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BEN SOUTH
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## 52 Odes to Joy: Begin again and again

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INDUSTRY

# Tyson Foods renews commitment to Alabama's agriculture industry with $208M investment in new Hanceville facility

**Sara Gladney**
sara@cullmantribune.com

**HANCEVILLE, Ala.** — Tyson Foods, Friday morning at Wallace State Community College, announced a new facility adjacent to its former Hanceville Tyson Foods/River Valley Ingredients rendering plant. The previous plant was part of Tyson's Hanceville complex and suffered a total loss due to a fire in July 2021.

Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics acknowledged the partnership between Wallace and River Valley Ingredients. "American Proteins River Valley Ingredients was the very first partner with Wallace State Community College in the 2003 era and it has been a good ride. We have a poultry science program partnership pathway with Auburn University because of that partnership, so American Proteins River Valley Ingredients has been very important not only to Wallace State, but also to this community."

Cullman Economic Development Director Dale Greer thanked the many industry partners present including Senator Garlan Gudger, Representative Randall Shedd, the Cullman County Commissioners, the Hanceville and Cullman city councils, the Economic Development Agencies, Cullman Electric Co-op, and the City Industrial Development Board, saying, "There's an old saying that it takes a village to raise a child, » PAGE 12

# Field of Miracles set to celebrate 15 years of fun and laughter



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

**Noah Galilee**
noah@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — The Field of Miracles at Chester Freeman Park, which broke ground in 2006 before the first game being played in 2007, will celebrate in a big way next week as former and current players will come together to help celebrate the 15-year anniversary of the park's grand opening.

Kelly Pulliam, Therapeutic Recreation director, said the ballpark is inclusive which serves Cullman County and the surrounding areas allowing individuals with physical challenges direct access to a facility where they can play the game of baseball.

For those not familiar, Chester Freeman Park is a multi-field ballpark adjacent to the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center that hosts three standard baseball fields as well as the Field of Miracles. The park and the Field of Miracles was built with the ideals of full accessibility and inclusiveness in mind - for Cullman County » PAGE 7

EDUCATION

## EES teacher named one of Alabama's top teachers

East Elem. teacher April Dean 'Sweet 16' finalist for Alabama teacher of the year



CONTRIBUTED
*April Dean* » PAGE 10

HEALTH

## Wallace State's Laura Smith highlights the careers of occupational therapy practitioners for Occupational Therapy Month



LAURA SMITH
*Occupational Therapist Laura Smith* » PAGE 6

## St. Paul's Lutheran School honors Martha Blanton with the 2022 Impact Award



FACEBOOK
*Martha Blanton* » PAGE 3

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CRIME

# Arrests and incidents reported April 15

**Cullman Tribune staff**
Contributor

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — Below are the arrests and incidents reported April 15, 2022. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

**CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**INCIDENTS**

**April 11**

- domestic violence; CR 1082
- harassment; CR 490
- possession of controlled substance; Hwy. 69 N
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 804
- burglary; CR 804
- domestic violence; CR 1428
- theft of property; CR 531
- domestic violence; CR 109
- theft of property; Hwy. 31
- theft of property; criminal mischief; Hwy. 69 S
- theft of property; CR 1117
- violation of protection order; CR 1742

**April 12**

- trespassing; CR 285
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 411
- possession of marijuana; CR 1579
- possession of controlled substance; CR 222
- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; Fairview Rd.
- drug trafficking; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; attempt to elude police officer; CR 437
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; CR 625
- burglary; CR 750

**April 13**

- trespassing; Holly Pond Rd.
- obstructing criminal investigation; Mayfair Ln.
- theft of property; CR 216
- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 437
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1141
- assault; Mayfair Ln.
- theft of property; CR 1740
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; CR 625
- criminal mischief; Holly Pond Rd.

**ARRESTS**

**April 11 – 14**

**Bates, Danny L.; 59**
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

**Burks, Kenneth A.; 21**
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

**Carter, Christina A.; 41**
- assault-aggravated assault police officer-other weapon
- obstructing criminal investigation
- resisting arrest

**Cockrell, Rusty D.; 25**
- possession of drug paraphernalia-2nd offense
- possession of dangerous drugs

**Creel, Patrick S.; 46**
- motion to revoke bond-possession of methamphetamine
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- motion to revoke bond-possession of drug paraphernalia
- motion to revoke bond-second-degree possession of marijuana

**Decatur, Candy R.; 41**
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-2nd offense
- FTA- second-degree possession of marijuana
- FTA- promote prison contraband (drugs)
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- driving while license suspended, revoked or canceled
- FTA- improper tail lights-trailer

**Denney, Christopher R.; 55**
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-2nd offense
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-2nd offense

**Dyer Jr., Robert L.; 43**
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

**Garrett, James E.; 24**
- FTA- burglary-residence-force
- FTA- stolen vehicles-auto theft
- FTA- no plainly visible tag

**Graham, Kye E.; 18**
- burglary-residence-no force
- larceny/theft-firearms
- burglary-residence-force

**Harris, Timothy M.; 27**
- public intoxication

**Huddleston, Brandy L.; 44**
- kidnapping-interference with custody

**Johnson, Brandi M.; 33**
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

**Johnson, Ollie J.; 26**
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

**Jones, Jacqueline A.; 40**
- possession of dangerous drugs
- DUI (controlled substances)

**Lackey, Christopher G.; 43**
- probation violation- possession of methamphetamine
- probation violation-stolen vehicles-auto theft

**Lee, Carrie M.; 41**
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

**Loggins, Jessica N.; 26**
- forgery-passing forged instrument (6 counts)
- larceny/theft-miscellaneous

**Martin, Crystal A.; 37**
- public intoxication

**Parker, Rufus J.; 57**
- FTA- second-degree possession of marijuana

**Schofield, Alexis C.; 19**
- FTA- assault-child abuse-simple-non family

**Scruggs, Ben C.; 34**
- probation violation- possession of methamphetamine
- second-degree possession of marijuana

**Smith, Jonathan K.; 48**
- Grand Jury- burglary-residence-force
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense (2 counts)
- second-degree possession of marijuana (2 counts)
- FTA- expired tag
- Grand Jury- robbery-residence-other weapon
- FTA- driving while license suspended
- FTA- improper lights
- FTA- no/improper tag light

**Stallings, Alyssa M.; 24**
- possession of drug paraphernalia-2nd offense
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence
- public intoxication

**Stanley, Joshua D.; 37**
- FTA- forgery-forged instrument
- FTA- fraud-identity theft

**Turner, Franklin J.; 43**
- drug trafficking
- sell/distribute methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- second-degree possession of marijuana
- attempting to elude police officer
- possessing stolen property less than $500

**Vanderbilt, Donald C.; 33**
- drug trafficking
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- possession of a concealed weapon without a permit

**Woodward, James A.; 72**
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- carrying brass knuckles/sling shot

**Yates, Austin K.; 24**
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

**CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**INCIDENTS**

**April 11**
- second-degree theft of property; person; Lee Ave. SW; medication

**April 12**
- fourth-degree theft of property; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; general merchandise; $70
- identity theft; person

**April 13**
- harassment; person; Arnold St. SE

**April 14**
- third-degree burglary; person; Schneider Rd. SE; copper wiring
- third-degree burglary; first-degree criminal mischief; person; Briarcliff Rd. NE; copper wiring; miscellaneous
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; person; Northwood Dr. NW; tools
- third-degree domestic violence-harassment; Cleveland Ave. SW
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; 4th St. SW; damage to '13 Chevy Equinox; $400

**ARRESTS**

**April 13 – 14**

**Hyde, Bronada F.; 46**
- FTA- fourth-degree theft of property
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

**Pace, Hunter L.; 23**
- fourth-degree theft of property

**Hunter, Jaclyn A.; 40**
- public intoxication

**Jones, Pamela D.; 43**
- fourth-degree theft of property

**Doss, Andy M.; 63**
- unlawful possession/receiving controlled substance
- second-degree possession of marijuana
- possession of drug paraphernalia

**Lance, Heather S.; 24**
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence

**Stallings, Alyssa M.; 24**
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence

**Cox, Tina L.; 40**
- FTA- DUI

**Mead, Melanie K.; 46**
- FTA- receiving stolen property

**HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

No incidents or arrests reported.

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

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To apply visit alabamapublichealth.gov/employment/opportunities.html, apply for Licensed Practical Nurse-Hourly – 40122 or Nurse-Hourly – 40251.
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# Blanton (from Front)

**Sara Gladney**
sara@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — Martha Blanton has been selected as the recipient of the 2022 Impact Award given by St. Paul's Lutheran School. The award is given to those students, teachers and support staff who've made significant contributions to St. Paul's School and their community. It is inspired by the verse:

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4: 10-11).

Blanton taught at St. Paul's Lutheran school for 31 years before retiring in 2010 at the age of 62. She attended Calhoun Community College and Southern Benedictine College, which is now St. Bernard Preparatory School. Though she did not always want to be a teacher, her first husband was a coach and teacher, and she was inspired by him to do the same. She first attempted to get a job in the public school system because the Lutheran schools generally hired from Lutheran colleges.

Blanton was informed of a position at St. Paul's by a neighbor. The church knew her and her family and was selected to interviewed with the school committee. She was hired in 1976 as a fourth grade teacher. "I was blessed to be hired at St Paul's. I've always been a Lutheran. I'm a member at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hanceville and was involved and taught Sunday school for years," said Blanton.

She keeps in touch with several of her older students who were in her first classes. "I get notes from some of them. I feel like I've had a good relationship with most of them."

The award is given for Blanton's impact on her students and staff, but she says, "I feel like I've gained a lot more from them than I ever gave to them. It's such a wonderful family atmosphere. I've gained tremendous assets from my teaching there."

Mrs. Blanton will be honored at the 3rd Annual Alumni and Friends Dinner and School Auction at Terri Pines May 14. Presenting the award will be Linda Kress Self who was a student at St. Paul's and taught alongside Mrs. Blanton. Self stated, "Mrs. Martha Blanton was my fourth grade teacher at St. Paul's. I remember her to be one of the most engaged teachers that I have ever had as a student. She truly wanted to see us succeed, grow and become lifelong learners. She is also a wonderful Christian example and lives a life that makes me so grateful to know her and have her in my life. She was also my mentor teacher when I began teaching at St. Paul's in 1994. I can remember sitting down with her that first year of teaching and the inspirational heart to heart talk she gave me. I truly felt at home teaching with her because of the relationship she built with me in fourth grade. I am so blessed to have been able to be a former student and co-worker of Mrs. Martha Blanton."

# COVID-19 BY THE NUMBERS

Friday, April 15, COVID-19 update from the Alabama Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Dashboard Hub (https://bit.ly/3iVJwXK)

**ADPH COVID-19 dashboard changes**
The Alabama Department of Public Health received lab reports from five entities on March 25, 2022. A total of 1,714 positive cases with specimen collection dates from January 2, 2022 to February 28, 2022 were added to the dashboard today. These cases are mostly residents from Barbour, Coffee, Dale, Geneva, and Houston counties. For information related to when a case occurred versus when the case was reported, please view Tab 5. COVID-19 is a notifiable disease and laboratories are mandatory reporters. ADPH does not have control over when results are reported.

*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: 2.9%
- Confirmed cases in Alabama (2020): 387,655
- Confirmed cases in Alabama (2021): 537,834
- Confirmed cases in Alabama (2022): 372,380 (+396 since Wednesday)
- Total confirmed deaths in Alabama (2020): 7,188
- Total confirmed deaths in Alabama (2021): 9,550
- Total confirmed deaths in Alabama (2022) 2,764 (+58 since Wednesday)
- Positivity in tests in Cullman Co.: 1.6%
- Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co. (2020): 7,566
- Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co. (2021): 9,738
- Total confirmed cases in Cullman Co. (2022): 7,235 (+15 since Wednesday)
- Deaths in Cullman Co. (2020): 128
- Deaths in Cullman Co. (2021): 188
- Deaths in Cullman Co. (2022): 49 (+0 since Wednesday)
- Total tested in Cullman Co. in the last 7 days: 552
- Total tested positive in Cullman Co. in the last 7 days: 9
- Total tested in Alabama in the last 7 days: 21,024
- Total positive tests in Alabama in the last 7 days: 609
- Currently hospitalized in Alabama: 65

**Vaccine details (updated Tuesday and Thursday)**
- Doses delivered to Alabama: 9,112,495 No Updates Available
- Doses delivered to Alabama providers: 4,727,265 No Updates Available
- Doses administered: 5,928,361
- Additional doses administered: 795,496
- Number of people receiving one or more doses: 2,867,636
- Number of people who have completed vaccine series: 2,346,987
- Doses delivered to federal programs: 4,385,230 No Updates Available

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 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 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.
- Saturday, April 16, 9-11 a.m. - Drive-thru Food Bank
- Saturday, April 16 - Community Easter Outreach - 1-3 p.m. Free food, Easter egg hunt and bouncy houses. Everyone invited!
- Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m. – noon - Pick up and pay for your pre-ordered Boston Butt for $40. Support our youth fundraiser. Help send them to youth camp. Text or call 256-347-3619 to order yours.
- 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.

**Cullman City Cemetery ground flower removal**
Ground flowers at the City Cemetery need to be removed by April 15 to prepare for Decoration Day on May 8.

**Alcoholics Anonymous, 12-Step Groups**
The Goose Hung High Group of Alcoholics Anonymous - 1st Church of Nazarene, 5415 Highway 157, Cullman AL 35058 - CLOSED Literature Study, SUNDAYS at 3 p.m. - Handicap accessible

**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**

**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

**Warrior Way Easter Market**
- April 16 – The Warrior Way Easter Market will take place from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at West Point Baptist Church (140 County Road 1242). It will feature various vendors, food, and Easter egg hunts. The first 100 kids will receive a free Easter basket.

**Sportsman Lake Easter egg Hunt**
- Saturday, April 16 from 9-11 a.m. at Sportsman Lake Park (1544 Sportsman Lake Road NW).
- The Sportsman Lake Easter egg Hunt will not only feature plenty of eggs to hunt, but a chance for photos with the Easter Bunny, with special Easter frames available for purchase. They ask that you bring your own baskets.
- For more information, visit: https://www.facebook.com/events/504230497762694/ or call 256-734-3052.

**Senior Fishing Day**
April 22 - The Senior Fishing Day will be held at Veterans Park in Hanceville on April 22. Registration starts at 8 a.m. and weigh-in is at 11 a.m. Trophies will be presented to first place, Big Fish, Oldest Man in Attendance and Oldest Woman in Attendance. There will be a limit of five fish to take home.

**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 SOCCER

# Warriors, Lady Warriors down New Hope at home

**NIck Griffin**
nick@cullmantribune.com

**WEST POINT, Ala.** — Both the Warriors and Lady Warriors were back home to host a pair of varsity matchups against New Hope Thursday night and both West Point squads added to their win columns. The Lady Warriors got things started with a 6-0 win and the Warriors closed the night with a 4-0 win over the Indians.

Kyli Armstead and Ali Guevara each scored a pair of goals to lead the Lady Warriors against New Hope and Evelyn Guevara and Emma Farnsworth each posted a goal in the win as well.

Vanesa Garcia led the way with three assists and Kaedince Cagle finished with an assist of her own. Kali King preserved the shutout in the net.

Lady Warriors Head Coach Rob Whitesell was excited to see his team play well and to see one of his seniors put together a career night.

"This team is in control of its own destiny in Area play and needs to finish strong. Tonight's win was a great start and proof that they can execute as a team as the pressure mounts," Whitesell said.

"The senior recognition ceremony made it a special night for our graduates that was highlighted by defensive specialist and senior Emma Farnsworth's first career goal."

A goal by Jacob Bencze gave the Warriors a 1-0 lead at halftime and they pulled in the second half with two more goals from Bencze and another from Omar Segunda to secure a 4-0 win.

West Point Head Coach Jacob Brown is happy with the way his guys are playing right now and the season they've had so far with some big games coming up next week.

"The boys played brilliantly. We have the biggest games of the season coming up next week with two games against Brewer that will determine our playoff fate," Brown said.

"After tonight we are fully prepared. I am excited. These boys have truly had a special season. They have also officially broken every single team record this season for the program."



JACOB BROWN

*The West Point Warriors defeated New Hope at home 4-0 Thursday night.*

WSCC ATHLETICS

# Women's golf qualifies for NJCAA National Championship; Law finishes 3rd at ACCC Golf Tournament; tennis update

**Russell Moore**
Wallace State

**HANCEVILLE, Ala.** — Wallace State's women's golf team finished runner-up this week at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) South District Tournament, hosted by the Lions at Cross Creek Golf Course.

With the runner-up placement, Wallace State's women's program has advanced to the NJCAA Division I National Championship for the fifth straight season.

Wallace State freshman Hope Harrell tied as the individual runner-up, carding a 12-over par 156 (78-78). She made the All-Tournament team along with teammate Hannah Sanders, who finished tied for fifth with a 14-over 158. Sanders' 77 over the opening 18 was tied for the best score.

Harrell and Sanders have each won a pair of tournaments this spring, and Sanders was named the ACCC Player of the Year. Wallace State coach J.J. Adams was named the ACCC Coach of the Year.

Wallace State's Abby Brown finished among the top 10 at the District Tournament, shooting a 164.

Abigail Baker and Brileigh Roberts rounded out the field. Wallace State's women were coming off a fifth consecutive ACCC Tournament championship.

The Lions now prepare for nationals, scheduled for May 8-12 in Sanford, Fla. The program placed 11th last season at nationals.

**Wallace State men's golf**

Sophomore George Law carved out his best individual finish with the Lions, placing third this week at the ACCC Tournament at Guntersville's Eagle's Nest Golf Course.

Law, an Englander, carded a 5-under par 211 (72-70-69), finishing six strokes off the lead.

Wallace State placed third overall as a group, shooting a 2-over 866. The Lions were only seven strokes off the lead.

Wallace State's Davis Aaron was 7th overall with a 2-over 218 and Allen Michael Burnett placed 8th with a 3-over 219.

Zackary Coker and Joshua Darracott rounded out the Lions' field.

Up next for Wallace State is hosting a NJCAA District Tournament at TP Country Club on April 24-26. The Lions will seek their 26th NJCAA National Championship appearance.

**Wallace State tennis**

Both Wallace State's tennis teams recently secured wins against Shorter University and Meridian (Miss.) CC.

In a women's 7-2 victory against Meridian, earning singles wins were Erianna Jones (7-5, 6-1), Martina Paillet (6-4, 6-0), Natalia Barron (6-1, 6-1) and Micah Oldacre (6-3, 6-1). In doubles, Jones and Paillet won 8-4; Breanna Vann and Barron prevailed 8-6; and Irvin and Oldacre notched an 8-4 win.

Wallace State's men beat Meridian, 5-4.



WSCC ATHLETICS

*Wallace State freshman Hope Harrell finished in a tie as the NJCAA South District tournament individual runner-up.*

Massimo Caliendo (6-4, 6-3), Muntingh Hamman (6-2, 6-4) and Alex Rainer (6-2, 6-1) earned singles victories. In doubles, Marco Kalbermatten and Tristan Du Plessis won 8-4 and Rainer and Hudson Harden prevailed 8-2.

Wallace State's men also recently notched a 6-3 victory over Jones (Miss.) College.

Ryan Wang, Sebastian Gamez, Du Plessis and Hamman earned wins in singles action. In doubles, Wang and Hamman prevailed 8-6 and Gamez and Caliendo won 8-5.

Both tennis teams travel to Montevallo on Friday.

For more information about Wallace State athletics, visit www.athletics.wallacestate.edu or the athletics Facebook page at www.wallacestate.edu/athleticsfb.

# FINAL FOUR! Auburn advances to NCAA Championship finals, Lee wins beam title

**Jeff Shearer**
AU Athletics

**FORT WORTH, Texas** — Earning the third highest score in program history, Auburn advanced to Saturday's team finals by scoring 197.8375 at the NCAA Championship semifinals Thursday at Dickies Arena.

"Really excited about finally accomplishing what they set out to accomplish months ago," Auburn coach Jeff Graba said. "We felt like we were capable of this. I'm really proud of the group. We talked a lot about how much fight that was going to take to get through."

Freshman Sunisa Lee won the beam national championship and finished second in the all-around while senior Derrian Gobourne was the national runner-up on floor and bars.

"In the past couple meets I've been struggling on beam so to come back and build that confidence again means a lot," Lee said. "The team makes it all so much better because it's so memorable, and it's something I'm never going to forget."

Competing in the evening session, Auburn took the lead after two rotations and held it until the final event, finishing .137 behind Florida's 197.9750. Auburn comfortably outdistanced third-place Missouri (197.200) and Michigan (196.2875).

Lee finished second in the all-around to Florida's Trinity Thomas, who edged Gobourne for the floor and bars titles.

After a strong start on beam and even higher scores on floor, Auburn led through two rotations.

Lee anchored beam with a 9.9625 to claim the individual NCAA event championship, building on freshman Sophia Groth's 9.925 and Gabby McLaughlin's 9.9. Aria Brusch earned a 9.85 with Cassie Stevens and Olivia Hollingsworth each contributing 9.8375s.

Auburn's 49.475 on beam trailed only Michigan's opening rotation score of 49.4875 on floor.

The Tigers claimed the lead on floor by scoring 49.575 on Auburn's second rotation. Stevens and Groth scored back-to-back 9.9s before Lee earned a 9.95, setting the stage for Gobourne's anchor routine.

The senior delivered once again, scoring 9.9625, a score that led the night session through three events and equaled Oklahoma's Jordan Bowers' afternoon session high before Florida's Thomas scored a 10 in the final rotation.

"Making it to the Final Four is just amazing," Gobourne said. "I had a calmness about myself and the team, even watching the first event I was thinking something great is going to happen.

"I wasn't really focused on the outcome. I was just focused on the moment."

Fifth year Drew Watson scored 9.925 on vault to help the Tigers maintain their lead through three rotations. Watson's score was the fourth highest in both sessions, earning her All-America honors.



AU ATHLETICS

*Auburn will advance to the team finals Saturday after scoring 197.8375 at the NCAA Championship semifinals Thursday.*

"Drew has stepped up so many times," Gobourne said. "She's great at what she does."

Freshman Sara Hubbard tied her career high with a 9.9, earning the eighth best score of the meet and All-America recognition. Gobourne added a 9.875, Lee scored a 9.85 and Groth earned a 9.8.

The Tigers took a .175 lead to the final rotation, securing their Final Four spot by scoring 49.4375 on bars.

Gobourne scored 9.95 on bars to finish as the national runner-up to Florida's Thomas, repeating their one-two finish on floor.

Lee closed out the meet for the Tigers scoring 9.9125, earning an all-around score of 39.675.

Auburn stacked each score in the bars lineup. Adeline Sabados led off with a 9.8 before Groth's 9.8375, Stevens' 9.850 and Brusch's 9.8875.

Auburn's six highest team scores have occurred this season.

The Tigers will compete for the national championship Saturday at noon CT on ABC against Florida, Oklahoma and Utah.

"A little bit of validation that we are that good," Graba said. "We felt like we were capable of this. I'm really proud of the girls. A lot of pride for the program and where we've elevated this program to, and now it's just excitement. Just looking forward."

"I'm so proud of us and how we handled tonight," Gobourne said. "I'm super excited for Saturday."



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

*Cullman fell to No. 2 Hartselle at home 8-2 Thursday night.*

PREP SOFTBALL

# No. 2 Hartselle pulls away to top Cullman 8-2

**NIck Griffin**
nick@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — The Bearcats returned home to battle the second-ranked Hartselle Tigers Thursday night and after taking an early lead, the Tigers were able to plate three runs in the fourth and three more in the fifth to pull away and take an 8-2 win over Cullman.

Hartselle took a 1-0 lead with a sacrifice fly in the top of the first, but the Bearcats got the run back in the bottom half of the second. Carlie Burnham drew a walk to lead things off and Olivia Britton smoked a single up the middle to put runners on the corners. Brooklyn Morton then grounded into a fielder's choice, allowing Burnham to score from third and tie the game at 1 going into the third inning.

The Tigers led off the top of the third with a single, but a 6-3-5 double play helped get Cullman out of the inning with the score still knotted at 1. Abby Maples and Haley Shannon drew walks to give the 'Cats a pair of runners and Maples crossed the plate on an error later in the inning to put Cullman in front 2-1 headed into the fourth. However, Hartselle responded in the top of the fourth, scoring a pair of runs on an error to retake a 3-2 lead and scoring on a passed ball to make it 4-2.

The Tigers strung some hits together and added to their lead in the top of the fifth, taking a 7-2 lead into the bottom half of the inning. Hartselle pushed one more run across the plate on a fielder's choice in the sixth and the Bearcats weren't able to climb back and erase the deficit, falling to the Tigers 8-2.

Morton got the start for Cullman and tossed five innings, allowing four runs (two earned) on seven hits and striking out a pair of batters. Shannon and Faith Guest each posted a pair of hits in the loss and Britton and Davis each finished with a hit as well. Morton added an RBI for the Bearcats.

Cullman hosts its annual Pre-State Blowout Tournament yesterday and today.

# No. 17 Auburn falls in opener at Mississippi State

**George Nunnelley**
AU Athletics

**STARKVILLE, Miss.** — No. 17 Auburn fell in dramatic fashion in the series opener at Mississippi State, falling to the Bulldogs, 7-6, Tuesday night at Dudy Noble Field.

Leading 6-5 heading to the bottom of the ninth, Mississippi State plated a pair of runs on a wild pitch and bases-loaded walk to end the game.

"We've played this game over and over and have found a way, just not tonight," head coach Butch Thompson said. "It wasn't totally clean, but we hung in there.

"If we had to do it all over again, there's not a lot I'd like to change," Thompson added.

Auburn (23-11, 7-6 SEC) took a 5-3 lead with three runs in the sixth, but Mississippi State (20-15, 5-8 SEC) tied the game with a pair of solo homers in the seventh.

The Tigers again took a lead on a solo homer from Cole Foster in the eighth, but the Bulldogs were able to take advantage of Auburn's miscues in the ninth inning to claim the win.

"It's the first game of the series, and we have to find a way to win a ballgame tomorrow," Thompson said.

Mississippi State struck first with a pair of runs in the bottom of the first. The first four batters reached on two walks and two singles to score the first run. However, starting pitcher Hayden Mullins did a good job to minimize the damage to two, retiring the next six batters he faced with three strikeouts during the span.

Auburn got on the scoreboard on a one-out solo homer from Nate LaRue in the third. The long ball was LaRue's third of the season, leaving the yard at 106 miles per hour off the bat and traveling 423 feet.

Mississippi State got the run back after back-to-back walks started the third. The Tigers got a double play to erase one of the lead runners, but a two-out single back up the middle made it a 3-1 game through three.

Auburn threatened with two on and one out in the third, but back-to-back groundouts ended the threat. However, the Tigers cashed in on a leadoff double from Foster in the fifth and cut the deficit to one.

Carson Skipper in relief of Mullins to start the fifth and worked a 1-2-3 frame with three groundouts.

The Tigers took the momentum from the mound to the plate, capitalizing on a one-out error to tie the game on a bases loaded walk before taking the lead on a two-strike, two-out single from Blake Rambusch.

After Skipper had retired the first six batters he faced, the Bulldogs cut the lead to one on a solo homer to start the bottom of the seventh and tied it on another solo shot two batters later. Mississippi State had been held to two hits since the first inning.

Auburn answered right back with Foster's aforementioned solo homer in the eighth, and Blake Burkhalter retired the Bulldogs in order with a pair of strikeouts in the home half.

After the Tigers left a pair stranded in the top of the ninth, Mississippi State started the bottom of the frame with a walk. Burkhalter got a potential double play ball, but a mishandling of the ground ball allowed both baserunners to be safe.

A sacrifice bunt moved both into scoring position, and an intentional walk loaded the bases before the tying run scored on a wild pitch. Another intentional walk re-loaded the bases, and a walk ended the game.

Game two between the Tigers and Bulldogs is scheduled for Friday at 6 p.m. on SEC Network+.















THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
APRIL 16, 2022

# Smith (from Front)

**Sara Gladney**
sara@cullmantribune.com



LAURA SMITH

***Smith poses for a photo with several of WSCC's Occupational Therapy program students.***

**HANCEVILLE, Ala. –** Laura Smith is an occupational therapist who teaches the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Wallace State. For Occupational Therapy Month, she explained the overlooked details of the career and shared the many ways occupational therapy helps clients. When talking about a mixed group of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants, occupational therapy practitioners are called OTPs. Smith says, "I'm hoping the term OTPs will catch on, because otherwise, that's a mouth full!"

The official definition from the national organization, the American Occupational Therapy Association is: "Occupational therapy is the only profession that helps people across the life span to do the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of daily activities (occupations). Occupational therapy practitioners enable people of all ages to live life to its fullest by helping them promote health, and prevent—or live better with—injury, illness or disability."

Smith shared, "We teach our students at Wallace State to develop their own 'elevator speech' to be able to talk concisely and specifically about the distinct value of OT. My own elevator speech has evolved the longer I've been in the field. I highlight the word 'occupation' and dispel the myths that I am there to help someone get a job. I discuss how that term means activities that occupy your time."

**Smith highlighted the nine areas of occupation that have been defined by AOTA as a way of explaining exactly what OTPs do:**

**ADL, or, Activities of Daily Living**- These are the basic motions people do every day such as going to the bathroom, showering, getting dressed, feeding yourself, etc.

**IADL, or, stands for Instrumental Activities of Daily Living**- These are the higher-level daily tasks like cleaning the house, child care or caregiving for a family member, taking care of pets, gardening, budgeting, shopping, community mobility and driving.

**Health management**- This is management of health conditions including medication management, making appointments for care, managing equipment to support health (diabetics checking their insulin), managing mental health.

**Sleep and rest**- The routines that surround sleep and rest.

**Play**- A kid's main occupation. This includes all the aspects that go into play, including the physical and social aspects of playing with others, cognitive aspects including the use of imagination, etc.

**Leisure**- These are activities that people don't have to do but want to do to occupy their time. These could be indoor pursuits, reading, sewing, watching TV or outdoor hiking, sports etc.

**Work**- The physical, mental, and cognitive aspects that go into finding a job and doing that job well.

**Education**- Many components go into education-physical, mental and cognitive aspects.

**Social participation**- This could be anything that a person participates in socially- book clubs, church, bingo groups, etc.

OTPs help to treat any reason that a person might not be able to participate in any of these key areas. That could be a physical or mental reason resulting from a developmental delay, an injury, an illness (chronic or acute) or even a period of mental unhealthiness. The ailment causes a disruption in those occupations and OTPs try to restore function and independence in the things that are purposeful and meaningful to that person.

Smith discussed the various settings in which OTPs work and the wide array of ailments they treat, saying, "OT practitioners can work in traditional areas such as hospitals in acute care and inpatient rehab, skilled nursing facilities, home health, school systems, outpatient clinics, pediatrics and mental health facilities. Non-traditionally or emerging areas of practice include working in prison systems, homeless shelters, Alzheimer's day programs, as driving specialists and much more. Specific diagnoses could be anything from Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, sensory processing disorder, congestive heart failure, COPD, strokes, fractures, depression, bipolar, schizophrenia and the list goes on."

**Why is it necessary that OT is its own field vs PT?**

"OT and PT go together like peanut butter and jelly, but we are two distinct fields! I love my PT friends, but we work on different complimentary things. I used this example a lot when I was working in home health. My PT friends would help the patient get where they were trying to go. They did this by working on their gait, their balance, strengthening their legs, progressing their device to assist with walking, etc. I worked on what they wanted to do when they got there. Was it to use the bathroom? Was it to the closet to put on their clothes? Did they want to cook a meal for their family? Did they want to go outside and check on their garden? Did they want to play with their grandkids? Did they want to get back to a book club? Did they struggle to know what to do with their time now that they are retired? Those are occupations and that's why OT is important!"

**Are there areas in which you think OTs should have more recognition?**

"Yes, I think OT practitioners should have more recognition because of all the factors we look at when working with a person. We are a very holistic practice and take into consideration a person's motivations, physical and mental abilities, habits, roles and routines to help develop their plans for intervention."

**How do you help patients who get angry or frustrated?**

"I think we learn to look behind the anger and frustration to see what is causing it. We also utilize a phrase in OT called the 'just-right challenge.' We are always trying to adjust the intervention for the patient to meet their needs. It's not too hard but it is hard enough to help them grow. Sometimes, the activity needs to be adjusted to lower frustration. I also have always tried to pick interventions that the patient was motivated to participate in, and therefore, they have more buy-in. We really stress this point with our Occupational Therapy Assistant Students."

Smith stated that the past few years of her home health career was based on helping patients with chronic illnesses. "Through that lens, you don't define 'success' as recovery, but management or lack of decline. My role was to help empower them to live a more full life by helping them take control of their health management. I would recommend home modifications, adaptive equipment and technology to support independence as their abilities decreased, and just tried to help problem-solve whatever issue came up."

Applications for the next Wallace State Occupational Therapy Assistant cohort that begins in fall 2022 are currently open and will close on June 1. To view the Wallace State Occupational Therapy Assistant Facebook page or Instagram go to https://www.facebook.com/wallacestateOTA and @wsccota.

# LEGALS

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF MARENGO COUNTY, ALABAMA**

MARTHA HARRIS BROWN, )
Plaintiff, )
vs. ) CASE NO.: DR-2021-900043.00
RANDY ALAN BROWN )
Defendant. )

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

TAKE NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION:

Randy Alan Brown, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Martha Harris Brown's petition for divorce and other relief by 20th day of May, 2022, or, thereafter, a judgment by default may be rendered against him in Case No. 48-DR-2021-900043.00, Circuit Court of Marengo County.

Done the 24th day of March, 2022.

Kenny Freeman, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Marengo County.

FILED
MAR 24 2022
KENNY FREEMAN, CLERK
Marengo Co. Alabama

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Attorney for Martha Harris Brown

PB WIL BK 108 PG 953 - 04/14/2022 02:13 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC2022-180

**IN RE: THE ESTATE OF GENEVA ELVIRA McBRAYER, DECEASED.**

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Pattie Diane Kitchens on the 14th day of April, 2022, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Pattie Diane Kitchens
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

PB MIN BK 206 PG 12 - 04/14/2022 02:02 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**IN RE: THE ESTATE OF** *
**WALTER RANDALL BRASWELL,** * **CASE NO.:PC2022-074**
**Deceased.** *

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

Notice is hereby given that Petition for Summary Distribution of Small Estate has been filed on the 25th day February, 2022, by Amy Braswell, by and through her Attorney, Tonya C. Palmer and that thirty (30) days after the notice of publication hereof and pursuant to the law of the State of Alabama, the Court shall be requested to enter an order directing summary distribution of the estate of said decedent.

Amy Braswell
Petitioner

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney for Petitioner
1939 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055
256-246-9600

To: PUBLISHER OF ***The Cullman Tribune***:

Please publish the above notice **ONE TIME** in said newspaper, and thereafter file with the Court a copy of the notice so published and an affidavit of publication.

DONE this the 14th day of April, 2022.

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

LIFESTYLE

# Local author Connie Pearson to release book '100 Things to do in Huntsville and North Alabama Before You Die' April 21

**Sara Gladney**
sara@cullmantribune.com

**HARTSELLE, Ala.** — Local writer Connie Pearson will be celebrating the release of her new book "100 Things to do in Huntsville and North Alabama Before You Die," on April 21 at the Hartselle Chamber of Commerce starting at 10 a.m.

In the book, Pearson shares things to do in the area this spring/summer and reveals hidden gems even longtime locals may not know about. Her newly published book covers food/drink, sports/recreation, history/culture, music/entertainment and shopping/fashion, and is full of insider's tips she has learned during her seven decades as an Alabama resident (except for four years serving as a missionary in Ecuador).

The Tribune spoke with Pearson about her inspiration and writing process.

When asked why she took on the endeavor of this book, Pearson shared, "There were several reasons. 1. After being a travel writer for the past seven years and going all over the Southeast, I realized that the attractions and attributes of North Alabama ranked up there with the best I'd seen. We live in a gorgeous part of the country, and visitors from other places would enjoy visiting if they just knew about it. 2. This was something of an emerging-from-the-pandemic project for me. I worked on it for much of 2021 after we'd all been cooped up for most of 2020.

"I recognized that most people were still staying pretty close to home, so I wanted to uncover as many gems within an easy drive as I could."

The book includes activities for people of any economic background. "Free activities include Depot Days in Hartselle, Friday Nights in towns across North Alabama, catching beads at Carnegie Carnival, listening to Sacred Harp singing, Alabama Jubilee Hot Air Balloon Classic, watching the artists at Lowe Mill, finding the covered bridges or barn quilts, enjoying the public art, observing the wildlife at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, climbing to the top of the Indian mound in Florence, etc. Cheap eats can be found at Trowbridge's in Florence, Penn Hamburgers in Decatur, or Kreme Delite in Athens," Pearson explained.

"For splurges, you can't beat Cotton Row or Commerce Kitchen in Huntsville, Tom Brown's in Madison, Simp McGhee's in Decatur, or 360 Grille in Florence. Spend a romantic weekend at Gorham's Bluff Lodge. Buy yourself something amazing at Alabama Chanin, Billy Reid, Southern Accents Architectural Antiques, or Orbix Hot Glass."

Pearson has lived in Alabama her whole life except for her four years spent in Ecuador. "Before my husband and I moved to Ecuador to be missionaries, we sold our home, his vet practice, our vehicles, our furniture and either gave away or stored pretty much everything else. We figured that we'd just pick a new place if we ever moved back to the States.

"As the time drew near, we knew we had to get back to the place that spoke our 'heart language.' That, of course, was North Alabama."

Pearson has been all over the Southeast, Hawaii, Alaska, Maine, New York City, Ireland, etc. for her freelance writing/blogging. Before she ever started blogging, she and her husband did short-term mission work in Venezuela, South Korea, Kenya, Guatemala and Brazil.

Despite difficulties faced while traveling including being robbed in Italy, food poisoning in airports and airplanes and gallbladder surgery in Ecuador, she does not plan to stop traveling any time soon.

Pearson says she did not start traveling until she was collecting Social Security, so she plans to keep going during her retirement.

Pearson has endless tales to tell about her travels. She also uses the trips to have fun and spend time with her grandchildren.

"We took a vanload of grandchildren to Harmony Park Safari in Huntsville and listened to squeals of delight while animal food pellets scattered everywhere. We also took 11 (out of our 15) grands to Rattlesnake Saloon and loved the thrill ride on the back of a pickup truck and to the Jesse Owens Museum and watched them attempt his legendary long jump.



CONTRIBUTED

***Connie Pearson***

"We loved taking them to Cook Museum and to Helen Keller's home. In other words, much of our fun has happened when we've shared many of these '100 things' with grandchildren."

She added, "There is still much I'd like to see, taste and experience in North Alabama.

"This book hits the high points, but I'm still actively digging out new places."

Pearson stated that only one of the 100 activities is out-of-date currently and will need to be changed when a second edition is printed.

After her book had gone to print, she learned that A Touch of German in Cullman had closed its store and would be displaying its wares at area festivals like Oktoberfest and the Bloomin' Festival.

Currently, the best way to buy her book is by going to her website, https://www.theregoesconnie.com/, and clicking on "Books."

She will happily autograph books and share a list of additional suggestions. She would also love to have readers follow along with her blog. On Monday, the themes are travel related. On Friday, the themes have a spiritual nature.

# Field of Miracles (from Front)

residents and beyond.

"The Field of Miracles was constructed for children and adults who have special physical needs and require a space that eliminates the terrain issues of a typical baseball field," Pulliam said. "With a rubberized surface and large, shaded dugouts that are level to the field, The Field of Miracles is completely wheelchair accessible and offers the amenities needed across multiple skill levels and challenges."

According to Cullman Parks Recreation and Sports Tourism Director Nathan Anderson, the City of Cullman wanted to meet the needs of all community members and those in the surrounding areas—no matter their skill or accessibility—allowing everyone to "get out and live" in Cullman.

"Looking at our community and seeing the inclusiveness that we have to offer here with our Therapeutic Recreation programs and our Miracle League is so unique and valuable to Cullman County," Anderson said. "We believe wholeheartedly in giving everyone a chance to 'get out and live' in this community and it makes me very proud to know that we are at the forefront of these efforts for our residents, and it would not have been possible without Cullman coming together to make this happen."

The fundraising efforts for The Field of Miracles at Chester Freeman Park began in the years just prior to the park's opening season in 2007. Anderson said the community coming together and raising $750,000 for this dream project was a wonderful act of kindness.

He continued by stating because of the generous hearts of Cullman, its residents, and industry leaders, the parks department was able to open and play their first game at The Field of Miracles on April 23, 2007.

Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs said he was glad to be a part of the group which helped bring the ideas of the park to life. An unbreakable bond with his daughter helped solidify the movement to have an inclusive park.

"I am proud to have been a part of the initial thought process and creation of the Field of Miracles right here in Cullman. Seeing it go from a small dream to a reality has been a personal journey that I have enjoyed," Mayor Jacobs said. "Having my daughter Hannah, who has had the privilege to play on the field since the beginning and continues to play today, as well as myself having the opportunity to coach and assist throughout the field's legacy, has been wonderful."

Leah Waldrop, Director of Marketing and PR, explained the 15-year anniversary celebration will kick-off the fundraising efforts of the Foundation Board with the direct need being the resurfacing of the Field of Miracles' rubber surface.

"We are proud to note that our Cullman Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism team has been able to increase the field's initial life span by five years and we will most likely see the surface having a total longevity of 7 years past its estimated life span," Waldrop said. "While not an immediate need, we are working proactively now to ensure that funds are being raised for this specific project when the time comes."

Chick-Fil-A of Cullman will be on-site for the celebration throughout the week complete with sweet treats and goodie bags, and the CFA Cow will be in attendance Monday night. Pulliam said Chick-Fil-A will also be providing Buddies for the Miracle League players Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

"Free popcorn and balloons will be given out each of three celebration nights with Chick-Fil-A sweet treats and goodie bags provided each of the nights as well," she said. "It's going to be an extremely special week for not only Cullman Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism, but for all our Miracle League players and their families as well."

As far as accolades, Anderson said just seeing those in the Therapeutic Recreation program take to the field is a major accomplishment for all.

"Our largest accomplishment happens every time our Miracle League players step foot on the Field of Miracles. Giving them a space that is built specifically for their needs and for that community will always be our biggest and best accomplishment," he said.

Aside from the normal schedule of games, the Miracle League World Series was held soon after the Field of Miracles opened in 2007. Anderson said this event allowed many individuals outside of the direct community to learn more about the offerings at the park, which included how accessible to the park was to so many.

President of the Parks Foundation Board Trent Lowry said, "What a tremendous milestone that our community is celebrating 15 years of the Field of Miracles! It is inspiring to think of the hundreds of people who have been given the opportunity to play ball there over the years. I encourage the entire community to attend a part of the celebrations this week."

The anniversary of the Field of Miracles will take place the week of April 18, with Miracle League games and celebrations taking place on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Youth and adult games will be played across each of the three nights.

For those interested in enrolling a relative into the Therapeutic Recreation Program, Pulliam said there are not any specific qualifications to join other than that to register. Individuals can sign-up for different sports and teams as well as take part in all that our Therapeutic Recreation program has to offer by emailing Kelly Pulliam, the Therapeutic Recreation director, at kpulliam@cullmanrecreation.org.

Those interested in volunteering for Miracle League or any of the programs will need to contact Pulliam. She stated that Therapeutic Recreation has several volunteer opportunities available including baseball and basketball "Buddies," event set-up and breakdown throughout the year and day-to-day tasks.

Another way a resident can make an impact is by attending the games, which are free. Pulliam said community members can also make a tremendous impact with the program by simply attending one of our Miracle League games. Being a fan of the league and its players is one of the biggest ways to help with the program and drive its success—on and off the field.

Volunteers can also sign-up by emailing Kelly Pulliam at kpulliam@cullmanrecreation.org.

"I love the Field of Miracles and all that our Therapeutic Recreation Program and Miracle League stands for... it truly puts life into perspective," she said. "My advice to anyone in our community is that if you are having a hard day, go to a Miracle League game. It will put a smile on your face, and you will feel the excitement and pride that exudes from that ballfield!"

Leadership that served during the initial planning and opening of Chester Freeman Park and the Field of Miracles:

- Current City of Cullman Mayor, Woody Jacobs - former president of the City Council
- Donald Green, former City of Cullman mayor
- Don Hubbard, former chairman of Park Board
- Chester Freeman – former member of the Field of Miracles Committee
- Robin Cummings - former chairman of the Field of Miracles Committee
- Raymond Williams – former chairman of the Parks Foundation Board
- John Hunt - former director of Cullman City Parks and Recreation

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
APRIL 16, 2022

# 52 ODES TO JOY: BEGIN AGAIN AND AGAIN

**Ben South**
Tribune Columnist


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**ODE TO REINVENTING**

Any given day can be
a time to start over,

It just takes hard
work, luck and
good intention.

So, let's go look for
a four-leaf clover

And joyfully welcome
our next reinvention.

"I've been a puppet, a pauper, a pirate, a poet, a pawn and a king. I've been up and down and over and out and I know one thing. Each time I find myself flat on my face, I pick myself up and get back in the race." - Dean Kay and Kelly Gordon

**BEGIN AGAIN AND AGAIN** is the message of "THAT'S LIFE," the popular hit Frank Sinatra recorded in 1966 with the chorus I shared above. Every day we have an opportunity to wake up and reinvent ourselves again and again and again and again—only you make the decision about who you are going to be today and tomorrow.

I'm writing this during the Christian Holy Week, a time when 2.4 billion of the total 7.8 billion people all over the world are inspired by the story of Jesus of Nazareth to celebrate the opportunity life provides us for renewal. We've survived another winter and are eager to warm under one sun and spring forth like flowers for: rebirth, regeneration, rejuvenation, revitalization, revival, reawakening, recovery, recuperation, restoral, renaissance, reanimation, revivification—a redo reinvention to BEGIN AGAIN.

"The grounding and energy medicine specialist," Amelia Vogler, is someone whose work I discovered this past winter. Her niche is teaching and helping people feel connected to the earth, united with others and flourishing with positivity.

BEGIN AGAIN AND AGAIN, but first, Vogler offers these elements for consideration in her "My Mag" article (Winter, 2021):

"MESSAGES-There is a wise sage within, waiting for you to ask questions. Listen to what your higher self says to you—sometimes it's a single word like 'STOP!' or "YES!" Sometimes it's much more subtle. Be patient and stay open.

"VISIONS--You can see far beyond your eyesight through dreams, desires and passions. You have an inner seer that casts images of truth and insight.

"SIGNS—The universe is a benevolent playground of flowing energies, and you are invited to play! Set an intention and let the universe start sending you signs. Sometimes, through messages around us, we find our own clarity. Stay open to what you overhear, signs you observe in nature, and words you see written on the side of trucks, street signs, people's shirts and flyers." (You can find more about Amelia Vogler's methods and coaching on Instagram at @ameliavogler_healing and learn more online at ameliavogler.com.)"

"BEGIN AGAIN AND AGAIN—you're never too old to begin being a new, more joyful you." That's a message I've shared repeatedly over my 40 years as "The Gerontologist of Joy." The four points of "The S.U.N.S. (Smile-Making, Uniting, Neighboring, Spellbinding) Aging Joyfully System" is a good place to create your own plan for starting over.

**SMILE-MAKING** (Positive Thinking and Positive Doing)—Lighten up. People can die more than once but we can also be born more than once. Ask yourself, "What makes me happy? What do I want to be?" Then, write down your thoughts as a sort of "new start a la carte."

**UNITING** (Connecting Deeply)—Own who you are and who matters to you. Are there people you'd like to connect with more deeply? Perhaps go meet some new people. Talk to people you normally wouldn't. Try something new. See if there are people you think you would enjoy knowing who are enjoying things you want to explore.

**NEIGHBORING** (Others-Centeredness)—A great way to "get over yourself" is to care about others. Pause to be grateful for people who have made a positive difference in your life and then think how you could use your talents, knowledge and interests to help others.

**SPELLBINDING** (Meaningful, Achieving "in the Flow")—Eliminate "someday" from your "new you" calendar. No more, "Ready. Aim, Aim, Aim, Aim—Nothing." Be determined to make a change—GO, BEGIN AGAIN AND AGAIN.

**BEGIN AGAIN AND AGAIN ODES FROM OTHERS:**

"Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself."—George Bernard Shaw

"Every day, you reinvent yourself. You're always in motion. But you decide every day: forward or backward."—James Altucker

"When things are bad, it's the best time to reinvent yourself."—George Lopez

"I thought, I need to reinvent myself. I want every day of life to be wonderful, fascinating, interesting, creative. And what am I gonna do to make that happen?"—Karen Allen

"I am still making order out of chaos by reinvention."—John Le Carre

"Your power to choose your direction of your life allows you to reinvent yourself, to change your future and to powerfully influence the rest of creation."—Stephen Covey

"People who cannot invent and reinvent themselves must be content with borrowed postures, secondhand ideas, fitting in instead of standing out."—Warren Bennis

"Don't ever feel like your best days are behind you. Reinvention is the purest form of hope."—Phil Whol

**THAT'S LIFE**

One of the most popular works in the American songbook, "That's Life," was written by Dean Kay and Kelly Gordon in 1963. It was recorded that same year by Marion Montgomery but failed to chart. The most famous recording is by Frank Sinatra in 1966 but it has also been recorded by: Aretha Franklin, James Brown, Van Morrison, David Lee Roth, Shirley Bassey, Michael Bolton, Michael Buble' and others.

That's life, that's what
all the people say.
You're ridin' high
in April, shot
down in May.
But I know I'm gonna
change that tune
When I'm back on top,
back on top in June.

I said, 'That's life,' and
funny as it may seem,
Some people get
their kicks stompin'
on a dream.
But I don't let it, let
it get me down
'Cause this fine
old world, it keeps
spinnin' around.

I've been a puppet, a
pauper, a pirate, a poet,
a pawn and a king.
I've been up and down
and over and out and
I know one thing.
Each time I find myself
flat on my face,
I pick myself up and
get back in the race.

That's life, I tell you
I can't deny it.
I thought of quittin',
baby, but my heart just
ain't gonna buy it.
And, if I didn't
think it was worth
one single try,
I'd jump right on a big
bird and then I'd fly.

But if there's nothin'
shakin' come
this here July,
I'm gonna roll
myself up in a big
ball—and die.

My, my!

**BEGIN AGAIN AND AGAIN LAFF**

"Three friends die in a car accident, and they go to an orientation in heaven. They are all asked, 'Why you are in your casket and friends and family are mourning you, what would you like to hear them say about you?'

"The first guy says, 'I would like to hear them say that I was a great doctor in my time and a great family man.'

"The second guy says, 'I would like to hear that I was a wonderful husband and a school teacher who made a huge difference in our children of tomorrow.'

"The last guy replies, 'I would like to hear them say...'Look, he's moving'!!'"

**JOY-GIVERS CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK:**

**April 16**—Henry Mancini

**April 17**—Jennifer Garner

**April 18**—Superman

**April 19**—Suge Knight

**April 20**—George Takei

**April 21**—John Muir

**April 22**—Glen Campbell

**SELF-RISING HAWAIIAN MACADAMIA NUT BREAD**
(Source: midwestliving.com)

Each week, Joy and Gerontology shares a recipe saluting a 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 hold the promise for a long, healthy, joyful life.

**INGREDIENTS**

- 2 cups self-rising flour
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 cup mashed ripe banana
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup chopped Macadamia nuts, toasted

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**1.** In a large mixing bowl, combine 1 cup of self-rising flour and brown sugar. Add banana, butter and milk. Beat with electric mixer on low speed till combined. Beat on high 2 minutes.

**2.** Add eggs and the remaining flour. Beat till blended. Stir in Macadamia nuts.

**3.** Pour into two greased 8x4x2-inch loaf pans. Bake in a 350-degree F oven 45-50 minutes or till a toothpick inserted in centers comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes. Remove, cool on wire racks. Wrap and store overnight for easier slicing. Makes 2 loaves (32 servings).

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

**340.** Hand-painted, Ukrainian Easter eggs.

**341.** Love is in the air on "The Love Boat."

**342.** Cruising the Caribbean.

**343.** Laffy Taffy.

**344.** Jerry Herman, joy-giver.

**345.** Laughing with national newscaster, Walter Cronkite, as he haggled a street vendor for a cheaper price on a monkey wrench.

**346.** The Santa Claus mom embroidered on my kindergarten undershirt.

**347.** The valentine mom embroidered on my divorce court undershirt.

**348.** Miz Casey, the bartender at Ruckus.

**349.** "Settin' the Woods on Fire," Hank, Sr.

**350.** Knowing someone who knew someone who knew Stephen Sondheim.

**351.** Not airing your dirty laundry nor harboring shame.

**352.** Motel 6.

**353.** The boat church service at the lake.

**354.** Blessing of the Shrimp Boats in Bayou La Batre.

**355.** 102-year-old Roy Drinkard giving me his "Lucky Shamrock" silk bowtie.

**356.** Bolo ties coming vaguely in-and-out of fashion.

**357.** Texas Swing yodeling and steel guitar.

**358.** My Uncle Maurice picking Jimmy Rodgers songs on his flat-top guitar.

**359.** Bop She-Bop.

**360.** The lighted disco floor at The Club in Birmingham.

**361.** Chocolate bunnies half-priced the day after Easter.

**HAVE A JOYFUL EASTER WEEK AND BEGIN AGAIN AND AGAIN!**

# Cullman Caring for Kids hosts Day of Hope event at Heritage Park

**Lauren Estes**
lauren@cullmantribune.com

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — Members of the community gathered at Heritage Park at noon on Wednesday to honor the 35 children whose lives were lost due to some form child abuse this past year with a Day of Hope Remembrance Ceremony.

Cullman Caring for Kids hosts a blue ribbon child abuse prevention event year where they release blue balloons to signify each child who has passed in regard to neglect, abuse or something similar.

Director Steven Sutter shared with those gathered some statistics of those involved in child abuse.

"Only 10% of child abuse cases are reported," Sutter said.

"There were over 600 cases in 2021 in the Cullman area so you can imagine how many incidents went without being reported."

Former Director Javon Daniel was also present at the event and said this is the most children they've had to honor since 2014 when there were 32 children who were reported locally that had died from some form of child abuse.

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry also spoke to those present at the event and sang praise for what Cullman Caring for Kids does for the community.

"Children are our most valuable resource, there isn't anything more important than our children," Gentry said.

"We have a responsibility as leaders to protect our children and help them become the leaders of the future. Cullman Caring for Kids has always been an advocate for protecting our children and it was an honor to speak at their Day of Hope for child abuse awareness."

For more information, please visit: https://www.cullmancaringforkids.com.




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GUEST EDITORIAL

# The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

**Sam Hollis**
Contributor

**I. His death was certain**

**A.** Joseph of Arimathaea came to Pilate the Governor after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and requested the privilege of burying his body. Pilate wondered if Jesus was already dead. Therefore, he sent a centurion, a leader of one hundred Roman soldiers, to verify the death of Jesus. A Roman centurion was fully capable of determining if death had occurred. The centurion returned to Pilate and confirmed Jesus was dead. See Mark 15: 43-45.

**B.** The Jews requested the bodies of Jesus and the two men crucified with Him to not remain on their crosses on the Sabbath day. They asked Pilate to send out an order for their legs to be broken in order to speed up their deaths. The soldiers broke the two legs of the men crucified on each side of Jesus. When they came to Jesus, they could see that he was already dead; therefore, they didn't harm His legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear and immediately, blood and water flowed out—thus fulfilling the scripture "not a bone of Him shall be broken" and "they shall look on Him whom was pierced." Once again, His death was substantiated by Roman soldiers. See John 19: 31-37.

**C.** Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus took the body of Jesus, bound in its linen clothes, with about 100 pounds of a mixture of spices, myrrh and aloes. They buried the body in a new sepulcher where man had never lain. They would never have taken these actions unless they were convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus was really dead. See John 19: 38-42.

**II. His burial was secure**

The Pharisees and chief priests reminded Pilate that Jesus had said, "After three days, I will rise again." They requested that the burial place of Jesus be secured by the direct order of Pilate to prevent the disciples from stealing His body and claiming that He rose from the dead. Pilate granted their request, encouraging them to secure the tomb of Jesus to the fullest extent of their abilities. The tomb was sealed. The entrance was tamper-proof. If anyone was caught tampering with the seal, they would be punished with the full authority of the Roman government. A group of Roman soldiers, possibly as many as 10 or 12, was assigned to guard the tomb of Jesus to prevent anyone from stealing His body. They could even be put to death if they neglected their duties. See Matthew 27: 62-66.

**III. His resurrection was confirmed**

**A.** Luke, the author of the Book of Acts, declared that Jesus Christ showed Himself alive for 40 days prior to His Ascension by many infallible proofs. He also spoke of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God. See Acts 1: 1-3.

**B.** Jesus Christ, following His death and resurrection, appeared to different people, at different times and places. One of the most significant post-resurrection appearances of Jesus is recorded by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15: 1-8. Here, Paul relates that Jesus was seen on one occasion by more than 500 Christians, and most of them were alive at the time of writing. There were more than 500 people who could therefore testify that they had seen Him alive after His death. Truly, this is irrefutable evidence that Jesus did rise from the dead.

**C.** Prior to and immediately following the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, His disciples were fearful and hiding behind closed doors. However, once the disciples were thoroughly convinced that He was alive, they became willing to be beaten, imprisoned or even put to death for their faith. See John 20: 19 and Acts 4: 7-10.

**D.** The fact that no one has ever been able to produce the dead body of Jesus confirms His resurrection.

**E.** The growth of the early church in the city of Jerusalem and extending to the ends of the Earth certifies the resurrection of Christ Jesus. If anyone could have proven Jesus was dead, Christianity would have never grown outside the limits of Jerusalem.

**F.** The vast number of lives changed by Jesus in various nations, races and ages attest to the truth of His resurrection.

**G.** The unique influence of Jesus upon human history validates His resurrection. The late Dr. Bill Bright, founder and director of Campus Crusade for Christ International, which serves in 196 countries with 25,000 full-time staff and volunteers, has posed three questions to men of all religions, as well as atheists:

**1.** In your opinion, who is the greatest leader the world has ever known?

**2.** Who has done the most good for mankind?

**3.** Who in all history has lived the holiest life?

The answer from most has always been the same—Jesus.

**His followers have:**

- Elevated womanhood
- Built hospitals an orphanages
- Sought to eliminate abortion, child abuse, alcoholism, drug addiction, gambling and pornography
- Been active in business (J.L., Kraft and J.C. Penny), law and government (George Washington began and ended the day in prayer and often quote the Bible in speeches and writings, and Abraham Lincoln sought the council of God) and the arts (Da Vinci and Michelangelo expressed Biblical themes in art and sculpture, Beethoven, Bach and Handel wrote music on spiritual themes and John
- Bunyun, Dante and Milton centered their literature on spiritual values).

Truly Jesus Christ is who He claimed to be, the Son of God, the unique Son of God. He was and is unique in His virgin birth, His virtuous life, His vicarious death, His victorious resurrection and His visible return in power and great glory.

# Dean (from Front)

**Trent Moore**
Cullman City Schools

**CULLMAN, Ala.** — An East Elementary School teacher has been named a finalist for one of the most prestigious education honors in Alabama.

East Elementary fourth grade teacher April Dean, who is already District VI Elementary Teacher of the Year, has been named a "Sweet 16" finalist for Alabama Elementary Teacher of the Year. The phase effectively narrows down the list of candidates to 16 total teachers from across the state and Dean made the cut from more than 150 educators.

East Elementary School Principal David Wiggins said he was ecstatic but not at all surprised to learn that Dean had made it so far after being selected District VI Elementary Teacher of the Year.

"It has been my observation that students in her classroom have the benefit of going beyond paper and pencil instruction. Mrs. Dean's students are hands-on and minds-on, immersed in the learning process, and leaders of their own learning. She has created a class culture of excellence," he said. "We have long said that EES stands for the 'Excellent Elementary School.' Mrs. Dean's recognition is another example of why that is so."

The Alabama State Department of Education notes these outstanding educators, selected as finalists for the Alabama 2022- 2023 Teacher of the Year, personify teaching excellence. To make it this far, every finalist must excel in the classroom, inspire students through mentorship and utilize innovative classroom instruction to motivate classroom achievement.

"When I was being recommended to the board to teach fourth grade at East Elementary School a few years ago, the 2019 Cullman City Teachers of the Year were being recognized at the board meeting that evening," Dean said. "Mr. Wiggins leaned over to me, smiled, and said, 'That's going to be you in a few years.' His confidence in me made such a difference, and his high expectations for me are very much like my high expectations for my students. I am such a blessed teacher to work at East Elementary School."

Dean has been teaching since 2005 and is in her third year at East Elementary School.

She has been a constant innovator during her time at East Elementary, engaging students with projects ranging from building solar-powered ovens, to letting them handle arthropods and craft centipede habitats to learn about senses and behavior in animals.

"In my heart was always a desire to teach; however, my heart hoped to be other things as well. After a family trip and swimming with dolphins as a child, I decided to become a marine biologist. As an adolescent, I wore braces to improve my smile and resolved that dental school was in my future. When my mom let me redecorate my bedroom as a teen, I knew I was destined for interior design. Later, I became sports editor of the yearbook, dreamed of being on television and considered a career in journalism and broadcasting," Dean said. "Twenty years later, I am at East Elementary School living out all of my dreams. As a fourth-grade science teacher I research ocean animals with my eager students. My classroom is constantly redecorated to engage children. I sing and lead classroom discussions and games, much like a television host would. I excitedly help newly toothless students bag teeth to take home for the Tooth Fairy. The best teachers use all of their skills to reach their students. I get to be a scientist, a designer, an entertainer and more."

Cullman City Schools Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff said he is incredibly proud of the work being done at East Elementary School and across Cullman City Schools.

"We are so honored to have Mrs. Dean representing Cullman City Schools and East Elementary School at this level," he said. "She is the epitome of the creative, inventive, caring attitude of the amazing educators across our system."

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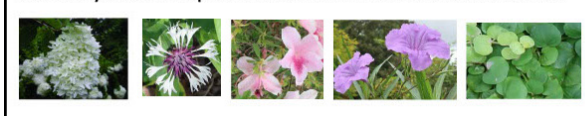
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# Obituary Announcements: April 14 - 15

**Jeffrey Alan Cooksey, 56, of Cullman**

A private graveside service for Jeffrey Alan Cooksey, 56, of Cullman will be at 2 p.m., Tuesday, April 19, at Shelton Grove Baptist Cemetery, with Rev. Steve Rodgers officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Cooksey passed away Thursday, April 14, at Cullman Regional. He was born Sept. 7, 1965, to Bobby and Mary Pierce Cooksey. Jeff retired from UPS. He was a huge Alabama football fan, loved sports, talking to people and music. He was preceded in death by his mother: Mary Cooksey and his sister: Angie. Survivors include his father: Bobby Cooksey; brother: Randy (Esther) Cooksey; niece: Stacey (Wayne) Day; great-nieces: Rachel and Allison Day and a host of friends and loved ones.

**Edith Elaine Sinyard, 85, of Cullman**

Funeral service for Edith Elaine Sinyard, age 85, of Cullman, will be at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 15, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Rev. Bobby Crawford officiating, with interment in Duck River Cemetery. Visitation will be from 2-4 p.m. prior to the service.. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Sinyard passed away Wednesday, April 13, at Cullman Health Care Center. She was born Jan. 14, 1937, to Casey Robertson Sr. and Lois Robertson. She was preceded in death by her husband: Mancel Sinyard; daughter: Janet Lynn Sinyard; parents; brothers: Casey Robertson Jr., Jesse Robertson and Dolton Robertson and sisters: Joyce Cook and Pat Gardner. Survivors include her son: Bill (Donna) Sinyard; grandchildren: Sarah (Andy) Hinson, Rachel McPhillips and Kala (Eugene) Stancil; great-grandchildren: Joseph Hinson, James Hinson, Emily Margaret Hinson, Addison McPhillips, Claire McPhillips, Hayden Stancil, Landon Stancil and Carson Stancil and great-great-grandchild: Everett Hinson.

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## BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

# He was dead, but not for long

**Bill King**
Tribune
Contributor



My paternal grandmother died when I was only five-years old. I called her Grandma King. Obviously, since I was so young, I don't remember a great amount about her. She lived with my Aunt Lula, in Tallapoosa, Georgia, and I lived with my parents in Rainsville, Alabama. Because it took us a couple of hours to drive to Grandma's, I was unable to spend a tremendous amount of time with her, but I always loved going there. Grandma was sick and confined to bed as far back as I can remember. She had crippling arthritis, followed by cancer. I remember crawling up in her bed and lying beside her.

Not long before she died, she lost one of her arms because of her cancer. I remember Mama telling me not to get on the bed with Grandma, because I might hurt her.

Grandma told her to leave that baby alone, and she told me to climb on up there. Grandma always had a drawer in a chest in her bedroom that was full of candy.

My favorite was striped-Neapolitan, coconut-candy bars. Back then, I'm sure I didn't know what they were called, but I knew I liked them...a lot!

After I had loved on Grandma for a while, and she had loved on me, she said, "Now go in there and get yourself a candy bar."

Then, one day as we were on our way to Aunt Lula's house, Mama told me that Grandma King was gone. I don't remember what I said, but I do remember not understanding.

When we got there, Grandma King was not gone, as Mama had said, but she was not in her bed. She was asleep in a funny looking box, over by the wall.

Mama told me that Jesus had taken Grandma home, but I thought no he hasn't, she's right there.

That was my first experience with death, or at least that I can remember. Most five-year olds can't comprehend the concept of death. I remember being sad when Mama explained to me that we wouldn't see Grandma anymore.

I never saw my grandmother again after that day, but some day, I believe I will. That's because Grandma King had placed her faith in Jesus Christ, as have I.

One day, Jesus died too. He didn't die of natural causes, or from a disease such as cancer, but he was executed on a cross. He wasn't killed because of something he had done, but because of something we had done.

The unusual thing is that after Jesus died, people saw him again. That was due to the fact that he didn't stay dead. After he had been placed in a tomb, and had been dead for three days, he was raised back to life.

On a day we call Good Friday, we celebrate his death. Celebrating someone's death may sound like a strange thing to do, but not so in the case of Jesus. One reason it is not is because his death enables us to live eternally.

Another reason is because he did not stay dead. On the day that many call Easter, we celebrate his resurrection from the dead. A group of ladies, who had seen him die, went to anoint his body early the following Sunday, but he was not there. An angel appeared to those ladies, and told them, "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said." That is indeed reason to celebrate! For those who have placed our faith in him, we will indeed see him one day. I hope you have a wonderful day of worship and celebration on Sunday.

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

## HISTORY

# Files from Yesteryear: 1936, 1950

**From the Files of 1936**

Mr. G.W. Tingle passed away on October 10. There were 12 children born to this union. Burial was at Mars Hill, Tennessee.

Attorney John H. Chapman has located in Cullman.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Tucker left for Georgia last week, where they will make their home according to Mrs. Ellen Sinyard and children.

George Screws and Mrs. Willie Reid were married last Friday.

Mrs. Jewell Miller and children from Trade were the guests of the Jackson Guthery's on Sunday.

Miss Grace Metz and Mr. Morris of Albany were married on Saturday evening.

A bird dog belonging to Lot Jones was killed by lightning, about the center of the street, in front of Leeth Bank, on Monday afternoon.

Students enrolled at the University of Alabama in 1936 are Harry and Dwight Fuller and Kathleen Calvert.

Those married this week were Leon Murphree, 22, to Lucille Skipper, 18.

The Reverend H.R. Edwards preached at Shelton Grove on Saturday and Sunday.

**From the Files of 1950**

Ken Goodson's pear tree can not figure out this year's weather. It bloomed in January and is blooming again.

Mr. and Mrs. George Stiefelmeyer, Junior have a new daughter, Betty Louise.

Attending the Explorer Scout rendezvous in the Bankhead Forest last weekend were Arville Whisenhunt, Robert Kelley, Bob Mashburn, Claude Schlosser, Reverend Marion Schwallie, Shirley Wood, Jerry Willis, Jene Glasscock, Jerry Patrick, Pat Padgett, J.D. Morgan, J.S. Pearce, J. Ray McDowell, Othel Horsely, Virgil Barnett, James L. Louvorn, Ellis Calvert, Edwin Calvert, Chyron Wood, Sonny Crawford, David Quattlebaum, Alvin Hinkle, Don Robinson and Chriss Doss.

## POET'S CORNER

### The Wilderness of Finer Things | By: April Mccay

The stars are my diamonds

The ocean is my wine,

The birds are my music

Outside, my thief of time.

The wind is the rhythm

To which I dance,

An audience of trees

Captures my glance.

The mountains are my distant castles

The wilderness is mine to explore,

In the stream are my glass slippers

Awed and childlike, I go into God's lovely world.

I discovered a pearl in a field

A priceless journey, my heart sings,

Out of the wilderness

into the promised land of finer things.

## CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

APRIL 16

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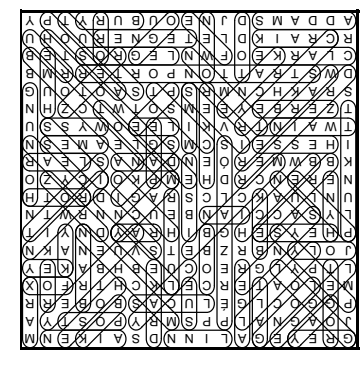
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## CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

APRIL 16

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# Facility (from Front)

well it takes a community to be successful in economic development."

Regional Manager of River Valley Ingredients Jason Spann shared some information about the Alabama poultry industry. "The Alabama poultry industry is about a $15 billion economic impact to the state annually. It makes up about 66% of the total commercial agriculture sales in the state of Alabama annually. It employs somewhere north of 86,000 people in the state. There are 23 poultry complexes in the state of Alabama that process 21 million broilers per week. In this county alone, Cullman County is the No. 1 poultry production county in the state, so we can be proud of that."

The new $208 million, 121,000 square foot facility is the single largest investment in Hanceville to date. The facility is expected to be completed in mid-2023. Tyson Foods is retaining its 124 team members who worked at the previous Hanceville plant throughout the two-year construction period.

The Hanceville rendering plant services many of the state's poultry processors and their employees, as well as others in neighboring states. The rendering process helps reduce waste by breaking down and cooking parts of the chicken people don't eat into usable proteins and fats. "We take those inedible products, and we convert those into a sellable protein and fats that we sell all over the world. There's roughly 50 billion pounds of by-products available in the United States every year. There's 140 million pounds of raw material processed daily in the United States. Without rendering, some estimates say that landfills in the U.S. would completely fill up in four weeks. So, rendering is the safest method that we know of at disposing of those non-edible animal parts," Spann said. "At full capacity, pre-fire, the Hanceville division rendered approximately 2 billion pounds of those materials out of the Alabama poultry industry annually. It was the largest poultry rendering plant in the world."

The catastrophic fire on July 30, 2021 at the previous facility destroyed the capacity to process over 30 million pounds a week of those products. "That put the Alabama poultry industry in jeopardy, but through the hard work of Tyson and the River Valley team and our risk assessments and everything we had in place, we managed to get through that. We are going to build back in this community better and stronger," said Spann.

Dale Greer also acknowledged the 13 fire departments who helped to extinguish the blaze at the previous facility and the company's reciprocated support of the fire departments, "The night of the fire, dozens of fire departments responded to the blaze to help limit the damage. At a time when Tyson Foods was devising a plan to handle waste to allow Alabama processing plants to reopen, they wrote checks for more than $258,000 for new equipment for 13 fire departments that helped extinguish the fire."

Business Development Director for the Alabama Department of Commerce Ted Clem congratulated the company of behalf of Governor Kay Ivey.

"Congratulations on this great day, and what a company, that made a commitment to their employees. No one lost their job through this crisis, and they made a commitment to this community. When a company reinvests in your community, it says a lot about you, the kind of community you are, and the support you give your local industry. This company provides a vital service to the poultry industry statewide. Without that capacity, there would have been a big hole in our state."



SARA GLADNEY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

*Cullman Economic Development Director Dale Greer, Hanceville Mayor Kenneth Nail, Cullman County Commission Chairman Jeff Clemons, River Valley Ingredients Regional Manager Jason Spann, Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics, Business Development Director for the Alabama Department of Commerce Ted Clem*

Cullman County Commission Chairman Jeff Clemons noted, "This facility has provided hundreds of jobs in Cullman County for years, and the new plant will continue that legacy. River Valley has helped Cullman become a leader in poultry production in Alabama and the country. We are honored to have Tyson Foods rebuild in Cullman."

Hanceville Mayor Kenneth Nail views the company as part of his community, saying, "We have never had a company more supportive of community projects and needs.

"Tyson Foods is a great corporate citizen and Hanceville will continue to claim them as our company."

Greer concluded by echoing how the community support played a significant role in Tyson Food's decision to rebuild in Cullman County. "Tyson Foods could realistically build a new plant in dozens of locations in the Southeast. They are reinvesting here because there is a history of local and state government support for the company and a proven track record that Cullman County can provide a quality, dependable workforce. It is a true partnership."

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