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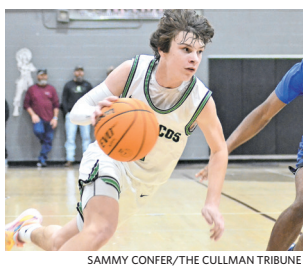
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SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

West Point opens Christmas Tournament with win, Holly Pond, Cold Springs fall in opening round
» PAGE 4

Play it safe on New Year's Eve

Amy Leonard
amy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — New Year's Eve will see us bidding farewell to 2022 and welcoming in 2023. Many will opt to hold celebrations at home and to be tucked into bed well before midnight, while others plan to bring in the new year while celebrating throughout town with family and friends.

While the evening's goal will be to have a joyous night of conviviality with friends, the public is encouraged by the Cullman Police Department to plan now to have a safe holiday.

Sgt. Adam Clark shared the following suggestions:

Hosting a party?

• Plan ahead. Name a "designated driver or drivers." Make this your responsibility as the host.

• Expand your menu. Serve non-alcoholic beverages as an option to your guests.

• Be a responsible host. Stop serving alcohol to your guests several hours before the party ends. Ensure that water, juice and soda are plentiful.

• Give guests options. Provide your guests with a place to stay overnight in your home.

Not hosting a party? When you are attending New Year's Eve parties and celebrations:

• If you drink, don't drive. Always designate a sober driver before the party or celebration begins. If you are impaired, call or ask a sober friend or family member to pick you up. Or stay where you are until you are sober.

• If you don't drink, but do drive, be alert and aware of your surroundings. Use seat belts!
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Parents preparing to take 'miracle baby' home after year in hospital


CONTRIBUTED
John and Kelsey Steffen, with son Elijah

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

EVA, Ala. — Elijah Steffen will soon be going home after more than a year in the hospital. The "miracle baby" was born Dec. 2, 2021. His mother, Kelsey Steffen, said he is currently at Children's of Alabama, and the family is preparing their home for his arrival.

"We are from Eva, but since he was born, he has been in three different hospitals – that's all he has known," she said. "He has chronic lung disease and pulmonary hypertension. So far this is all we know with his development."

According to his family, baby Elijah was born at just 24 weeks gestation, and his first breath was expected to be his last. But,
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Jason Mickle promoted to assistant police chief


CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT/FACEBOOK
Cullman Police Chief David Nassetta, left, and Assistant Chief Jason Mickle, right
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Homeschool Connection New Year's Eve



CULLMAN HOMESCHOOL CONNECTION/FACEBOOK
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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 27-28

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 27-28, 2022. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Dec. 22
- theft of property; Co. Rd. 568
- burglary; Co. Rd. 1129
- theft of property; Co. Rd. 1553
- harassment; Co. Rd. 1114
- theft of property; Hwy 31

Dec. 23
- burglary; Co. Rd. 702
- domestic violence; Co. Rd. 97
- burglary; Co. Rd. 223

Dec. 24
- assault; S. Main St. Arab
- permitting dogs to run at large; Co. Rd. 368
- unlawful possession of controlled substances, unlawful possession of dangerous drugs, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia; Co. Rd. 216

Dec. 25
- unlawful possession of controlled substances, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy 69N

Dec. 26
- domestic violence; Co. Rd. 831
- burglary; Co. Rd. 1801
- burglary; Co. Rd. 702
- burglary; Hwy 31

ARRESTS

Dec. 22

Burks, Kenneth A; 21
- FTA-possession of meth-amphetamine
- FTA-possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA-possession of marijuana

Elliott, Sonya M; 38
- Probation revoked-possession of dangerous drugs

Green, Brittney L; 28
- FTA-forgery-counterfeiting
- FTA-forgery-forged instrument

Harbison, Johnny L; 70
- Motion to revoke-criminal trespassing

Holland, Rebeccah L; 56
- public intoxication

Dec. 23

Godfrey, Allison M; 25
- FTA-assault-domestic-harassment-family
- FTA-HWOP DAY
- FTA-resident license-hunting
- FTA-taking of protected birds or animals by means of bait

Ingram, Heather L; 31
- FTA-expired license
- FTA-speeding in construction zone
- FTA-failure to display insurance

Stone, Jackson, 23
- assault-domestic-menacing-knife

Dec. 24

Boatright, William S; 32
- FTA-driving while suspended, revoked or cancelled

Brockman, Christi M; 43
- FTA-possession of drug paraphernalia

Defosse, Milferd R; 56
- assault-aggravated assault-menacing-gun
- reckless endangerment

Hyde, Amber M; 28
- simple assault

Sanders, Sara M; 29
- FTA-possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA-possession of dangerous drugs

Dec. 25

Day, Jason R; 50
- sex offense-sex offender reporting and registration requirements
- Probation violation-sex offender reporting and registration requirements

Gean, Clifford W; 26
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Hill, Christopher S; 46
- FTA-public intoxication
- FTA-criminal trespassing

Jones, Jeffery D; 52
- fraud-swindle/home repair
- FTA-driving while suspended, revoked or cancelled

Robinson, Krystle L; 37
- FTA-driving without license

Dec. 26

Grantland, Dylan L; 23
- criminal mischief

Smith, Patrick S; 49
- public intoxication

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Dec. 20
- theft of property-4th degree; WalMart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $11
- harassment; Mitchell Rd.

Dec. 21
- theft of property-4th degree; Belk; Cullman Shopping Center; purse; $125

Dec. 22
- theft of property-2nd degree; Northcrest Dr. NW; firearm
- harassing communications; Katherine St.
- leaving the scene of an accident; 8th St. SW; damage to 2005 Chevrolet 1500; $2,000
- theft of property-3rd degree; WalMart; Hwy 157; general merchandise; $575
- theft of property-4th degree; WalMart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $56

Dec. 23
- theft of property-4th degree; WalMart; Hwy 157; general merchandise; $328
- theft of property-3rd degree; Lowe's; Cherokee Ave. SW; chainsaw; $600
- criminal mischief-3rd degree; 1st Ave. NE; damage to 2010 Toyota Sonata; $300
- theft of property-4th degree; WalMart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $42
- theft of property-3rd degree; WalMart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $507

Dec. 24
- criminal mischief-3rd degree; Hickory Ave. SW; damage to 2008 Nissan Quest; $60
- harassment; Cherokee Ave. SW
- theft of property-4th degree; WalMart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $139

Dec. 26
- robbery-3rd degree; WalMart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $264

Dec. 27
- fraudulent use of credit/debit card, theft of property-3rd degree; miscellaneous charges
- harassment; 1st Ave. S.E.

ARRESTS

Dec. 22

Butler, Jake A; 30
- criminal trespassing-3rd degree

Dec. 23

Jones, Jeffery D; 52
- theft of property-3rd degree

Mullennix, Joshua C; 34
- theft of property-3rd degree

Dec. 24

Boatright, William S; 32
- public intoxication
- escape-3rd degree
- FTA-theft of property-4th degree
- FTA-possession of drug paraphernalia

Ingram, Heather L; 31
- FTA-theft of property-4th degree

Meyer, Paul S; 45
- receiving stolen property-4th degree
- unlawful possession/receiving controlled substances
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Dec. 25

Bradford, Kelsey N; 30
- FTA-failure to signal
- FTA-driving while suspended
- FTA-insurance violation

Charney, Nicholas B; 39
- domestic violence-2nd degree

Drake, Antonio L; 36
- theft of property-1st degree (2 counts)
- burglary-3rd degree
- theft of property-2nd degree

Floyd, Justin T; 32
- unlawful possession/receiving controlled substances
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Dec. 26

Baker, Kaden P; 25
- robbery-3rd degree

Cook, Nathanael J; 28
- FTA-driving while license suspended (3 counts)
- FTA-insurance violation
- FTA-improper lane usage

Dec. 27

Aycock, Desmond K; 26
- theft of property
- criminal trespassing

Ford, Montero J; 30
- theft of property
- using false identification to avoid arrest/hinder prosecution

Hopson, Charles G; 52
- harassment

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Former Air Force Captain Stacia Robinson to lead Alabama Office of Minority Affairs

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Gov. Kay Ivey on Tuesday announced she is tapping Stacia Robinson to serve as director of the Alabama Office of Minority Affairs. Nichelle Nix, who has served in the role for the last six years, is moving to the private sector to practice law.

Robinson comes to the post from BeneChoice Companies, LLC, a benefits and financial choices company. She also serves as district manager of Colonial Life Insurance Company. The governor described Robinson as a small business champion. Robinson's expertise in business involvement includes employee benefits design and administration, as well as advertising consulting and professional speaking.

"As we prepare to turn the page and reset state government with the upcoming Inauguration in January, I am proud to assemble the strongest team possible to serve every Alabamian to the best of our abilities. Today in 2022, we can reflect on the significant progress we have made during my first term and can be excited for what work remains ahead, and I am proud to have Stacia Robinson be part of that effort," said Ivey. "From looking to engaging our students at Alabama's Historically Black Colleges and Universities to supporting minority and women-owned businesses to ensuring every Alabamian has the opportunity to provide for their families, we are setting important and necessary goals and having Stacia at the helm of the Alabama Office of Minority Affairs will be instrumental. I am sure that good things are in store for our folks."

Robinson also recently sold her BNI-Business Network Int'l Franchise, which she owned for 25 years. Further reiterating the fact that Robinson is a champion of small business, her involvement locally in Montgomery includes serving on the Industrial Development Board of Montgomery, the Leadership Council of the NFIB and the Alabama Small Business Commission, among many other ventures. She was also the first African American female to serve on the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors. As chairman of the Marketing & Promotions Task Force for the Council of Small Business Enterprises (COSBE), she won an ADDY award for the "Buy Greater Montgomery" campaign. Robinson is excited to bring her experience to the Ivey Administration.

"I am looking forward to serving the great state of Alabama in this role on behalf of women and minorities," said Robinson. "I hope to bring my own experiences and curiosity of others to the role as this Administration strives to make 'Alabama the Beautiful' also Alabama the better for its citizens, especially for its women and all minorities."

A military career brought this Denver, Colorado, native to Alabama. While spending seven years in the Air Force as a communications-computer officer, she completed her Master of Science degree in Counseling and Human Development at Troy University in Montgomery. Prior to that, she received her Bachelor of Science in Mathematics degree from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. Ivey said she remains focused on keeping Alabama innovative and preparing the state's students and workforce for the economy of tomorrow, and she believes that Robinson will be a helpful hand in that effort.

Outgoing director, Nichelle Nix, added, "It has been an absolute honor to lay the foundation for the Alabama Office of Minority Affairs and to serve the people of Alabama for more than six years in this role. I am truly grateful to Governor Ivey for giving me this tremendous opportunity and look forward to all the good things I know are still to come from the Ivey Administration."



OFFICE OF GOV. KAY IVEY

Stacia Robinson

Robinson's appointment is effective Jan. 1, ahead of the governor's second term. Ivey will be inaugurated Monday, Jan. 16, 2023.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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) Mondays and Thursdays 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.
• 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 birthdays. Register your child and pick up a birthday box with cake mix, icing, sprinkles, decorations and toys! Pickup 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.
• Thursday, Dec. 29 -7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery Ministry- Fellowship & Testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! For those who want to get together before class bring a dish, dessert or drink @ 6:30 p.m. for a potluck meal. Nursery provided.
• Saturday, Dec. 31 - We will have a Potluck Supper at 6pm followed by a prayer meeting at 7 p.m. to usher in the New Year with fellowship.
• Sunday, Jan. 1 - We will not have Sunday church services, have a Happy New Year!!

Alcoholics Anonymous
Sundays, 3 p.m. at Cullman First Church of the Nazarene, 5415 Alabama Highway 157. CLOSED literature study. Handicap accessible.

TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) Meetings
Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m., at Cullman Housing Authority Community Center (1545 Vine Circle SW, Cullman, AL 35055). The 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.

Master's Hand Food Pantry at The Link
• 708 Ninth St. SE, Cullman, AL 35055
• Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
• Closed for lunch noon-1 p.m.

20th Annual Sportsman Lake Park Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Display
Dec. 29-30. Guests can drive through the magical display from 5-9 p.m. Admission is $10 cash per vehicle. The park will be closed Christmas Eve and Day. Sportsman Lake Park is located at 1544 Sportsman Lake Road NW in Cullman. Find out more at www.facebook.com/Sportsman-LakePark.

Holly Pond Homemakers Club Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 11 a.m. at the Holly Pond Event Center. We will meet for our annual planning meeting and lunch. Think about ideas for Club activities for this year. Bring a covered dish to accompany a chili meal and dessert. Bring prospective new members.

2023 Festival of the Cranes
Friday-Sunday, Jan. 13-15, at the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge (WNWR) and other venues throughout Decatur. Several of the weekend's activities require reservations. www.friendsofwheelernwr.org/festival-of-the-cranes-2023.

Homeschool (from Front)

Amy Leonard
amy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Homeschool Connection will host a New Year's Eve party for homeschooled students with karaoke, board games, card games, snacks and a murder mystery. The group recommends 1920s-era attire, but guests are welcome to wear whatever they like.

The murder mystery is set on the Vienna/Venice Express Train where a passenger has been found murdered after a $5 million raffle in the VIP carriage.

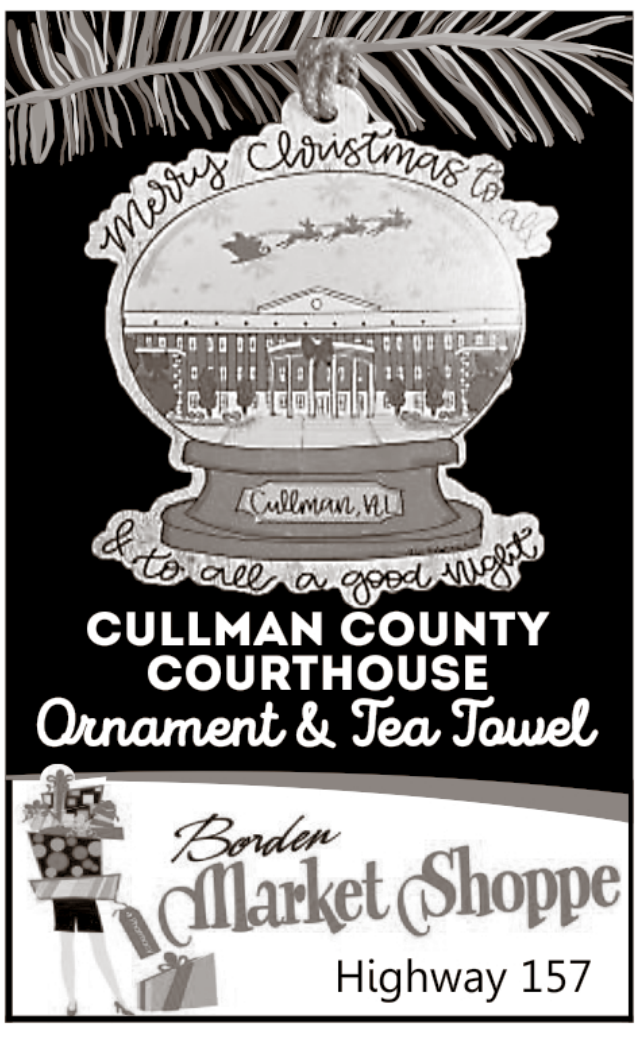
Participants in the murder mystery must work together to identify the culprit and bring him or her to justice.

Registration is required, and if your child wishes to participate in the murder mystery, please indicate on the registration form.

Acting parts in the mystery are given on a first come, first served basis, and the script will be emailed before the event.

You may also sign up to bring drinks or snacks.

Registration is available at www.cullmanhomeschool.com/event-details/cullman-teen-scene-murder-on-the-karaoke-express-new-years-party.




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HumbleRoots,LLC
Published daily Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055
POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: robin@cullmantribune.com

ANNUALLY BASED RATES
CULLMAN.....$125.00
OUTSIDE CULLMAN.....$250.00

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
DECEMBER 29, 2022

PREP BASKETBALL

West Point opens Christmas Tournament with win, Holly Pond, Cold Springs fall in opening round

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

WEST POINT, Ala. — This year's West Point Christmas Tournament officially tipped off at West Point High School Tuesday afternoon and three local teams were there to compete. Holly Pond got things started against Hatton and after the Broncos took the lead in the final two seconds, the Hornets knocked down a game-winner at the buzzer to top Holly Pond 49-48. West Point followed them with a 78-50 win over Curry and in the nightcap, the Cold Springs Eagles fell to Winston County 56-25. Holly Pond will face Decatur Wednesday at 3 p.m., Cold Springs and Curry will follow them at 4:15 and the Warriors will wrap up the night against Winston County at 6:45.

Hatton 49 – Holly Pond 48 (Game One)

The Broncos came out red hot against the Hornets. Three-pointers from Diego Garcia, Blake Rickard and Gunnar McBee helped give Holly Pond an 11-3 lead midway through the first quarter. The Broncos started to cool down a bit after that and after a Christian Couch basket put them up 13-3, Hatton was able to trim the lead to 13-7 by the start of the second quarter.

McBee split a pair of free throws and then laid in a basket to make it a 16-7 game early in the second and Rickard netted a pair of free throws to keep Holly Pond ahead 18-9. Jackson Wilkins added a free throw to give the Broncos a 19-12 lead and five straight points from Kollin Brown put them on top 24-12 with two minutes remaining in the half. The next time down the court, Brown drove inside and flipped a pass behind his back to Couch for an easy layup and a 26-14 lead. However, a 6-0 run by the Hornets cut the Holly Pond lead down to 26-20 going into the halftime break.

The Broncos got the third quarter started with back to back buckets by Rickard and Brown to make it a 30-20 game but an 8-0 run from Hatton trimmed the lead to 30-28 with two minutes to play in the period. That's when Brown buried back to back three-pointers and stretched Holly Pond's lead to 36-30 going into the final frame.

The Hornets were able to cut the lead down to 36-35 early in the fourth quarter but McBee responded with a pair of free throws and a basket to put the Broncos in front 40-35. Garcia split a pair of foul shots and Sawyer Olinger knocked down a three-pointer to make it a 44-37 game with three minutes to play but Hatton would not go away. A 7-0 run by the Hornets tied the game at 44 with 1:30 remaining but Rickard laid one in to stop the run and retake a 46-44 lead for Holly Pond with less than a minute on the clock. Hatton was able to score on the other end and tie it up at 46 with a little over 20 seconds to play and the Broncos called timeout. Coming out of the timeout, Brown was able to get the shot he was looking for and he buried a mid-range jumper to put Holly Pond back in front 48-46 with 2.2 seconds remaining. Unfortunately for the home crowd, the Hornets had one more answer in them and they drilled a three as the final second ticked off the clock to take a thrilling, 49-48 win over the Broncos.

Brown led the way for Holly Pond with 16 points in the loss. Rickard finished with 11, McBee posted nine and Couch and Garcia each added four.

West Point 78 - Curry 50 (Game Three)

Jay Lamar knocked down a three to give West Point an early 3-2 lead, but Curry hit a pair of baskets as that gave them a 6-3 lead. Another Lamar trey tied it up at six with a little over five minutes to go in the first period. Later on, back-to-back and-ones by Jacob Harbison and Kolten Perry gave the Warriors a 12-9 lead. J.D. Cochran, Harbison, and Ashton Rodgers each added a basket as well and West Point took an 18-12 lead into the second period.

The Warriors quickly pushed their lead to double digits to start the quarter. A pair of Perry free throws was then followed by five straight points from Rodgers as that made it 25-12. Lamar and Perry each hit a pair of baskets to push the Warrior lead to 33-14, then eight straight points by Branden Burtis made it 41-19. West Point would take a 43-21 lead into the half. Six players found the scoring column for the Warriors in the first half.

West Point continued to add onto their lead as six quick points by Rodgers gave them a 49-25 lead. Baskets by Perry, Lamar, and Cochran saw the Warriors push their lead to 30 at one point and they would take a 65-33 lead into the final period. The fourth quarter was run under a hot clock and the bench players got a lot of playing time as West Point easily got past Curry, 78-50, to move on to the next round of the tournament.

Five players finished in double-figure scoring for West Point (6-10). Lamar and Rodgers each finished with 15 points. Burtis added 14 points and Perry and Cochran each ended up with 12 points.



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

West Point's Ashton Rodgers finished with 15 points in the Warriors' 78-50 win over Curry Tuesday night.

Winston County 56 - Cold Springs 25 (Game Four)

Cole Bales hit a three to put Cold Springs on the scoreboard first, then Cameron Nunn added a free throw to give the Eagles a 4-0 lead. Five straight points by Winston County gave them a 5-4 lead, but a basket down low by Hank Harrison gave Cold Springs the lead right back at 6-5. Bales knocked down his second three of the game as that made it a 9-5 game, but a pair of late baskets by the Yellow Jackets tied the game up at nine going into the second period.

The second period saw both teams struggle to hit a basket as only eight points were scored in the quarter, all by Winston County, as they took a 17-9 lead into the half.

Nunn hit a basket to start out the third quarter for Cold Springs as that cut it to 17-11, but an 8-0 run by Winston County pushed their lead to 25-11. Nic Fallin hit a basket down low to make it a 25-13 game, but the Yellow Jackets kept adding onto their lead as they scored eight straight points to make it a 33-13 game. Winston County pushed their lead to 40-15 and took a 42-19 lead into the final period.

Cold Springs looked to get going to start out the fourth period. Bales hit a pair of free throws, Harrison hit a basket down low, and Bales added one as well to make it a 42-25 contest. They wouldn't get any closer after that as Winston County scored the final 14 points of the game and the Eagles ended up falling to the Yellow Jackets, 56-25.

Bales led the way with 12 points for Cold Springs (3-11). John Mark Smith and Harrison each added four points. Nunn ended up with three points and Fallin chipped in with two.

Sammy Confer contributed to this article.

'Nothing is possible without God': Addison's Lydia Ergle talks senior volleyball season

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

ADDISON, Ala. — The Addison Lady Bulldogs captured yet another State Volleyball Championship this fall and for senior Lydia Ergle, it was a perfect ending to an amazing volleyball career. She moved up to varsity her sophomore year and helped the team win three state titles and she feels so blessed to have accomplished that with an amazing group of girls.

"Ending my senior season with a state title is the absolute best feeling of my life thus far. We made many accomplishments this year as a team and were able to grow as individuals, not only players.

"We are a very close-knit group and literally spent almost every day together, starting in June. We really do love each other and push each other every day to be our best. We put in so much hard work every day to consistently battle to earn this title, from 5:30 a.m. workouts, to practice every day after school, to tournaments on Saturday."

She added, "We have an amazing fan base and hometown supporting us and backing us all the way and we couldn't do it without them. Coach Kaydi Woodward has helped develop and shape every single one of us into something great. She genuinely cares about our feelings and handles the mood swings of a big group of girls with class and grace. I couldn't have accomplished anything without my parents and teammates. I am blessed to end my volleyball career with a state title. I know that nothing is possible without God. Keeping God first in all you do is the first step to becoming a champion."

"I couldn't have handpicked a better bunch of girls to end my volleyball career with. We laughed together, cried together, and picked at each other like sisters. I have been playing sports with most of these girls since T-ball, so it has given us times to really learn how to push each other, communicate, and give each other what we need. We have become like one big family. Every girl on the team is an outstanding athlete, but they are even better people." Ergle said.

Ergle has played for Coach Woodward since her sophomore year at Addison and has learned so much from her in that time.

"She was the absolute best. She coached us hard and made us work, but still let us have time for fun and to be a little bit silly at times. I always knew that she believed in me and that I would be able to come to her about anything, sports-related or not.

"We are very blessed to have her. She knows how to win. She won a state title herself at Addison and went on to play college volleyball at Wallace State Community College. She balances being a wife, mother, teacher, and coach. She's basically superhuman."

She added, "Coach Woodward taught me grace and encouragement. When I was having a rough day at practice, she would always lift me up. She never talked down to me or any of my teammates. She was always very positive.

"She knew we could do anything we set our mind to, but she also kept us grounded. She let it be known that it was possible for anyone to beat us, but we were going to outwork them, be better prepared for them than they were for us and take home the win at the end of the day or give it our all trying. She has a big heart. She loved everyone on the team equally and never showed favoritism. I really liked that about her."

Ergle enjoyed played on the varsity team for three years and learned as much as she could from the upperclassmen she played with.

"My three years on varsity were nothing short of amazing. When I got moved up my sophomore year, we only had one senior: Sunny Strain. She was so bubbly and kind. She went out of her way to make me, and Dacey Baker feel included. She was a great Christian example. My junior year, we had three seniors: Addisyn Smothers, Bracie Rodgers, and Anna Grace Luker. They were also a great bunch of girls.

"Addisyn was the definition of a verbal leader. She was constantly telling us how to be better, how to win, and really just coaching us through the process on how to be a great player," she said. "Bracie led by example. She was a Godly role model and always made everyone feel included and went above and beyond for the team. She was one of those "first one there, last one to leave" type of people. Anna Grace was probably the senior I was closest to my junior year. She kept me in line and took me anywhere I needed to go. All of these qualities in all of the upperclassmen before me helped shape me into the player I became."



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Addison's Lydia Ergle

Ergle was one of the leaders on this year's team and she helped teach the younger players everything that she was taught when she was an underclassman. She talked about what she will remember the most about her volleyball career.

"My main goal this year was to lead. I wanted to lead by example more than anything. I hope the underclassmen looked to me for positivity. I tried to bring everyone up and teach them how to shake off mistakes. I really hope that I showed them how to show up every day and work hard no matter how you're feeling," she said.

"The thing that meant the most to me out of my volleyball career was the bond I created with my teammates. It was special and it's not like anything I've ever experienced. My favorite part, outside of volleyball, outside of the gym, was the sleepovers. We all stayed at a different girl's house one night a week. The parents would feed us, and we would all wake up and drive to school the next morning. That is special. Winning three state championships will be something that I will always be proud of."

She added,

"My favorite memories consist of consecutively winning state three times in a row. I also have enjoyed making some great friends and getting to roll the town every year after winning state. What I will remember the most about playing with these girls is probably just the constant support and encouragement I have had from everybody on our team. We really do become like a family and I'm very blessed to have been able to spend with time with them and watch everyone grow."

UAB: Ring in the New Year safely with simple tips for diabetics

Hannah Echols
Contributor

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — New Year's Eve serves as a culmination of three months' worth of holiday celebrations and gatherings. For many, it is a time full of family, friends, and delicious food and drink. For those affected by diabetes, the season can be a challenge as they try to balance holiday spreads and their blood sugar.

Ahead of New Year's Eve, diabetes experts at the University of Alabama at Birmingham offer tips on how to safely ring in 2023.

"New Year's Eve should be a time of celebration," said Alexandra Dodd, M.D., assistant professor in the UAB Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism. "Following a few tips can help people with diabetes have a healthy holiday."



UAB

Watching the portion and carb content of food and drinks can help prevent blood sugar spikes this New Year's Eve.

Facing the holiday spread

In general, Dodd encourages those with diabetes to choose foods that have less carbohydrates and a lower glycemic index, which reduces the frequency of blood sugar spikes.

"Good options include vegetables and lean protein like poultry, fish and eggs," Dodd said. "If you are eating grains, choose options like wheat bread or brown rice, which will cause less dramatic spikes in blood sugar since they are digested more slowly."

Desserts are often part of holiday celebrations. While one cookie will not wreck one's diabetes management plan, Dodd advises watching portion sizes of sweet treats. Additionally, patients who take insulin should take it before eating to ensure it covers food intake.

Popping a cork

When it comes to beverages, portion size and carb content is also key. If one prefers sodas, Dodd advises choosing diet or sugar-free options. If choosing an alcoholic beverage, a simple cocktail with the spirit and minimal additives can cause fewer blood sugar spikes. For beer, ask about low-carb options.

Mocktails are also a trending option for those who would rather avoid alcohol altogether. Make mocktails fun by finding a new, low-sugar recipe or trying out a "mocktail bomb," which is a mix ball that can be added to sparkling water.

"Whatever route is best for you, a good rule of thumb is to avoid excess. For alcohol in particular, the effects of excessive drinking can be extreme for those taking insulin since alcohol can deplete glycogen stores in the liver and increase the risk of low blood sugar," Dodd said.

Take precautions

Dodd recommends that those with diabetes bring along their glucose meter to holiday gatherings or wear their continuous glucose monitor to help them identify and treat low blood sugar before it becomes dangerous.

Especially for those who have struggled with low blood sugar in the past, having a glucose monitor or meter nearby or in use during celebrations is key.

In addition to food and drink tips, people with diabetes should also follow all other common New Year's Eve safety practices.

"If consuming alcohol, arrange a designated driver or other means of transportation. If walking around at night, bring a friend and stay in well-lit areas," Dodd said. "And remember, don't let your diabetes prevent you from doing the things you love on New Year's Eve and every other holiday."

ADOC selects health care service provider

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) announced that YesCare, Corp. has been selected to enter negotiations for the department's comprehensive health care services contract that will provide services to inmates in each of the state's 27 correctional facilities.

YesCare was among four health care companies that responded to the ADOC's request for proposals (RFP), which was issued on Sept. 26, 2022. In addition to YesCare's proposal, the ADOC received proposals from Centurion, VitalCore and Wexford.

"The RFP evaluation committee conducted a thorough and extensive examination of each vendor's proposal. After careful consideration of the evaluation committee's recommendations, the ADOC (decided) to enter into contract negotiations with YesCare based on a combination of quality care and overall cost," said Commissioner John Hamm.

In its recommendation, the RFP review committee considered the company's experience and qualifications, delivery of care, program management, support services, staffing requirements and compensation. The four-year, six-month contract will go into effect at 12:01 a.m. CDT, on April 1, 2023. Facility health care staff employed by the current service provider, Wexford Health, will be offered employment under the new contract.

YesCare, headquartered in Brentwood, Tenn., has more than 40 years of correctional health care experience, having served clients and patients at more than 475 facilities across the country.

The ADOC expects the contract negotiations to take several weeks to complete. Once the contract is final, all proposals and the results from the RFP review committee will be public record.

Safe (from Front)

• Be a good friend. Take the keys from someone if you think he/she is too impaired to drive.

The repercussions of a first offense driving under the influence charge can be up to one year in jail, fines between $600-$2,100 in addition to court costs and attorney's fees, substance abuse evaluation and treatment if deemed necessary and a suspended driver's license for 90 days or an ignition interlock, commonly known as an in-car breathalyzer (at the defendant's expense).

These are the baseline consequences, which are greater depending on the blood alcohol content of the defendant.

Above is the best-case scenario when driving intoxicated. In Alabama, 277 people lost their lives due to a drunk driver in 2019 and 30% of all traffic fatalities were due to alcohol impairment. When in doubt, don't drive.











Merrill: Audit program confirms accuracy of Alabama elections

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Secretary of State John H. Merrill on Tuesday announced the completion of the post-election audit pilot program. The results of the audit pilot program confirm the accuracy of Alabama's elections.

Alabama Act 2021-446 authorized a post-election pilot program to be conducted in three counties after the 2022 General Election in which one statewide office and one county office were audited for a single polling place. Dallas County, Houston County and Marshall County were selected to conduct the audit. The post-election audit was conducted by the probate judge, sheriff and appointed poll workers in each county.

A copy of the audit results can be found at www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/2022-post-election-audit.

For more information, contact the Secretary of State's Elections Division at 334-242-7210.

LEGALS

PB MIN BK 212 PG 453 - 12/14/2022 11:56 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
RONNIE LANE ARNDT, * CASE NO.: PC2022-385
*
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to CAROL B. PAYNE, as Administratrix of the Estate of RONNIE LANE ARNDT, deceased, on the 14th day of December, 2022, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

Carol B. Payne
Administratrix

J. Bradley Wilson
Attorney for Petitioner
Baggett & Wilson, LLC
206 Ninth Street SW, Suite 102
Cullman, AL 35055
256-737-0740

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

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

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

PB MIN BK 212 PG 747 - 12/27/2022 01:12 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO.: PC2022-413

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF DANNY RAY NICHOLS, DECEASED,

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY ADMINISTRATOR

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to JENNIFER HADDOCK, as Administratrix of the Estate of DANNY RAY NICHOLS, Deceased, on the 27th day of December, 2022, by the Honorable Tammy Brown.

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

Jennifer Haddock
JENNIFER HADDOCK
Administrator of the
Estate of
Danny Ray Nichols, Deceased

Perry D. Knight
PERRY D. KNIGHT
Attorney for the Estate of
Danny Ray Nichols, Deceased
412 First Avenue SE
Suite 101
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4090

TO: The Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

PB MIN BK 212 PG 764 - 12/27/2022 02:36 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
GEORGE THOMAS WOOD, * CASE NO.: PC2022-396
*
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration with Will Annexed having been granted to JULIE AUSTIN, as Personal Representative of the Estate of GEORGE THOMAS WOOD, deceased, on the 27th day of December, 2022, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

Julie Austin
Personal Representative

A.Eric Johnston
Attorney for Personal Representative
1200 Corporate Drive, Suite 107
Birmingham, AL 35242

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

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

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

EST. 1873
CULLMAN
ALABAMA

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

201 2nd Avenue NE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

256.775.7203
www.CullmanAl.gov

City of Cullman
Planning Commission

On Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at Cullman City Hall Auditorium at 5:30 P.M, at the regular meeting of the City of Cullman Planning Commission, a public hearing will be held to allow affected parties to voice their concerns related to the following items:

1. Short form subdivision – Main Venue SW – Cobblestone
2. Short form subdivision – 5th Avenue & 7th Street SW – move lot line
3. Short form subdivision – County Road 1402 – 5 lots

For further information contact Brian Landreth or Amber Duke at the City of Cullman Building Department at 256-775-7203.

PB MIN BK 212 PG 755 - 12/27/2022 01:21 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
MYRA GAIL HENDRIX, * CASE NO.: PC 2022-296
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to KRISTI GREEN ANDERS, as Personal Representative of the Estate of MYRA GAIL HENDRIX, deceased, on the 27th day of December, 2022, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

KRISTI GREEN ANDERS
Personal Representative

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney for Personal Representative
1939 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055

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

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

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

PB WIL BK 113 PG 731 - 12/27/2022 02:08 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
) **Case Number: PC2022-** 357
GAIL COURSEY,)
Deceased.)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama

In the matter of the Estate of Gail Coursey, Deceased

Letters Testamentary upon last will and testament of said decedent, having been granted to the undersigned on the 27th day of December 2022, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from the above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

Roger Holmes
Personal Representative

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney for Personal Representative
1939 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

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

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on May 28, 2008 and Amendement to Mortgage dated June 13, 2008 by John D. Owen, an unmarried man, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book MTG 1566, Page 869, and Amendment to Mortgage recorded in MTG 1568, Page 843 in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the following described property will be sold at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door of said County, in Cullman, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on January 5, 2023:

A tract or parcel of land being situated in the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter all in Section 18,, Township 11 South, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama, and being more particularly described as follows:
Commence at a found pipe marking the Southwest corner of said Section 18 and run North 00 degrees 18 minutes 01 seconds East a distance of 1327.57 feet to a set rebar marking the Southwest corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter; thence continue North 00 degrees 18 minutes 01 seconds East a distance of 1327.57 feet to s set rebar marking the Northwest corner of said Quarter-Quarter; thence run South 88 degrees 09 minutes 45 seconds East a distance of 210.91 feet to a set rebar; thence run South 00 degrees 18 minutes 01 seconds West a distance of 684.25 feet to a set rebar; thence run South 88 degrees 09 minutes 45 seconds East a distance of 351.13 feet to a set rebar marking the point of beginning; thence continue South 88 degrees 09 minutes 45 seconds East a distance of 315.34 feet to a set rebar; thence run North 89 degrees 32 minutes 02 seconds West a distance of 315.00 feet to a set rebar; thence run North 01 degrees 25 minutes20 seconds West a distance of 444.07 feet to the point of beginning.
Included herewith is a 30 foot wide road easement along the North line of Subject Property. For clarification the 30 foot wide road easement was reserved by Builders and Traders, the original owners of Parcel Numbers 21-04-18-0-000-005.005; 004.001; and 005.013, as a 30 food wide road easement along the North line of all property bearing these parcel numbers to be fused by all these parcels to reach County Road 362.

The following manufactured home to be auctioned separately and together: 1990 Gateway, VIN GWAL2792

Said sale is made for the purpose of paying the mortgage debt and cost of foreclosure.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as part of the foreclosure process.

EvaBank, Mortgagee
Thomas W. Russell
Attorney for Mortgagee
2915 Clairmont Ave. S
Birmingham, Alabama 35205
The Cullman Tribune-December 15, 22, 29, 2022

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF Alabama
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Katherine L Beck And Eddie R Beck Wife And Husband to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Cullman Savings Bank, its successors and assigns dated August 23, 2019; said mortgage being recorded on August 28, 2019, in Book 1887, Page 830 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Ameris Bank by assignment recorded in Deed Book 381, Page 607 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.
The undersigned, Ameris Bank, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on the 9th day of February, 2023 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:
Lot Number Thirty-Four (34) of Skyview Estates Subdivision, according to the map of said subdivision as recorded in Map Book 5, Page 203, in the Probate Records of Cullman County, Alabama.

Said property is commonly known as 1405 Hanceville Rd SE, Cullman, AL 35055.
Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal description will control.
Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.
Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.
The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage.

AMERIS BANK
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC
Two North Twentieth
2 20th Street North, Suite 1000
Birmingham, AL 35203
(800) 275-7171
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 22-03831AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 27-28

Kenneth Larry Ray, 78
The Funeral Service for Kenneth Larry Ray, 78, of Cullman will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel. Visitation was Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, from 6-8 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home. Reverend Tim Aris will officiate the service. The interment will follow in Bethsadia Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the Ray Family. Mr. Ray was born Feb. 23, 1944, to Alfred Coleman and Zelma Odell Phillips Ray. He passed from this life Dec. 26, 2022, at Cullman Regional Medical Center. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He loved all sports, coached all of them and also coached from the stands. He was their biggest critic and biggest supporter. He was preceded in death by his parents; his infant grandchildren, Weston Ray Riggs, Adalaya Ray Riggs; and his brother-in-law, Jim Huff. Mr. Ray is survived by his wife of 47 years, Virginia Brown Ray; sons, Eugene (Tammy) Ray, Shannon (Leisha) Johnson, Ricky (Nicole) Ray; daughters, Sherietta (Stephen) Riggs, Tanya (Sean) Callahan; brothers, Wendell (Myra) Ray, Huey (Lora) Ray; sisters, Jean (Mickey) Speegle, Darlene Huff; grandchildren, Cody (Brooke) Ray, Austin (Makayla) Ray, Lance and Landon Ray, Blake Johnson & Kaitlyn Johnson (Jake Boatright), Parisa and Addie Callahan, Stetton and Sawyer Riggs, Wesley and Delanie Sigala; great grandchildren, Oakley Ray, Walker Ray, Lauren Ray, J.W. Ray, Lakely Boatright; extended family, Alan Johnson, Michael Johnson and family. The pallbearers will be Cody Ray, Landon Ray, Austin Ray, Blake Johnson, Lance Ray and Wesley Sigala.

Billy Wayne Curvin, 77
The Funeral Service for Billy Wayne Curvin, 77, of Vinemont, will be 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022, at Cullman Funeral Home. The visitation was Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, from 5-8 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home. The interment will be in Flint Creek Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the Curvin family. Mr. Curvin was born July 22, 1945, to William M. and Gertrude Vaughn Curvin. He passed from this life Dec. 26, 2022, at Woodland Village Nursing and Rehab. He loved his family and buying and selling cars. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Darrion Curvin; brothers, Robert Curvin, Dub Curvin, Odie Curvin; sisters, Princess Weeks and Sarah Ella Curvin. Mr. Curvin is survived by his wife, Hilda Curvin; sons, Dylan Curvin, Dusten (Tiffany) Curvin; daughter, Schlenia Curvin; sister, Gennie (Rayburn) Jones; grandchildren, Brittini (Waya) Hester, Hollie (Hunter) Griffin, Brodie Curvin, Bryant Curvin, Lakelyn Curvin, Landon Curvin, River Curvin; great greatgranchildren, Hezra Griffin, Hylan Griffin, Isaiah Hester. The pallbearers will be Brodie Curvin, Waya Hester, Bryant Curvin, Ryan Gingriech, Hunter Griffin and Perry Griffin.

James Edward Ray, 86
James Edward Ray, age 86 of Addison, passed away Monday, Dec. 26, 2022, at his residence. James was born Nov. 20, 1936. No services will be held at this time. James is survived by his wife, Bonnie Ray; children, Scott (Tracy) Mazurek, Ann (Gary) Miller, Don (Janey) Ray, Ben Winch, Bill (Phyllis) Ray and Sue (Neil) Webster; grandchildren, Sunny Mazurek, Gary Miller, Jenifer Miller, Sarah Ray, Paisley Winch, Morgan Barfield, Hunter Ray, Hayden Ray, Ashley Smith, and Tyler Webster; sister, Willa Reillo and four great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Evelyn Ray; children, Seven Ray and Jimmy Ray; grandson, Michael Ray; siblings, Virginia Long, June Jones, Mary Jo Hellier, Carol Leonburger, Billy Ray and Carl Ray.

Jacqueline "Jackie" Gentry, 79
Jacqueline "Jackie" Gentry, age 79, of Cullman, Alabama passed away Monday, Dec. 26, 2022. Jackie was born in Cullman, Alabama to Jackson Thomas and Dorothy Louise Moody Harbin. Jackie is survived by her brother, Douglas (Randi) Harbin; her brother-in-law, John Townsend; her sister-in-law, Christine Gentry; her nieces, Gail (Danny) Miller, Kelly (Cody) Wheeler, Kerry Townsend, Joni Townsend, Jackie (Clint) Shumate, Elise Harbin; and her nephews, Ronald Gentry, Roger (Shelia) Gentry, Randall (Paulette) Gentry, Sean (Mary Beth) Harbin, Seth (Holly) Harbin; and a host of great nieces, great nephews, other relatives and friends. Jackie was preceded in death by her loving husband of 60 years, Larry Gentry; parents, Jack and Dorothy Harbin; and her sister, Jeannette Townsend. A celebration of life visitation for Jackie was held Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, from 1-2 p.m. at Good Hope Baptist Church, 90 Good Hope School Road, Cullman, AL 35057. A funeral service followed visitation at 2 p.m. An interment will occur at Good Hope Cemetery. The family would like to express their gratitude to Joan and Ray Oaks, her caregiver Kathy Alexander, and also the staff on Magnolia Hall at Hanceville Nursing Home. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Jackie's memory may be made to Good Hope Baptist Church, 90 Good Hope School Road, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

Herbert Hoover Henry, 94
Herbert Hoover Henry, 94, of Cullman passed away Friday, Dec. 23, 2022, at his residence. He was born Dec. 10, 1928, in Cullman. He is survived by his sisters, Hilda Blackwood and Thelma Fletcher and a host of nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, John Duke "J.D." Henry and Della Mae Tillman Henry; his wife, Mary Jo Cargo Henry; sister, Wynell Jones and brothers, Howard Henry, Virgil Henry, Hugh Henry and Kenneth Henry. A graveside service will be held Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022, at noon at Hopewell Cemetery.

James Lynn Elkins, 61
James Lynn Elkins, of Baileyton, Alabama, passed away Dec. 23, 2022, at the age of 61. Mr. Elkins, known by most as Lynyrd, was born in Guntersville, Alabama, on April 19, 1961, to James Samuel Elkins and Louise Evans. Mr. Elkins was a member of Grant Church of Christ. He was an avid Alabama football fan and was also a NASCAR enthusiast. Lynyrd was the salutatorian of his graduating class, and he had a passion for knowledge and enjoyed reading. Mr. Elkins was a good man, and he will be missed greatly by all those who knew him. Lynyrd is preceded in death by his father, James Samuel Elkins; mother, Louise Evans Ledbetter; stepfather, Emmett Leslie Ledbetter; and a brother, Donald "Bug" Ledbetter. He is survived by his brother, John Ledbetter (Malisa Beasley) and sister, Lesley Jackson. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to care for the Elkins family.

Elizabeth Robinson, 80
Funeral service for Elizabeth Robinson, 80, of Nesmith will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30, 2022, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. Rev. Junior Garmon will officiate. The family will receive friends from noon until 2 p.m. prior to the service. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Elizabeth passed away Dec. 26, 2022, at Cullman Regional. She was born May 30, 1942, to Major and Bessie Boykin Rogers. She was a member of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. She loved her family and children and babysat for many children over the years. She loved animals and flowers. She worked for more than 30 years as a nursing assistant in the nursing home and after retiring, worked as a personal caregiver for others. She was a member of the Eastern Star. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Harry, David and Donald Rodgers; nephew, Isaac Rodgers. Survivors include her daughter, Annette (Danny) Mays of New Mexico; grandson, Clarke Mays; brothers, Danny Rodgers, Rev. Steve Rodgers; sister, Brenda (Ben) Kerny; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Helen Juanita Schuman, 95
Helen Juanita Schuman passed away Dec. 26, 2022, at Hanceville Nursing Rehab Center at the age of 95. She was born Nov. 10, 1927, in Cullman Alabama to John B. and Myrtle Lillie Davis Stricklin. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Edward Charles Schuman; sisters: Roxie V. Stricklin and Vera Stricklin Mize; and brother, Doyle Stricklin. Mrs. Schuman is survived by sons, Charles (Diann) Schuman and Jerry (Denise) Schuman; daughter, Kathy Schuman; sister-in-law, Polly Stricklin; nieces, Teri (Stuart) Rowan, Judy Sweat and Sharon Mize; nephew, Jeff (Jan) Mize; grandchildren, Justin (Laci) Schuman, Carmen (Wes) Hastings, Amy (Brock) Ballard, Tyler Schuman and Kyle (Briana) Schuman; great grandchildren: Bailey Schuman, Logan Schuman, Pepper Hastings, Audrey Ballard, Claire Ballard, Emma Ballard, Bella Schuman and Jackson Schuman; and a host of other family members and friends. Funeral Services will be held Friday, Dec. 30, 2022, at 1 p.m. at St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church in Cullman, Alabama with Pastor Stuart Rowan officiating. Interment will follow in Cullman Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022, from 6-8 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home.

Vivian "Nell" Bonnel Jones, 90
Vivian "Nell" Bonnel Jones, age 90, of Cullman, Alabama passed away Monday, Dec. 26, 2022. Nell was born in Cullman, Alabama. Nell is survived by her son, Larry (Tracey) Jones; her sister, Eleron West; her brother, Don (Linda) Stephens; her grandchildren, Chelsea (Alex) McCool and Jacob (Meagan) Jones. Nell was preceded in death by her husband of 34 years, Fred Jones Jr.; and her parents, Oscar and Tura Ragland Stephens. Nell was loved by all who knew her. She did everything for others with a servant's heart that God had blessed her with. She loved to spend her days gardening, especially growing her flowers. Honor her memory with flowers for her service. A celebration of life visitation for Nell will be held Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022, from 5-7 p.m. at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, Alabama 35055. A celebration of life funeral service will occur Friday, Dec. 30, 2022, at 10 a.m. in the chapel. An interment will follow at Crossroads Cemetery.

Gert Greenhaw, 79
Graveside Service for Gert Greenhaw, age 79, of Vinemont, will be at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30, 2022, at Mt. Zion Cemetery with Rev. Don Froelich officiating. Visitation will be from noon until 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30, 2022, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Greenhaw passed away Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022, at her residence. She was born April 5, 1943, in Michigan to Elmer and Geneice Cook. She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Greenhaw; daughter, Anna Marie Turner; and parents. Survivors include her son, James (Sabrina) Greenhaw; grandchildren, Tina Isbell, Cody (Britnee) Greenhaw, Todd Hester, Kyle Hester and Brandon (Tara) Greenhaw; and nine great-grandchildren.

Phyllis Jean Kilgo DeJong, 71
Phyllis Jean DeJong (Kilgo) was born Nov. 5, 1951, the oldest of the four children of Lawrence and Helen Kilgo. The first four years of Phyllis' life were pure bliss as she enjoyed all the blessings of being an only child. It was when her twin siblings Rhonda and Ronald came into the world that life would drastically change. As Phyllis would tell everyone, life as an only child was her preference though she grew to love, respect, and lean on her siblings over the years. The Kilgo clan was completed with the birth of baby brother, David who by all accounts was Phyllis' best friend in their teenage years. The four Kilgo kids and their parents lived in Boldo, Alabama where Phyllis attended school and later completed her early education at Walker High School in Jasper. A childhood illness defined a great deal of Phyllis' teen years, though as with everything, she beat the odds and proved herself to be "one tough cookie" and a very outspoken young woman as her close friends and family knew all too well. Phyllis had her first child Kesa when she was 23 and finally met her match and the two of them quickly set out to master the universe. The pair rarely took no for an answer which proved to be an interesting experience when they chose opposite sides of any issue. Phyllis met her beloved husband of 42 years in California, a chance meeting that altered the course of their lives and defined all the good things from that moment forward. Don Lewis DeJong, a Navy man from Churchill, Montana, never knew what hit him when the Southern Belle (likely in bellbottoms) sat down, accidentally kicked him and spoke to him in her southern drawl in a way that he never was the same. The two of them married at Virginia Beach in 1980 and set out to raise their family. The couple welcomed Don Lawrence DeJong shortly thereafter. In her son Phyllis found a completion to her life and the person that brought her the most joy. D.L was the towheaded calm soul and spirit that balanced the family. Eventually the DeJongs moved back to Alabama where Don was a manager at WalMart Distribution in Cullman for 37 years. Phyllis found her way back to nursing school where she completed her master's degree, moving her way up from a floor nurse in the ER to management of many hospitals around the country. Phyllis became a travel nurse in Hawaii, Nebraska, Arizona, Montana, Georgia, and later California moving her way up in the ranks and eventually finding her true passion at a Stanford Hospital in Palo Alto, California where she managed an eating disorder clinic. Phyllis retired in 2016 from the Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa, California. Phyllis was able to enjoy fulfillment of a well-respected career in a beautiful place where she met friends from around the world. Phyllis and Don were able to realize their lifelong dream of living in Orange Beach, Alabama when they retired to their dream condo community with lots of friends and family close by. Phyllis spent days fishing, swimming, exploring the Gulf, spending time with her beloved fur babies Sampson and Delilah, and enjoying a view of the ocean with Don. While Phyllis was a lifelong Christian and very devoted to her spiritual beliefs, she had found a deeper connection with God in the last 10 years of her life and spent many hours reading her Bible and sharing her affirmations with others. Phyllis will be missed by her family, friends, and former colleagues and will forever be "Queen Bee" to all those who were fortunate enough to onion her. Phyllis is preceded in death by her parents Helen and Lawrence, her baby sister Rhonda Wilson, her beloved nephew Nathan, and numerous other grandparents and cousins all of whom undoubtedly are welcoming her to her Heavenly home. She is survived by her husband Don DeJong, her two children Kesa Johnston and Don Lawrence DeJong, her brothers Ronald (Kim) and David (Sondra), and her many nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly. Services will be Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022, at 2 p.m. at the 7th Street Baptist Church in Cullman, Alabama. Family visitation will be from noon until 1 p.m., public visitation from 1-2 p.m. followed by the funeral service at the church and graveside service at Cullman City Cemetery with Hanceville Funeral Home handling the arrangements.

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Mickle (from Front)

Amy Leonard
amy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Lifelong Cullman resident and 24-year Cullman Police Department veteran Jason Mickle has been promoted to assistant chief. Mickle joined the department as a full-time patrol officer in 1998.

During his career Mickle has served on the K9 Unit, in Criminal Investigation, as a firearms instructor, team leader, training officer, on the Tactical Unit and as a commander. Mickle also teaches active shooter response to law enforcement officers at the Northeast Alabama Law Enforcement Academy and in schools, churches and to residents.

"Based on Jason's past performance in supervisory roles, his professional knowledge and experience, he was the logical choice for the position," Cullman Police Chief David Nassetta shared.

"The assistant chief's position has a lot to do with overseeing the day-to-day operations of the department, so it's important to have someone who has a good working knowledge of the entire department.

"Most importantly is that Jason has the ability to see where the department needs to be in the future, and the steps that we need to take to get there."

Mickle is a 1994 graduate of Cullman High School. He has been married to his wife Rebekah for 19 years and they are the proud parents of two Cullman High students: Jacey, a senior, and Jake, a sophomore.

The Mickles are members of Cullman First Baptist Church where Rebekah Mickle works as the children's minister and Jason Mickle serves as a deacon and Sunday School teacher.

Baby (from Front)

they said, through the grace of God, he celebrated his first birthday this month. Doctors are talking of releasing him from the hospital, but the family's home will need many things to accommodate his needs.

Major necessities include a full-house generator, a heat and moisture exchange (HME) system, specially designed chairs, wagons, tracheostomy equipment and health care supplies.

Kelsey Steffen said the family of four is excited about celebrating baby Elijah's first birthday at home.

"Elijah has an older sister, Nyla, who is 5 years old," Steffen said. "My husband is John. We got married this year, on March 25. We are waiting for our baby boy to come home to celebrate."

Steffen said the family is thankful for the support they have received so far and asked the community to please then keep them in your prayers.

"We are extremely excited to get Elijah home and we are almost to the finish line," Steffen said. "With the expenses we are already facing with living an hour from the hospital, it has taken a toll on us financially. There will be bigger challenges we will face with his medical equipment plus the necessities: diapers, formula, clothing. We give God all the glory for His love over our family and blessing us with our little miracle."

A GoFundMe has been set up on behalf of the family at www.gofundme.com/f/raising-a-miracle-is-expensive-but-so-worth-it.



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