up to 25%, which will reduce general energy costs and help with the overall cooling of the city as well.

- Benefit the community, as properly placed trees increase property values from 7-20%.

- Positively affect the local ecosystem by helping to clean water and create animal habitats to encourage biodiversity.

Resources:

- Tree City USA program: https://www.arborday.org/programs/treeCityUSA/index.cfm or contact the Arbor Day Foundation at 1-888-448-7337.

- Alabama Forestry Commission: https://forestry.alabama.gov or contact the Cullman office at 256-734-0573. The Cullman office is located at 1527 Sportsman Lake Road NW.

- FAWN program: https://www.cullmanswcd.com/education or contact the Cullman County Soil & Water Conservation District at 256-734-1431.

- More information on forestry and natural resources can also be found at https://www.aces.edu or by calling the Cullman County Extension Office at 256-737-9386. The Extension Office is located at 402 Arnold St. NE, Suite G-1.

- To find out more about the Cullman City Arborist or Tree Commission, contact the Mayor's Office at 256-775-7102 or lwest@cullmanal.gov.

Obituary Announcements: Feb. 24-25

Ruby Jean Martin Pitts, 74, of Cullman

Ruby Jean Martin Pitts, 74, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away at her residence, on Feb. 25. She was born April 1, 1947, to Sam and Myrtis Jimmerson Martin, in Blount County, Alabama. Mrs. Pitts is preceded in death by her parents; her husband: Douglas Pitts; son: Phillip Pitts; sisters: Vera Harbin and Iva Nell Tedder and brothers: Thomas Martin and Paul Martin. She is survived by her son: Cody Wade and Tamara Pitts; daughter: Lisa and Bobby Smith; grandchildren: Taran Pitts, Chad Overton, Lexie Pitts, Jaycie Pitts, Steven Pitts and Regina Teal; great-grandchildren: Bayleigh Hays, Kayleigh Hays and Nova Baker; sisters: Gail Harbin, Teresa Buchanan, Mary Jo Kytle, Dennis Martin, Buddy Martin, Ronnie Martin and Donnie Martin and a host of nieces and nephews. Funeral services for Mrs. Pitts are 2 p.m., Monday, Feb. 28, at Roswell Creek Baptist Church, with Paul Campbell officiating. Burial will follow in the adjoining cemetery with Bradley Chapman, Duston Denny, Chad Overton, Bobby Smith, Justin Tidmore, Justin Riddle and Charlie Huddleston serving as pallbearers. Friends are invited to visit with the family, at the church, two hours before services begin from noon until services begin. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Pitts family.

Johnny "Toby" Ford, 66, of Double Springs

Johnny "Toby" Ford, age 66, of Double Springs, passed away Thursday, Feb. 24, at Walker Baptist Medical Center. He was born April 15, 1955, to Johnny and Johnnie Ford. Toby proudly served for four years in the United States Army. He was an avid deer hunter and enjoyed Alabama Crimson Tide Football. Visitation will be Sunday, Feb. 27, from 1-2 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Double Springs, where the service will be held at 2 p.m. Burial will be at Double Springs Memorial Cemetery (Cockrell-West). Toby is survived by his wife of 14 years: Melinda Ford; children: Sara Ford, Thomas Ford, Dustin Ford, Amity (Cody) Malcom, John (Kimberly) Ford and Linzi (Daniel) Cole; grandchildren: McKenzie Cole, Bailee Cole, Harper Cole and Josiah Malcom, and one unborn "Baby" Malcom; siblings: Patsy Brown, Ed Ford, Roy Ford and Loyd Ford; special niece: Shelley (Johnny) Green; special friend: Mike Turrentine and a host of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents: Johnny and Johnnie Ford; sister: Joyce Ponds: special friend: Jon Gunter and special dog, "Hoss." Pallbearers will be John Ford, Thomas Ford, Cody Malcom, Dustin Ford, Daniel Cole, Johnny Green and Mark Williams.

Cynthia Ann Mazur, 72, of Hanceville

A memorial service for Cynthia Ann Mazur, 72, of Hanceville, will be 6 p.m., Feb. 27, at Day Star Church. The family will receive friends from 4-6 p.m. prior to the service. Mrs. Mazur passed from this life on Feb. 21, at UAB Hospital. She was born July 30, 1949, to Ruth Caroline Felgenhauer Pantke. A celebration of life service will be held March 6 at 3 p.m., at The Cabin at the Lodge in Blount County. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the Mazur family. Mrs. Mazur was preceded in death by her parents: Everette Leroy Pantke and Ruth Caroline Felgenhauer Pantke; sister: Pam Joyce VanNingen and her partner for 20 years: Eddie England. She is survived by her son: Mark Mazur; daughter: Shelley (Michael) Sanders; stepbrothers: Mark (Mary) Pantke and Greg (Jean) Pantke; sister: Linda (Dennis) Kaiser; stepsister: Janice (Mark) Zeigler; niece: Diane (Gary) Newton and a host of family and friends.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

A church with its own ice-cream truck

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



I love going to church. I love ice cream. I especially love going to church, when they have ice cream! A couple of Sundays ago, when I pulled into the parking lot of Arley's First Baptist Church, imagine my delight when I saw an ice-cream truck parked at the church. I have attended many ice-cream fellowships at churches, but I had never seen a church that had its own ice-cream truck. I have now, and I like it!

When Dr. Roger White was pastor of another church, he shared a dream of the church owning an ice-cream truck.

I think they thought the idea was crazy. No one there caught his vision, so it never happened. In November of 2017, Dr. White became the pastor of Arley First Baptist.

Not long afterwards, he presented his dream of buying an ice-cream truck to the church. Someone in the meeting shouted out, "And what will we do with that? And why? And who would like this?"

The pastor answered, "Do you know any child who doesn't like ice cream? Do you know any parent who wouldn't like for their child to have FREE ice cream?" He went on to add that they could use this truck as a ministry to attract children to their church.

This time, this church, caught his vision. The idea was approved, as well as a budgeted amount for the purchase of a truck. In February of 2018, a truck was located in Florida, for the exact amount they had budgeted. Two men from the church went to Florida, bought the ice-cream truck, and drove it back home.

They stripped off all the old stickers, and had the truck wrapped with cartoons of children, with one saying, "Free Ice Cream!!!"

The church name was also included. By June of that year, they were ready to hit the streets.

The very first day out on the road, a family ran then down saying they had heard the music, saw the truck, and wanted a free ice cream.

The stage was set for their new ministry. They run the truck two days a week, but could easily run it every day. Each year, they begin during Spring break in March, and run it through October.

They take the truck to an assisted living home each week, where they always find residents eagerly awaiting their arrival. They use it in parades, take it to the jails, schools, and football practices. They hand out free ice cream and popsicles, as well as gospel tracts and information about the church and upcoming events.

One of the main faces of this ministry is a retired Green Beret/Ranger/Special Forces. He said, "It's all about the children."

Having visited their church, there are lots of children there, and they've come for more than just ice cream!

One of the unique things about this ministry is that the church has no budget for operating it. The necessary funds come from donations from individuals.

After four-years of running the truck, Dr. White said, "I couldn't begin to tell you how much ice cream we have given away. What I can tell you is that everywhere we go, people ask about our ice-cream truck, and how they can become a part of the team."



CONTRIBUTED

The church never uses their ice-cream truck to sell anything. They want everyone to know that just as their ice cream and popsicles are free, so is God's gift of salvation.

What a "sweet" way to share the love of God with children in the community... young ones, as well as those who once were young.

Bill King can be reached at bkpreach@yahoo.com or 334-745-0588 (office).

HISTORY

Files from Yesteryear: 1902

From the Files of 1902

The old building on the corner of Second Avenue and Fourth Street East is now being removed preparatory to the erection of a large brick bank by a company of gentleman who will "incorporate" with a capital stock of $25,000.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Mackentepe were considerably bruised up Monday enroute to Decatur when an engine ran out of a siding and hit the accommodation on which they were riding. George Allen was slightly injured in jumping from the engine.

Miss Nettie Karter of Cullman and Walter Gazin of New Orleans were married in Bessemer on Tuesday.

John Sutterer was elected chairman and Doctor L. Hays secretary of the Cullman County Republicans at a mass meeting last week. Organized committee included W.A. Heck, M.H. Bogue, Fred Buichmann, W.J. Williford and F.W.H. Speegle. The resolutions committee included George Beyer, J.J. Curtis, A. Dreher, Senior, Peter Grover and Joseph Hagerman.

Willie, the son of John Nigg of Garden City, had four fingers cut off at a shingle mill several days ago.

Quite a number of young ladies have entered school at Hanceville for the first time in years. Some of them are grown and have never finished geography.

Miss Ida Carroll and Henry Glasscock were married last Monday.

Miss Bertha McGlawn is ill with typhoid fever.

Iron Bridge baseball team defeated Logan, 28-13 on Saturday.

The Grand Jury for court which will convene September 15 includes J.J. Childs, James Childers, J.T. Ponder, Robert A. Collins, J.D. Tankersley, John M. Goodwin, W.T. Kemp, George Beyer, R.D. Dunlap, W.H. Wood, J.M. Crutchfield, J.W. Baggett, J.W. Rasco, Isaac H. Skinner, R.C. Livingston, John Arndt, John H. Arwood and T.J. Callahan.

POET'S CORNER

Closer to God | By: April McCay

Is it when
in the clouds above,
One feels a closeness
Of Godly love?

Soaring ever
So high,
In a plane
Mesmerized by a heavenly sky.

Or could
It just be,
a walk in the woods
That inspires a prayerful knee?

Breathing in
God's fresh air,
Is this like Adam's walk in the garden
as He walked with God there?

Oh how
Can my heart look like Thee?
A closeness
I desire, everlasting eternally.

No matter the place
My heart finds You there,
Closer to God
A destination to share.

It's an inward location
Now I see,
Closer to You, O Lord,
Is where I want to be.

Whether surrounded
By clouds or by trees,
I want to search for You
In my heart and on my knees.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

FEB. 26

L	S	T	E	E	P	N	T	H	U	S	G	S	K	Y
C	O	W	N	S	B	I	H	I	U	I	U	U	A	D
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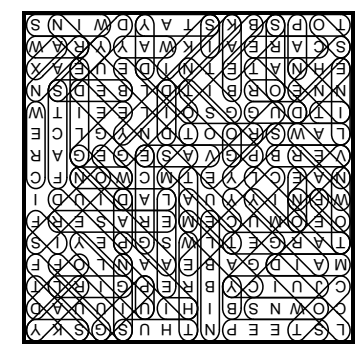
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Van
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

FEB. 26

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ANSWERS:



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4	6	5	9	7	1	2	3	8
1	3	2	5	8	6	7	9	4
5	8	4	3	9	1	6	2	7

CCSO (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Sheriff's Office was able to increase the size of their force on Thursday through a group of deputies not quite four-feet tall.

Sheriff Matt Gentry swore in 5-year-old Silas Adams as a Deputy Sheriff at Sacred Heart School.

Silas recently chose Sheriff Gentry as his "character" for Character Day at school and expressed his plans to one day become a sheriff himself.

Gentry shared one of the goals the Sheriff's Office has is to bridge the gap between law enforcement and civilians, especially those still in the early stages of their education.

"Through community programs, especially our SRO program, the Sheriff's Office places great emphasis on building relationships with our children," Gentry said. "The future leaders truly are these children. One of the most important things we can do is to foster and nurture these relationships at an early age."

Individual and family issues can often highlight negativity regarding local law enforcement— Gentry said their goal is to minimize that.

"Unfortunately, many kids (and adults) have negative experiences with law enforcement due to personal circumstances," Gentry said. "Through our community policing efforts and outreach programs, we strive to be part of the community. I often say, the Sheriff's Office belongs to all of us. We will always be stronger together than apart."

Gentry took this opportunity and swore in every student in attendance at Sacred Heart School.

"The best part of the job will always be the kids. More often than not, our job focuses more on negative things than positive," Gentry said. "There is nothing negative about getting the opportunity to spend time with the future leaders of our community."



FACEBOOK

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry swears in students at Sacred Heart School.

The Cullman County Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Gentry are very hopeful for the future of law enforcement.

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