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Gentry inauguration draws crowd

Amy Leonard
amy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Matt Gentry was sworn into his third term as Cullman County sheriff Saturday, Jan. 21, at Cotton Creek Warehouse in downtown Cullman. With his wife, Susie, and sons, William and Walker, next to him, Gentry was administered the oath of office by his father, Roger Gentry, in front of a large audience.

"I am very proud, honored and blessed to be swearing Matt in for his third term as sheriff of Cullman County," Roger Gentry said. "I'm also so proud to see all of you here, our family, our friends and our neighbors who make up the citizens of Cullman County. It's just wonderful that you all came out to support Matt and his excellent team of men and women of the Cullman County Sheriff's Office." Rodeo Announcer Adam Gibbs served as Master of Ceremonies and Cornerstone Church of the Nazarene Senior Pastor Joe McNulty said the prayer. Kennedy Poag led the Pledge of Allegiance and East Side Baptist Church Senior Pastor Matt Smith was the guest speaker. A reception followed the ceremony.



AMY LEONARD/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry, with wife Susie and sons William and Walker by his side, is sworn into office for his third term by his father, Roger Gentry.

Happy 100th birthday, Geneva Hill!



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

William and Geneva Hill are seen at Geneva Hill's 100th birthday party Saturday, Jan. 21.

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Geneva Hill celebrated her 100th birthday Saturday, with her husband, William Hill, and family members by her side for a fun party at Monarch Place in Hanceville. Her birthday is Jan. 24.

The Hills have been at Monarch Place in Hanceville for four years.

At a spry 100 years old, she shared what she would tell young people.

"Well, 100 years is a long time to think about life," she said.

"You will remember both good and bad. But the bad can stick with you. Never leave on bad terms and always forgive one another.



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

"Because when most every friend, family member you have ever known are no longer here because you have outlived them, it is better to remember your time through the lens of gratitude and love."

The Hills have been married since 1964, and say they constantly joke and enjoy each other's company.

"Also and most importantly, the Lord Jesus Christ is a secret to any meaningful relationship and successful marriage," Geneva Hill said.

They came, they saw, they plunged



AMY LEONARD/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Brave souls, young and old, made a splash at Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism's annual Polar Bear Plunge Saturday, Jan. 21. **» PAGE 8**

Chamber Leadership 2023 explores quality of life



AMY LEONARD/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership 2023 learns about nonprofit organizations supported by the United Way of Cullman County on Thursday, Jan. 19. **» PAGE 8**

CHS Theatre continues historic run; community support sought

» PAGE 8

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CRIME

Arrests and Incidents reported Jan. 23

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Jan. 23, 2023. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Jan. 19

- domestic violence; CR 1709
- harassment; Nesmith Rd.
- harassment; CR 750
- theft of property; CR 310
- trespassing; criminal mischief; Hwy. 278 W
- harassment; CR 248

Jan. 20

- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69 S
- domestic violence; CR 1303
- harassment; CR 627
- domestic violence; CR 1252
- home repair fraud; CR 269
- domestic violence; CR 437

Jan. 21

- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 469
- domestic violence; possession of controlled substance; Beech Ave. SE
- menacing; Lindsey Rd.
- theft of property; Hwy. 69 S
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Beech Ave. SE
- domestic violence; Trimble Rd.
- harassment; CR 702
- theft of property; harassment; Violation of Protection Order; Stewart Rd.
- harassment; permitting dogs to run at large; CR 590
- theft of property; criminal mischief; Campbell Dr.
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; CR 437

Jan. 22

- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; sell/distribution of drugs; I-65 NB at MM305
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; CR 437
- domestic violence; CR 1145
- permitting dogs to run at large; CR 219
- domestic violence; CR 601

ARRESTS

Jan. 19 – 22

Denton, Dana F.; 45
- FTA- assault-domestic violence-3rd degree/criminal mischief-3rd degree
- FTA- assault-harassment
- FTA- forgery-possessing forged instrument (2 counts)
- FTA- negotiating worthless instrument

Entrekin, Daniel E.; 34
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Hahn, Matthew M.; 21
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- Bail Jumping-1st degrees/robbery-business-gun

Jackson, Joshua B.; 41
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- possession of methamphetamine

Johnson, Danielle N.; 37
- FTA- negotiating worthless instrument

Martin, Kenny D.; 45
- domestic violence-3rd degree

Moore, Richard D.; 54
- DUI (other substance)

Puckett, Genesis L.; 19
- FTA- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Reed, Joshua A.; 38
- disorderly conduct/disturbing peace/affray

Stallings, Christi L.; 43
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

Starnes, Sharon N.; 40
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

Strickland, Trey M.; 22
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- possession of dangerous drugs

Sullivan, Christopher W.; 37
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA- criminal trespass

Teague, Powers V.; 42
- sell/distribute heroin
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

Thomas, Misty R.; 41
- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft $500 less than $1,500

Conklin, Neal P.; 44
- FTA- unauthorized possession, sale, delivery, use, etc. of wine or alcohol

Dill, James A.; 37
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

Donaldson, Danny R.; 35
- FTA- DUI (alcohol)

Fowler, Dawson C.; 22
- FTA- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft less than $500 (2 counts)

Freeman, Jonathan M.; 37
- FTA- operating vehicle with expired tag

Henderson, Shelia A.; 55
- FTA- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- FTA- illegal possession of prescription drugs (3 counts)
- FTA- larceny/theft-shoplifting less than $500
- FTA- negotiating worthless instrument
- FTA- driving while suspended, revoked, or cancelled

Phillips, Marlan O.; 32
- flight-escape

Smith, Justin W.; 34
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Stickney, Joshua; 45
- FTA- possession of methamphetamine
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA- larceny/theft-miscellaneous

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Jan. 16
- fraudulent use of credit/debit card; person; miscellaneous charges

Jan. 17
- harassment; person
- domestic violence-assault-2nd degree

Jan. 20
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; Cullman Chrysler Dodge Jeep; Benchmark Way SW; damage to 2016 Dodge Charger; $300
- burglary-3rd degree; person; 1st St. NE; weedeater; $250
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; 2nd Ave. SW; damage to 2014 Dodge Ram; $500
- burglary-3rd degree; person; 13th St. SW; miscellaneous
- theft of property-4th degree; criminal trespass-2nd degree; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; general merchandise; $99
- identity theft; theft of property-3rd degree; person; cash
- theft of property-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; miscellaneous; $1,321
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; general merchandise; $366

ARRESTS

Jan. 20 – 22

Medlock, James E.; 27
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Elms, Roena R.; 47
- criminal trespass-2nd degree
- FTA- theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)
- FTA- expired tag
- FTA- run stop sign
- FTA- insurance violation

Twilley, Carolyn B.; 65
- theft of property-4th degree

Johnson, Danielle N.; 37
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Woodard, James A.; 63
- FTA- insurance violation

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Falkville man killed in single-vehicle wreck

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN COUNTY, Ala. — A Falkville man was killed Friday, Jan. 20, in a single-vehicle crash in Cullman County.

Alabama State Troopers said James W. Floyd, 29, was fatally injured when the 1993 Ford F-250 he was driving left the roadway, struck a ditch, then overturned.

Troopers said Floyd was not using a seatbelt at the time of the crash.

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The crash occurred at approximately 7:28 p.m. along County Road 1212, about 3 miles north of West Point.

Nothing further is available as Troopers with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's (ALEA) Highway Patrol Division continue to investigate.

R.E. Garrison acquires Georgia-based Boaty's Transport

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — R.E. Garrison Trucking has successfully completed the acquisition of certain assets of Boaty's Transport Inc., a family-owned refrigerated trucking company located in Jackson, Georgia.

"R.E. Garrison is proud to welcome Boaty's to the Garrison family.

"Boaty's Transport was founded in 1991 by Michael Boatwright with the goal of providing fast, fresh and friendly transport of produce throughout the southeastern United States," said a release from R.E. Garrison.

Boaty's team, which includes over 50 tractors and 80 refrigerated trailers, as well as a pristine reputation within the produce industry, embraces this new challenge and looks forward to continued service to its drivers, employees and shippers, according to the release.

R.E. Garrison Trucking President and Co-Owner Wyles Griffith said, "Boaty's stood out to our board of directors because of their longstanding position within the produce industry, and we are incredibly enthusiastic about Boaty's joining the team."

Donovon Lovell, R.E. Garrison Trucking's vice president and co-owner, said, "Growing our business alongside Boaty's will create a great and lasting partnership that we can both be proud of."

When Boatwright was asked the reason he chose R.E. Garrison as a partner and the future caretaker of the company's legacy, he said, "One of the things that excites me the most about this transition to Garrison is the fact that we will still maintain our small company feel while adding many additional benefits for our employees and clients."

In the coming months, Boatwright will retire while his son, Shaun Boatright, will lead Boaty's daily business from its headquarters in Jackson, Georgia.

Boaty's will continue to operate using its respective name and image under the R.E. Garrison family umbrella.

R.E. Garrison is an employee-owned trucking company specializing in refrigerated transportation, established in 1959, with over 1,000 employees, and headquartered in Cullman, Alabama. They also have office locations in Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma, Indiana, and Tennessee.

State sees record high jobs count, unemployment rate of 2.8%; Cullman's rate 1.6%

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Alabama Department of Labor (ADOL) on Friday announced that Alabama's preliminary, seasonally adjusted December unemployment rate is 2.8%, up slightly from November's rate of 2.7%, and well below December 2021's rate of 3.1%. December's rate represents 63,412 unemployed persons, compared to 63,004 in November and 69,434 in December 2021.

Cullman County's rate is the second lowest in the state at 1.6%.

People counted as employed rose over the year by 56,418 to 2,229,259.

"As we close out our economic reporting for 2022, I'm pleased to say that Alabama has recovered well from the pandemic and has maintained positive momentum throughout the year," said Governor Kay Ivey. "We broke records all year long, reminding everyone that Alabama is the best place to live, to work and open a business. Our wages are up, jobs are plentiful and still growing and we're seeing some of our highest employment in major sectors in more than a decade. I couldn't be more proud of the progress we've made."

Over the year, wage and salary employment increased 55,900, to 2,120,500, a new record high, with gains in the education and health services sector (+15,400), the professional and business services sector (+12,700), and the government sector (+8,600), among others.

Wage and salary employment increased in December by 300. Monthly gains were seen in the trade, transportation, and utilities sector (+3,100), the government sector (+1,100), and the construction sector (+500), among others.

"Our economy is supporting more jobs than ever before, with the addition of nearly 56,000 jobs since last year," said ADOL Secretary Fitzgerald Washington.

"This represents over-the-year job growth of 2.7%, which, excluding immediate pandemic recovery, is one of the highest job growth rates in more than 20 years. Also, we've got record high employment in the trade, transportation and utilities sector, and more people are working in the manufacturing and construction sectors since 2008."

The trade, transportation and utilities sector is registering employment of 411,700 people, a record high. The manufacturing sector, with employment of 272,900 people, is at its highest level since December 2008, while the construction sector, with employment of 104,900 people, is at its highest level since November 2008.

Counties with the lowest unemployment rates are Shelby County at 1.5%, Cullman County at 1.6% and Morgan and Marshall counties at 1.7%. Counties with the highest unemployment rates are Wilcox County at 9.1%, Clarke County at 6.6% and Dallas County at 5.3%.

Major cities with the lowest unemployment rates are Vestavia Hills and Homewood at 1.3%, Trussville, Madison, Hoover and Alabaster at 1.4% and Athens and Northport at 1.7%. Major cities with the highest unemployment rates are Selma at 6.3%, Prichard at 5.2% and Bessemer at 3.5%.

United Way to host communitywide food drive Feb. 6-11

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The United Way of Cullman County will host a communitywide food drive to benefit all food banks, pantries and feeding ministries in Cullman County from Feb. 6-11, 2023. Donations can be dropped off at various locations across Cullman County; there will be manned drop-off sites at both Cullman Wal-Marts. The United Way is also encouraging local businesses, organizations and offices to hold food drives within their organization during the week.

"With the sky-rocketing prices on groceries and other goods, it has become increasingly (sic) difficult for families to afford groceries every month," United Way Executive Director Waid Harbison said.

"We have heard from our United Way Food Bank, Cullman Caring for Kids, as well as all of the other food banks and feeding ministries in Cullman County that the number of families coming in each month has been increasing (by) alarming numbers.

"Most of the local food banks fed nearly double their averages this past year from the previous year."

Due to this high volume of families needing food and more people coming to the food banks, Harbison said, food reserves are at critical lows right now across Cullman County's food banks.

"The increase in traffic for these food banks has left all of them very low on what they have available to give to those in need, and some say they are at historically low reserves right now," he said.

To combat this, the United Way will be hosting its first ever communitywide food drive.

A list of drop-off locations can be found at www.uwaycc.org/community-food-drive.

They include local grocery stores, churches and the United Way office.

Businesses can contact the United Way at 256-739-2948 to arrange to receive donation boxes.

The donations collected from the United Way community food drive will be distributed between all food banks, feeding ministries and pantries across Cullman County.

For more information on the United Way communitywide food drive, visit www.uwaycc.org/community-food-drive or call 256-739-2948.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Calling All Young Singers!
Cullman Community Young Singers (CCYS) is looking for YOU! All young singers (ages 8-15) are invited to join us on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30-4:45 at the Little House at Art Park, 1031 Second St. SW in Cullman. No auditions, just come for a fun afternoon of learning music from pop to classical styles. We will rehearse and prepare to perform at a variety of events in and around the Cullman community. Bring your friends- we will have music and everything you need to get started! For more information, text or email Miss Cindy at 256-338-4404, cindypass22@gmail.com. CCYS is sponsored by Cullman Parks, Recreation and Sports Tourism.

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 Dr. NW, Cullman
• 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.
• Wednesday, Jan. 25 - 7 p.m. Children, youth, and adult "RULES of ENGAGEMENT," Bible Study Classes. Free pizza for children at 6:30 p.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area at 6 p.m. Call 256-841-2060 for pickup.
• Friday, Jan. 27 - 7 p.m. 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, Jan. 28 - Toni Pearson will be speaking at Cornerstone Church at 3 p.m. and it would be great if we could all go and support her. Food will be served from 2-3 p.m.
• Sunday, Jan. 29 - 8-9 a.m. Prayer Group - Join Kevin and Pastor Bobby Sunday to pray for our church, nation, and for those who need salvation and deliverance.
• Sunday, Jan. 29 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area. Call 256-841-2060 for pickup. Breakfast @ 9:30 a.m. Bible study classes for children, youth, and adults @ 10 a.m. Adult class. 11 a.m. message by Pastor Bobby Dodd. Prayer meeting with Bonnie Barrett will be after morning service.
• Sunday, Jan. 29 – Soup and chili contest. We need 10 crockpots with soup or chili. Please bring crackers, cornbread, desserts and drinks. All welcome! Will yours win?

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.

Swamp John's Dinner
Friday, Jan. 27, from 4-7 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church, 615 Main Ave. SW. Eat in or take out

Fairview Lions Club Bean Supper
Saturday, Jan. 28, from 4-7 p.m. at Fairview Town Hall, 7525 Alabama Highway 69 N. Beans, cornbread, onions and drink for $5. With a dessert $6. Eat in or carry out. All proceeds will go to the Fairview Lions Club project fund. For more information, call William at 256-385-5596 or Kita at 256-385-8805.

2023 Bownes Memorial For Kids' Sake Variety Show
Sunday, Feb. 5, at 4 p.m. at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre on the campus of Wallace State Community College in Hanceville. Tickets can be purchased in advance for $10 at the Foundation office or on the day of the program for $15 at the door.

Broken Parents: Healing Through the Loss of a Child
Tuesday, Feb. 7, from 6-8 p.m. at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, 301 Second Ave. SW. Light refreshments will be provided. This is a free counseling group for people who have suffered the loss of a child. RSVP to Brandie Johnson at 256-785-6833.

Empty Bowls of Cullman County
Monday, Feb. 20, from 4-6 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Cullman. Enjoy a delicious dinner of Three Guys chili and grilled cheese, music by local performers and a silent auction. Benefits Cullman Caring for Kids. Only one thing will be different this year. For 17 years, potters made bowls for attendees to take home after their meals. The potters are no longer able to produce the number of bowls needed for everyone. Drive-through and carry-out options will be available. Tickets are $10 each and available at Cullman Caring for Kids or First United Methodist Church. Monetary donations or donations to the silent auction can be made at Cullman Caring for Kids, 402 Arnold St. NE #W1, Cullman, AL 35055. Monetary donations can also be made online at www.cullmancaringforkids.com.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JANUARY 24, 2023

JV COUNTY TOURNAMENT

4 JV teams advance past opening round

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The opening round of this year's JV County Tournament action was held at Wallace State's Tom Drake Coliseum Saturday and four teams earned wins to advance. Holly Pond's JV Girls defeated West Point and Fairview's JV Girls edged out Cold Springs. In the JV Boys' games, Vinemont topped Holly Pond and Good Hope narrowly defeated Hanceville to set up the semifinal matchups later this week.

Holly Pond 42 – West Point 29 (JV Girls)

Baskets by Blakely Baggett and Alyssia Mitchell gave the Lady Broncos an early, 4-0 lead over West Point. Kealie Harbison split a pair of free throws to get the Lady Warriors on the board and make it a 4-1 game but unfortunately for the West Point crowd, it was the only point they recorded in the first half. Baggett knocked down another jumper and Mitchell drained a three to help put Holly Pond in front 10-1 going into the second quarter.

The Lady Broncos continued to add to their lead. Buckets from Abbey Jones and Baggett made it a 14-1 game early in the second and after Phoebe Jones sank a pair of free throws, Abbey Jones buried another three-pointer to stretch the lead to 19-1.

Mitchell took a steal the other way for an easy basket and Phoebe Jones laid one in with 30 seconds on the clock to give Holly Pond a commanding, 23-1 advantage at halftime.

Presli Carr pulled down an offensive rebound and scored to make it a 25-1 game at the start of the third quarter but a free throw from Katie Beth Yovino finally ended the scoring drought for West Point and trimmed the lead to 25-2. Abbey Jones split a pair of free throws to get the point back but the Lady Warriors weren't done chipping away.

McKenzie Nix scored inside to make it 26-4 and Yovino drilled a three to cut the lead to 26-7.

Yovino had the hot hand for West Point and she scored the next five points for the Lady Warriors to bring the lead down to 26-12 with two minutes remaining in the third.

Nix netted a pair of free throws to make it 26-14 and with just over a minute to play in the period, Harbison knocked down a three from the left wing to cut the lead to 26-17 going into the fourth. West Point outscored Holly Pond 16-3 in the third quarter.

The Lady Warriors kept chipping away to start the final frame when Nix drained a three-pointer to make it a 26-20 game, but West Point wasn't able to come any closer than that the rest of the way.

A pair of scores from Baggett helped the Lady Broncos move back in front 31-20 with five minutes to play and Mitchell sank four straight from the free throw line to make it 35-22.

Libby Stallings and Nix exchanged baskets to make it a 37-24 game with three minutes on the clock and Holly Pond added a few more points at the free throw line to pull away with a 42-29 win over the Lady Warriors.

Mitchell led the way for the Lady Broncos with 12 points in the win. Abbey Jones added 11, Baggett finished with 10 and Stallings posted seven.

Nix led West Point with nine points in the loss, followed by Yovino with nine and Harbison with seven.

Holly Pond will take on the top-seeded Good Hope Lady Raiders in the JV Girls semifinals Thursday at 5 p.m.

Vinemont 54 – Holly Pond 51 (JV Boys)

Vinemont got off to a 6-0 start thanks to baskets from Colton Gillis, Hayden Robinson and Jeremy Harbison. Boston Gibbs scored on the other end to get the Broncos on the board and make it a 6-2 game but two more Gillis buckets allowed Holly Pond to pull ahead 10-4. Fox Westall scored to trim the lead to 10-6 with 30 seconds remaining in the first but Kaden Graham sank a pair of free throws in the final seconds of the period to make it a 12-7 game going into the second.

Both teams had more success on the offensive end in the second quarter. Cheston Wilhite buried a three to stretch Vinemont's lead to 15-7 early in the period and back to back scores by Gillis made it a 19-8 game.

Cade Allbright scored inside to trim the lead to 19-10 but a 10-0 run by the Eagles, capped off by an Isaiah Pair three-pointer, gave the Eagles a 29-10 lead with two minutes to play in the first half. Another Allbright basket followed by a three from Westall cut the lead to 29-15 and after Robinson responded with a three-pointer on the other end, Allbright scored the final six points of the quarter to bring the lead down to 32-21 going into the locker room at the break.

The third quarter was when the momentum began to shift. Gibbs scored inside and knocked down a three to cut the lead to 32-26 early in the period and Jayden Holloway laid one in to make it a 4-point game. Wilhite scored on the other end to build the lead back up to six but Holloway and Gibbs each scored for Holly Pond to trim the lead to 34-32. Gibbs got fouled on the next Broncos possession and he sank both free throws to tie the game at 34 with one minute remaining in the third. Holly Pond took its first lead of the day on a three-pointer from Asher Thrift in the final seconds of the quarter and the Broncos went into the fourth holding onto a 37-34 lead. Holly Pond outscored Vinemont 16-2 in the third quarter.

Holloway scored inside to make it 39-34 and a three-pointer by Westall extended the Holly Pond lead to 42-34 early in the fourth quarter. Gillis scored on the other end to stop the run and trim the lead to 42-36 and on the next Eagles possession, Graham converted an and-one play at the free throw line to make it a 43-39 game midway through the period. Robinson knocked down a jumper to bring the lead down to two and Wilhite netted a pair of free throws to tie the score at 43 with just over three minutes on the clock. Gillis laid one in and Robinson buried a three to put Vinemont up 48-43 with two minutes to play but a basket from Gibbs and a three-pointer by Gibbs on the other end tied things back up at 48. Westall drilled a three with 30 seconds remaining to put Holly Pond back in front 51-50 but the Eagles reclaimed a 52-51 lead with 15 seconds on the clock after a pair of Harbison free throws. Robinson stole the ball for Vinemont on the ensuing possession and Graham was fouled, sending him to the line with five seconds to play. Graham sank both free throws and the Broncos missed their final shot attempt as time expired, allowing the Eagles to hold on and win it 54-51.

Gillis led Vinemont with 16 points in the win. Graham finished with 14, Robinson posted 10 and Wilhite added seven. Gibbs led the way for Holly Pond with 15 points, followed by Westall with 11 and Allbright with 13.

Vinemont will advance to take on the top-seeded Fairview Aggies Monday at 5 p.m.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Fairview's Davi Stidham racked up 23 points in the Lady Aggies' 41-38 win over Cold Springs Saturday night.

Fairview 41 – Cold Springs 38 (JV Girls)

The Lady Aggies led 3-0 early in the first after a steal and score by Peyton Defoor and a free throw from Aynslie Holm. Hollyn Bruer hit a pair of free throws for Cold Springs on the other end to make it 3-2 but those were the only points the Lady Eagles could get on the board in the opening period. However, Davi Stidham was just getting started. She scored the next eight points of the game for Fairview to extend the lead to 11-2 and Stephanie Acklin added a pair of free throws in the final moments of the first to give the Lady Aggies a 13-2 lead going into the second.

Another Stidham basket put Fairview in front 15-2 at the start of the second quarter but Dixie Light drained a three on the other end to stop the run and make it a 15-5 game. Defoore knocked down a jumper and Stidham sank a pair of free throws to stretch the lead to 19-5 and after Bruer and Holm exchanged baskets, Stidham drained a three to give the Lady Aggies a 24-8 lead later in the second.

Paizley Whitlow and Light each knocked down three-pointers to trim the lead to 24-14 with two minutes remaining in the first half and Baylee Perdue laid one in to make it a 24-16 game. Jaila Eckleberry scored inside, and Holm split a pair of free throws to finish the half strong for Fairview and the Lady Aggies went into the locker room leading Cold Springs 27-16 at the break.

The Lady Eagles came out hot to start the third quarter. Five straight points from Whitlow and a basket by Bruer brought the lead down to 27-23 early in the period. Eckleberry and Acklin each scored to extend the Fairview lead to 31-23 and Stidham drilled another shot from three-point range to make it a 34-23 game going into the fourth quarter.

Whitlow nailed back to back three-pointers to cut the lead down to 34-29 with five minutes to play and Maci Huffstutler turned a steal into an easy basket to make it a 34-31 game. Whitlow split a pair of free throws to bring the lead down to two but Stidham responded with a three on the other end to put the Lady Aggies back ahead 37-32. Another Whitlow bucket trimmed the lead to 39-36 later in the fourth and Perdue laid one in to make it a 39-38 game with one minute remaining in regulation. Defoor went to the line with 25 seconds on the clock and hit a pair of free throws to put Fairview up 41-38 and after some missed free throws from the Lady Aggies, Cold Springs got one more shot to tie the game in the final seconds. However, the Lady Eagles' final shot bounced off the back rim as time expired and Fairview held on to win it 41-38 and advance.

Stidham led the way for the Lady Aggies with 23 points in the win, followed by Defoor with six. Whitlow posted 15 points for Cold Springs in the loss and Bruer, Perdue and Light each finished with six.

Fairview will advance to play the winner of Good Hope and Holly Pond in next Saturday's JV Girls Championship Game at 2:30 p.m.

Good Hope 49 – Hanceville 46 (JV Boys)

A three-pointer by Owen Armstrong gave the Raiders an early, 3-0 start over the Bulldogs and Good Hope maintained a 7-4 lead midway through the opening period. Ayden Black converted an and-one play to make it a 10-4 game and a basket from Dalton Patrick gave the Raiders a 12-5 lead at one point but a three from Hunter Black and a bucket by Drake Bentley cut the lead to 12-10 going into the second quarter.

Another three-pointer by Black gave Hanceville a 13-12 lead at the start of the second and Peyton Twilley laid one in to make it 15-12. Black's third three-pointer of the half stretched the lead to 18-12 but Callahan Lindsey responded for Good Hope on the other end. Lindsey scored the next nine points of the game to retake a 21-18 lead for the Raiders but Black's fourth three stopped the run and tied things up at 21 with two minutes remaining in the second. Hank Hudson scored to put Good Hope in front 23-21 but Bentley got one more shot to fall for Hanceville at the buzzer to keep the score knotted at 23 going into halftime.

The game stayed tied at 25 early in the third until another basket by Lindsey and a pair of free throws from Armstrong put the Raiders ahead 29-25. A three-pointer from Armstrong made it a 32-25 game but Twilley split a pair of free throws and Bentley buried back to back three-pointers to cut the lead to 34-32 going into the final frame.

Much of the fourth quarter was spent at the free throw line. Twilley split a pair from the line to trim the lead to 39-38 with four minutes to play and he laid one in later in the fourth to give the Bulldogs a 42-40 lead. Lindsey scored on the other end to tie things up at 42 with two minutes remaining but free throws by Bentley and Twilley allowed Hanceville to move back in front 45-42 with just over a minute to play. However, Tyler Byrd answered with a massive three-pointer on the other end to tie the score at 45 and on the inbound pass, Lindsey stole the ball and laid it in to give Good Hope a 47-45 lead with 48 seconds on the clock. Twilley sank a free throw on the other end to make it a 1-point game and they Bulldogs got a stop on the ensuing Raider possession, but Hudson took a steal the other way for an easy basket to put Good Hope on top 49-46 with seven seconds remaining. Hanceville's final shot attempt was no good and the Raiders held on to win it over the Bulldogs 49-46.

Lindsey led Good Hope with 21 points in the win, followed by Armstrong with eight and Byrd and Hudson with six. Bentley led Hanceville with 13 points in the loss.

Good Hope will advance to take on West Point in the JV Boys semifinals Tuesday at 5 p.m.

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Cullman's Anna Haynes named to Kennesaw State's Dean's List

Paul Floeckher
Contributor

KENNESAW, Ga. — Anna Haynes of Cullman has been named to Kennesaw State University's fall 2022 Dean's List in recognition of academic achievement. Majoring in Digital Animation, Haynes is among more than 7,600 students named to the fall 2022 Dean's List. To qualify, students must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher and complete a minimum of nine credit hours.

A leader in innovative teaching and learning, Kennesaw State University offers undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees to its more than 43,000 students. Kennesaw State is a member of the University System of Georgia with 11 academic colleges. The university's vibrant campus culture, diverse population, strong global ties and entrepreneurial spirit draw students from throughout the country and the world. Kennesaw State is a Carnegie-designated doctoral research institution (R2), placing it among an elite group of only 7 percent of U.S. colleges and universities with an R1 or R2 status. For more information, visit kennesaw.edu.

8 local students earn degrees from Jacksonville State University

Buffy Lockette
Contributor

JACKSONVILLE, Ala. — Nearly 600 students were awarded degrees as part of Jacksonville State University's fall 2022 commencement on Dec. 16, including the following:

- Ronni Bush of Cullman
- Bennett Fulenwider of Vinemont
- Zachary Glenn of Hanceville
- Grayson Hale of Cullman
- Nathan Hoffmaster of Arab
- Mackenzie Ledbetter of Hanceville
- Priya Ragha of Arab
- Kacie Swann of Logan

About Jacksonville State University: Founded in 1883 as a state teachers college, Jacksonville State University has grown from humble beginnings into the Alabama regional university with the highest percentage of accredited programs. Located in the Appalachian foothills midway between Birmingham and Atlanta, JSU offers more than 150 courses of study, including over 40 online programs, at the undergraduate and graduate level. To learn more, visit www.jsu.edu, call 1-800-231-JAX1 or e-mail jaxfacts@jsu.edu.

2 local students named to Harding University's Dean's List

Katie Clement
Contributor

SEARCY, Ark. — The following students are among more than 1,200 Harding University students included on the Dean's List for grades achieved during the fall 2022 semester.

- Addie Echols, a freshman, studying public relations, of Cullman
- Gracie Hamlett, a senior, studying elementary education, of Falkville

Harding University is a private Christian university located in Searcy, Arkansas. Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, it is the largest private university in the state. Harding's student body is made up of students representing 49 states and 55 nations and territories.

The University offers more than 100 undergraduate majors, graduate and professional degrees at the master's, specialist and doctoral level as well as numerous international study offerings including locations in Australia, Latin America, England, France, Greece, Italy and Zambia. For more information, visit harding.edu.

2023 Bownes Memorial For Kids' Sake Variety Show coming Feb. 5

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Students from the Cullman community are preparing to showcase their talents to benefit nursery and pediatric care at Cullman Regional on Sunday, Feb. 5 at 4, p.m. in the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre on the campus of Wallace State Community College.

The 2023 Bownes Memorial For Kids' Sake program will celebrate the variety of talent among local youth. The variety show will feature musical and theatrical performances from more than 80 children.

The event was started in 1993 by the late Dr. Eugene Bownes, one of Cullman's most beloved pediatricians. It allows the Foundation to purchase special items for the hospital to help care for infant and pediatric patients. Proceeds from the event have purchased a variety of patient-care items over the years.

Engaging students in the show allows them to be exposed to a philanthropic event at an early age.

Through their participation they will give back to help advance health care services.

The participants make donations at the time of their auditions, sell tickets and sell sponsorships for the show.

The 2023 Bownes Memorial For Kids' Sake Variety Show promises to deliver a wide range of talents from solo and ensemble dance performances to vocal and instrumental performances. Tickets can be purchased in the Foundation office for $10 in advance and $15 the day of the program.

"We are excited to once again host the variety show giving students the opportunity to showcase their talents," said Cullman Regional Foundation Executive Director Maria Stanford.

"We encourage the community to take part and show your support for this cause benefiting the nursery and pediatric care at Cullman Regional."

To sponsor or purchase tickets for the show, contact the Cullman Regional Foundation at 256-737-2565 or crmcfoundation@cullmanregional.com.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

The youngest solo performer at the 2019 Bownes Memorial For Kids' Sake Variety Show was 5-year-old Alexa Park, who performed her ballet to "Baby Beluga."

Wallace State hosting workshop for active military, veterans and dependents

Gail Crutchfield
Wallace State

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College is proud to partner with the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) and the Alabama Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D) to provide a workshop for Alabama military, veterans and their families so they can learn about opportunities available to them at the college.

Sponsored by RC & D, the ACCS Military and Veterans College and Career Workshop will be held on Thursday, Feb. 2, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., in the James C. Bailey Center. Lunch will be provided, so attendees are asked to register in advance at www.wallacestate.edu/militarycareerworkshop.

The workshops will engage military active-duty, guardsmen, reservists, retirees, veterans and their dependents on the local services and programs available to them at Wallace State. Attendees will get the chance to learn about academic, STEM, health science and technology programs at Wallace State.

They will be able to meet with financial aid staff to learn about using their veteran benefits, learn about student resources, apprenticeships, career services, mental health support, credentials and more.

Those attending the event will be entered to win up to $2,000 in scholarships provided by WSCC and the ACCS.

During a press conference at the State House earlier this month, Alabama RC&D Executive Director Katie Conner said the workshops will give veterans across Alabama access to valuable resources available in a convenient location.

"The Alabama Community College System's proposal to host workshops to help our veterans gives RC&D councils in every region of the state the opportunity to deliver essential information regarding education and employment opportunities for those who have done so much for our country," Conner said.

Veterans attend Alabama's community colleges for academic or workforce training.

"The veterans' workshops and luncheons throughout the state are bound to welcome veterans who want to learn what services are available to them within their local communities," Commissioner Kent Davis of the Alabama Department of Veteran Affairs said.

"I applaud Alabama RC&D and the Alabama Community College System for building a program that serves those who have served and are currently serving."

"The resources available to Alabama's military community are valuable benefits of which our service members, our veterans, and our families should be aware," said Maj. Gen. Sheryl E. Gordon, adjutant general of the Alabama National Guard.

"There are infinite opportunities for our Alabama service members to reach their personal and professional goals and I am excited to see so many of these programs brought to light.

"We appreciate the efforts of the Alabama Community College System and Alabama Association of RC&D Councils to bring these opportunities to the forefront."

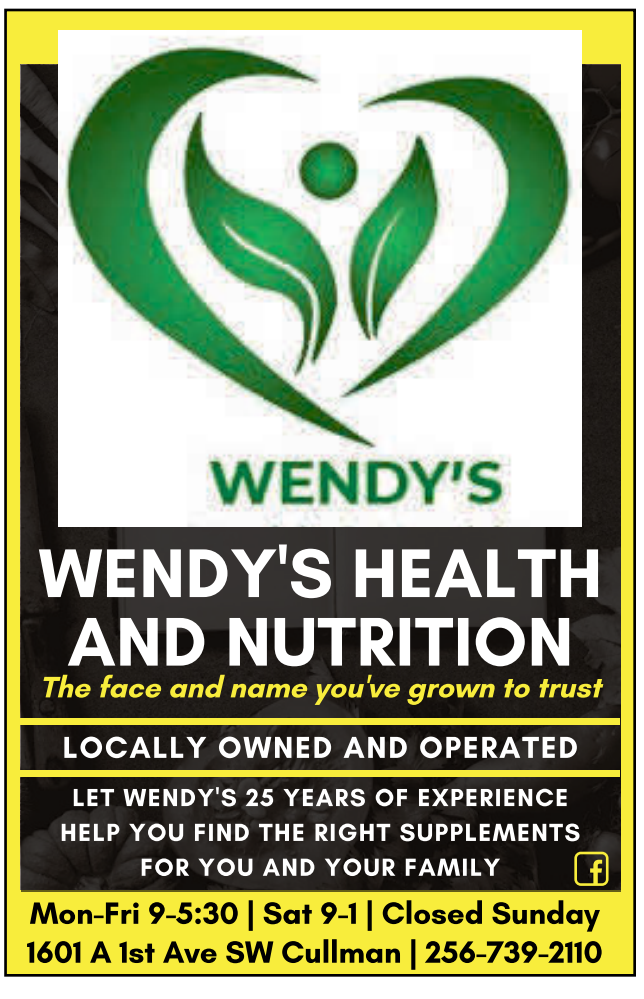
Jimmy H. Baker, chancellor of the Alabama Community College System, said the veterans' workshops are among many efforts by the System to collaborate with associations who are already working successfully to strengthen communities.

"Public community colleges were created many years ago to provide veterans with an opportunity to gain training closer to their homes. We are approaching 60 years as the Alabama Community College System, and we recognize that our greatest impact comes when we work alongside entities that are committed to serving the residents, businesses and industries of our state," Baker said.

"The partnership with Alabama RC & D confirms that together, we can make available the colleges' resources so that we can continue to serve those who have served our country."

Wallace State has repeatedly been designated as a Military Friendly college and provides a Veterans Corner for students to meet with each other, study and unwind. The Veterans Corner is located on the 6th floor of the Wallace State Library.

For more information about Wallace State, visit www.wallacestate.edu or call 256-352-8000.





Marshall announces victory over 'Biden's unconstitutional ban on state tax cuts'

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall on Monday announced that the U.S Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit affirmed the State's victory over the U.S. Department of Treasury in a dispute over a key provision of the American Rescue Plan Act Marshall says would have punished states for reducing taxes.

"This federal tax mandate was an unprecedented and unconstitutional assault by the federal government on state sovereignty and an attempt to commandeer the State of Alabama's sovereign power to tax and spend," said Marshall. "The authority of states to determine their own fiscal policies is a core tenet of our federalist system. I am thrilled to announce that the 11th Circuit agreed."

In its opinion, the 11th Circuit noted that the tax mandate violated the U.S. Constitution by impinging on "the States' sovereign authority to tax by binding them to a deal with ambiguous terms and placing them on the hook for billions of dollars in potential recoupment actions."

"My office has been in court on a weekly basis fighting countless instances of federal government overreach and we have no intention of stopping," added Marshall. "As I have said before, the Attorney General's Office is truly the last line of defense." Alabama, leading this lawsuit in conjunction with West Virginia and Arkansas, was joined by Alaska, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota and Utah.

Marshall commended Solicitor General Edmund LaCour and Assistant Attorney General Reid Harris for their work on the matter and extended his gratitude to Senate General Fund Budget Chair Greg Albritton, R-Atmore for his assistance in the case.



PB WIL BK 114 PG 364 - 01/20/2023 03:09 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO.: PC 2022-389

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DOROTHY JEAN GURGANUS,
DECEASED

NOTICE OF HEARING OF PETITION FOR PROBATE OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF DOROTHY JEAN GURGANUS

TO: GEORGIANA MCDUFF-LEIGH, LISA ANN BLANKENSHIP, ANTHONY ALLEN GARNER, JR., THE HEIRS AND NEXT-OF-KIN OF DOROTHY JEAN GURGANUS

The Petition of Myra Maria Christina Martin, to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Dorothy Jean Gurganus, Deceased, has been set for hearing on the **22nd day of March, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.**

Georgiana McDuff-Leigh, Lisa Ann Blankenship and Anthony Allen Garner, Jr., are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Done this the 20th day of January, 2023.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune:

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

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for Petitioner
PO Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35055

PB WIL BK 114 PG 358 - 01/20/2023 02:56 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

In Re the Estate of)
Samuel W. McAnnally,) Case No. PC2023-019
Deceased)

Notice to Creditors

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Phillip M. McAnnally as Personal Representative of the Estate of Samuel W. McAnnally, deceased, on the 20th day of January, 20 23, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate,

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

Phillip M. McAnnally
Personal Representative
Phillip M. McAnnally

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
Judge of Probate, Tammy Brown
Cullman County, Alabama

G. Edward Coey
Attorney for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 834
Hanceville, Al 35077
256-352-2090

PB MIN BK 213 PG 239 - 01/13/2023 03:17 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
BRAD H. TAYLOR, * CASE NO PC 2023-002
Deceased *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to **TONYA C. PALMER,** as Personal Representative of the Estate of **BRAD H. TAYLOR**, deceased, on the 13th day of January, 2023, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Tonya C. Palmer
Personal Representative

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney/ Personal Representative
1939 Main Avenue, SW
Cullman, Alabama, 35055

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

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

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

PB WIL BK 114 PG 369 - 01/20/2023 04:06 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO.: PC2022-444

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES LEWIS HAMILTON, DECEASED

NOTICE OF HEARING OF PETITION FOR PROBATE OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF JAMES LEWIS HAMILTON

TO: ANTHONY JAMES HAMILTON, BETHANY COFIELD, and COLYN COFIELD, THE HEIRS AND NEXT-OF-KIN OF JAMES LEWIS HAMILTON:

The Petition of Brad Lewis Hamilton to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of James Lewis Hamilton, deceased, has been set for hearing on April 20, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Anthony James Hamilton, Bethany Cofield and Colyn Cofield, are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

TO: PUBLISHER OF *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Done this 20th day of January, 2023 (13)

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith, Esquire
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioner
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
256-734-4721

PB WIL BK 114 PG 348 - 01/20/2023 02:06 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of)
ANNE ANDREWS,) Case No.: PC-2023-027
Deceased.)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased having been granted to CHRISTOPHER J. ANDREWS, also known as C.J. Andrews, on the 20th day of January, 2023, 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.

CHRISTOPHER J. ANDREWS, also known as C.J. Andrews,
Personal Representative of The Estate of Anne Andrews,
Shelbie G. Hankey, Attorney for the Estate

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

PB WIL BK 114 PG 337 - 01/20/2023 12:52 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC2023-026

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF SHERRY ANN HUTCHENS, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Betty Carol Wren on the 20th day of January, 2023, 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.

Betty Carol Wren
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

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA

JOHNNY ALBRIGHT)
PLAINTIFF,)
VS.) CASE NO.: SM- 2022- 900049.00
TINA BRYANT, and)
HEATHER SIMMONS,)
DEFENDANT.)

NOTICE OF FILING LAWSUIT

NOTICE TO the following Defendant:

HEATHER SIMMONS

You are hereby advised that the Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Failure to Pay Rent by Agreement requesting damages.

The aforesaid Defendant, Heather Simmons, must answer said complaint by 3/2/23 or, thereafter a judgment by default may be rendered against the said Defendant in the Cullman County, Alabama District Court Case No. DV-2022- 900049.00

Done this the 6th day of Jan., 2023.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain, Clerk
Circuit Court of Cullman County

Attorney for Plaintiff
Beverly Paschal Poston
200 First Avenue Se
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-739-3970

TO PUBLISHER: Please publish once a week for four (4) SUCCESSIVE WEEKS IN The Cullman Tribune, Beginning, 1/10/23

PB WIL BK 114 PG 45 - 01/06/2023 12:17 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: **CASE NO. PC-2022- 231**
Estate of DELWYN G. BAKER

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters testamentary of said deceased having been granted to Janet Vintson, Personal Representative on the 6th day of January, 2023 by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be forever barred.

Janet Vintson
Personal Representative

Melvin Hasting, HAS016
Attorney for Petitioner
P.O. Box 517
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0517
Phone: 256-736-2230

TO the Publisher of Cullman Tribune
Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Probate Judge

PB WIL BK 114 PG 37 - 01/06/2023 12:04 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF: **CASE NO. PC-2022- 230**
Estate of DEIRL H. BAKER

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters testamentary of said deceased having been granted to Janet Vintson, Personal Representative on the 6th day of January, 2023 by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be forever barred.

Janet Vintson
Personal Representative

Melvin Hasting, HAS016
Attorney for Petitioner
P.O. Box 517
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0517
Phone: 256-736-2230

TO the Publisher of Cullman Tribune
Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Probate Judge

PB MIN BK 213 PG 248 - 01/13/2023 03:54 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
JAMES CLAYTON FISHER, JR., * CASE NO.:PC 2022-450
Deceased *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to **BRANDON C. LITTLE,** as Administrator of the Estate of **JAMES CLAYTON FISHER, JR.**, deceased, on the 13th day of January, 2023, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Brandon C. Little
Administrator

Brandon C. Little
Berry, Berry, Little & Chaney
405 2nd Avenue, SW
Cullman, Alabama, 35055
(256)-734-6330

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 937 - 01/06/2023 01:24 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
PHILIP KEITH DAVIS, DECEASED CASE NO. PC 2022-404

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF PHILIP KEITH DAVIS, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Karla Gail McAllister on the 6th day of January, 2023, by the Honorable 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.

Karla Gail McAllister, Personal Representative (Administrator),
and
Steven C. Smith, Attorney for the Estate

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721
Fax: (256) 734-4774
e-mail: steve@smithandsmithllp.com

OP-ED: Enlightenment leads to action in the fight to end human trafficking

Mark Colson
Contributor

Human trafficking is an ugly and despicable crime affecting millions of people across the world. The Dept. of Homeland Security says human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of men, women and children are trafficked worldwide and across the U.S., including right here in Alabama.

The trucking industry I represent is just one of many partners actively involved in the fight to end human trafficking. With January designated as Human Trafficking Awareness Month, raising awareness, and sharing information on how everyone can get involved to help combat these horrible practices is priority number one.

For years, the trucking industry has prioritized this, and thousands of professional drivers have been trained to be frontline defenders in the fight against human trafficking.

We're well-equipped to provide valuable assistance in the ongoing efforts to eliminate this horrific crime. Truck drivers are on the same roads, parking at the same rest areas, and fueling up at the same truck stops that human traffickers often use to sell their victims.

Recognizing the value and urgency of involving the trucking industry in the fight against this crime, Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) was formed in 2009 to recruit trucking companies across the nation to train their drivers to watch for, and, more importantly, report suspicious activities to law enforcement.

TAT offers extensive training and many highly effective and valuable tools to help professional truck drivers identify victims and come to their aid.

Since its inception, TAT has trained and registered more than 1.5 million professional truck drivers. In Alabama, there are 31,687 TAT-trained professionals.

In 2019, TAT and the Alabama Trucking Association partnered with Governor Ivey and a bi-partisan group of legislators to pass legislation that includes TAT training as part of the Commercial Driver's License curriculum for all new Alabama CDL holders.

Trained drivers across the country are now calling the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) to report what they see. Polaris Project, which runs the hotline, has reported that calls from truck drivers rose significantly once Truckers Against Trafficking began. The NHTH statistics show that in the last five years, over 41% of the cases that have been reported by truck drivers have involved victims who are minors. In Alabama alone since 2007, 679 human trafficking cases and 1,571 victims were identified through the NHTH.

Alabama Human Trafficking stats: www.humantraffickinghotline.org/en/statistics/alabama

In one recent case, a professional truck driver reported suspicious activity at a rest stop that resulted in the recovery of seven minors. Additionally, 31 offenders were arrested, and a 13-state child sex trafficking ring was broken.

Alabama's trucking industry is proud to be a strong and reliable partner for Truckers Against Trafficking and its mission.

We have donated time, money and resources that have made an impact. But now is not the time to rest on our laurels; there is always more work.

Thanks to the work of countless advocates, there now exists the Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force established by the legislature, and the Anti-Human Trafficking Alliance, established by Attorney General Steve Marshall.

Many are on the front line combating human trafficking, including law enforcement professionals and victims' advocates, such as social workers, educators, the Family Sunshine Center, The Samaritan Women Institute for Shelter Care and the WellHouse, to name a few. They all deserve our thanks and active support.

On Jan. 26-27 in Montgomery, many of these stakeholders will convene at the Alabama Human Trafficking Summit. These efforts showcase the commitment to ending this terrible crime.

If you ever witness any suspicious activity potentially related to human trafficking, call the human trafficking hotline at 888-373-7888. And if you are interested in learning more about TAT training for you and your organization, please contact Truckers Against Trafficking at truckersagainsttrafficking.org.

Every motorist (every citizen, for that matter) should take the training and learn how to identify the signs of human trafficking and, more importantly, have the tools to report something that doesn't look right.

Once we have been enlightened about this crisis, ignorance is no longer an option. Action or inaction are the only two remaining options and thank God truckers are people of action!

Mark Colson is the president and CEO of the Alabama Trucking Association. He can be reached at mcolson@alabamatrucking.org.

Obituary Announcements: Jan 21 - 23

Linda Sue Underwood, 73
Linda Sue Underwood, age 73, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023, at Cullman Regional. She was born, Sept. 11, 1949, to Burton Leon Arnold and Suzanne F Arnold. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband; husband Stewart Underwood and brother, Burton "Buddy" Arnold. Survivors include her sisters, Pamela Arnold and Jane Solmon; brothers, David Arnold and James Arnold; daughters, Barbara Rammage, Suzanne Gilstrap, Judy Jolley and Michelle Jolley; and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, family and friends. There are no services that this time for Mrs. Underwood.

James William Floyd, 29
Funeral service for James William Floyd, age 29, of Falkville, will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023, at Macedonia Baptist Church with Bro. Chuck Johnston officiating; burial at Macedonia Baptist Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 23, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Floyd passed away Friday, Jan. 20, 2023. He was born, July 20, 1993. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, James V and Mary E Martin. Survivors include his parents, Sandra and John Schafer; brothers, Chris Miller, Jerred (Crystal) Schafer and Erik (Katlin) Schafer; sister, Katti (Patrick) Mann, and a host of other family and friends.

Robert Elmer (Bob) Waters, 91
Robert Elmer (Bob) Waters, age 91, passed away Jan. 21, 2023. He was born March 9, 1931, to John and Laura Livingston Waters. Bob grew up in a large loving family with his nine siblings in Hanceville, Alabama, and graduated from Hanceville High School in 1950. After high school, Bob joined the Air Force where he met his wife, Betty, who was an Air Force flight nurse. He proudly served his country for 21 years. His time of service included the Korean and Vietnam War Era. Upon his retirement from the Air Force, Bob founded and became the paramedic director of the Cullman Emergency Medical Service where he worked for 17 years. He later worked for Hanceville Funeral Home as a licensed funeral director. Bob was an active member of Hanceville First Baptist Church for many years where he served as a deacon and Sunday School teacher. He was preceded in death by; wife of 61 years, Betty Evans Waters; his parents; brothers, Verlon, Ervin and Dwight Waters; sisters, Effie Edwards, Ethel Graves, Evelyn Ratliff and Louise Gonstad. He is survived by a sister, Jennie Passarella; a brother, Leon (Kathryn) Waters; daughter, Crystal (Dwayne) Hood; grandchildren, Rob, John and Kate Hood; and a host of very special nieces and nephews. Jimmy Sawyer was a special friend to Bob. He will officiate the graveside service at Hopewell Cemetery on Monday, Jan. 23 at 11 a.m. The family would like to thank Morningside of Cullman for their exceptional and loving care during his time there.

Syble Fay Osmer, 79
Syble Fay Osmer, age 79, of Vinemont, passed away Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023, at her residence. She was born Friday, July 23, 1943, to William and Jewel Baldwin. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Charlie Osmer; brothers, Richard Baldwin and Jo Dale Baldwin; sisters, Naomi Baldwin, Barbara Hulsey, Geneva Black and Lillian Baldwin. Survivors include her son, William (Sarah) Osmer; daughters, Melinda Rice, Anita (Phillip) Davenport and Loretta (Michael) Schafer; grandchildren, Syble Nemetz, Crystal (David) Gibbs, Heather Duvall, Robert (Ashley) Webb, Kevin Schafer, Magen Schafer and Elizabeth Osmer; great grandchildren, Allyson Duvall, Embrey Duvall, Kynsley Ferrara and Nolan Ferrara; brothers, Percy Baldwin and David (Belen) Baldwin and a host of family and friends. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Mary Lou Williams, age 83, of Arley
Mary Lou Williams, age 83, of Arley, passed away Monday, Jan. 16, 2023, at Hendrix Health and Rehabilitation. She was born Aug. 16, 1939, in Oktibbeha, Mississippi. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother, and doted on her grandchildren. She loved to sing and always sang alto in her church choir and was a member of her church's hand bell choir. She was a wedding coordinator and assisted with many weddings. She loved to camp and travel. She was a great basketball player in her younger years and enjoyed sports of all kinds. She also enjoyed cross stitch, ceramics and painting. The family will hold a memorial service Tuesday, Jan 24, 2023, at noon at Meek Baptist Church in Arley, Alabama. Mary is survived by her husband of 63 years, Adrian Williams; daughter, Deborah (Billy) Graves; grandchildren, Marcus Brister (Lexi) Alexander, and William Ellington (Sarah) Graves; and two great grandchildren, Spencer and Audrey Alexander. She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Lula Stafford; five sisters and two brothers.

Richard Donald Elliott, 84
Richard Donald Elliott, age 84, of Double Springs, passed away Jan. 22, 2023, at North Alabama Medical Center in Florence. He was born Feb. 16, 1938, in Jasper, Alabama to Henry Leonas Elliott and Vonnie Elizabeth Jackson Elliott. He was married to his beloved wife Mamie Sue for 55 years. He loved his family, his country and Alabama football. Visitation will be held Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Double Springs. Funeral services will be held Thursday, January 26, 2023, at the church with Bro. Phillip Twilley officiating. Interment will follow in Double Springs Memorial Gardens. Richard is survived by his wife, Mamie Sue Parrish Elliott; son, Richard D. Elliott II and wife Vickie; daughter, Pamela Elliott Zeedar and husband JJ; grandson, Justin Patton and wife Emily; granddaughters, Meghan Fazekas and husband Michael, Delaney Gist and husband Noah and Lilly Zeedar; great grandchildren, Hudson Carroll Patton, Lilly Adams, Luke Milligan and Raiden Patton; and a host of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Henry Leonas Elliott; mother, Vonnie Stewart; and siblings, Willa Lee, Gus, Maxine, Marcell, Roberta, Mary, Martha and Fred.

Jacquelyn Greene, 84
It is with very mixed emotions that my sister and I announce the passing of our beloved mother, Jackie Greene. She left us Jan. 21, 2023, about 10 a.m., and she will be sorely missed, but we are comforted knowing her suffering is over. Jacquelyn Peterson was born July 21, 1938, in Memphis. She had a difficult childhood and early adulthood, but persevered. She eventually found her way to Hot Springs, Arkansas, where she met the love of her life, our Dad Sidney. They were married about a year later on Oct. 27, 1962. If Dad had lived another two months, they would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last year. Her main goal in life was to be a good mother and wife, and she was a great success on both counts. She was loved by just about anyone she met. She was a very genuine, caring and fun woman. And, she has been a great example of how to live with a disability, greeting her limitations with a sense of grace, humility and humor. Please take a moment soon and raise a glass of wine (preferably merlot) to remember and celebrate the life of a wonderful and delightful person. In lieu of flowers, she asked that you make a donation to the FSHD Society, which is an organization that helps fund research to develop treatments for the type of muscular dystrophy that has so dramatically affected our family.

Jimmie Ray Hafer, 70
Funeral service for Jimmie Ray Hafer, age 70, of Cullman, will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 27, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home; interment in Cullman Heritage Cemetery. Visitation will be from 9 a.m. until 1 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 27, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Hafer passed away Monday, Jan. 23, 2023, at Cullman Regional. He was born July 12, 1952, to Burton H. and Hazel Hafer. He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Diane Hafer; daughters, Jamie (Michael) Butts and Marie (Jim) Hawkins; grandchildren, Kaynan Butts, Chasten Hawkins and Whitney Hawkins; brothers, Gerald Hafer and Teddy Hafer; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

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Thank you, Fairview Elementary School!



PHOTO AND TEXT COURTESY WAID HARBISON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED WAY OF CULLMAN COUNTY

We were so excited to receive a nearly $700 donation to the United Way (Friday) from Fairview Elementary School students and Principal Marty Hardman. The students came up with a Hat Day event to give back to their community, and we appreciate our students at Fairview Elementary for giving back to help those in need! This (is) one of the largest donations the United Way of Cullman County has ever received from a school fundraiser, so we are extremely grateful for Principal Marty Hardman and his students at Fairview Elementary School for making this happen!

Plunged (from Front)

Amy Leonard
amy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The outdoor swimming pool at Cullman's WildWater was circled by over 100 people donned in swimwear and ready to take the leap despite the temperature being in the 40s and the calendar saying January. The moods ranged from excitement to anxiety to dread as the jumpers readied for Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism's annual Polar Bear Plunge on Saturday, Jan. 21.

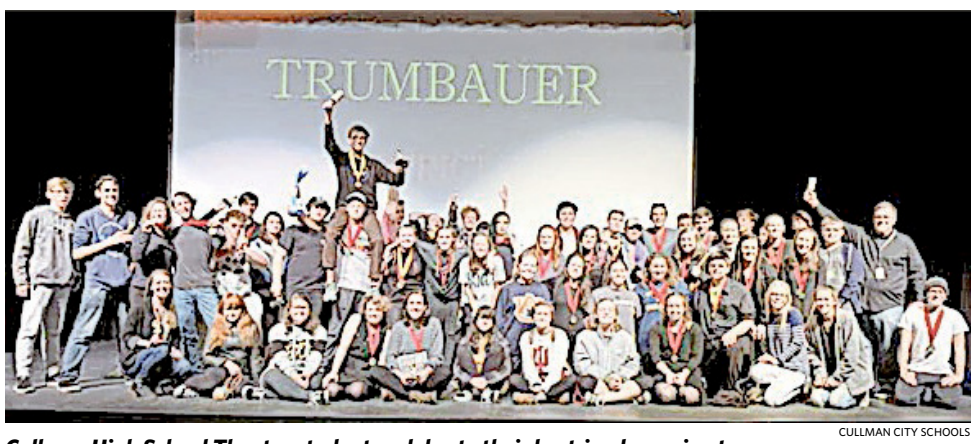
Some had second thoughts at the last minute and opted to watch as the big splash commenced, while on the other end of the spectrum, some chose to stay in the frigid pool long after the jump.

Regardless of which choice was made, the commonalities were the laughter and smiles among friends and strangers.

In the end, the camaraderie was evident.

Some jumped for the thrill while others jumped for the opportunity to win memberships to the

Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center (CWAC) or WildWater Waterpark. Emily Crocker was the winner of the CWAC family membership, and Les Jenkins won the WildWater Waterpark family season pass.



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Cullman High School Theatre students celebrate their best-in-show win at the 82nd Annual Walter Trumbauer High School Theatre Festival.

Theatre (from Front)

Amy Leonard
amy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — For the Cullman High School (CHS) Theatre Department, the show must go on. Specifically, the show "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane" must go on to Lexington, Kentucky, March 1-5 to compete in the Southeastern Theatre Conference after winning Best-in-Show at the 82nd Annual Walter Trumbauer High School Theatre Festival at Troy University in December.

At Trumbauer, the CHS performers faced competition from throughout the state including Anniston, Hoover, Auburn and Mountain Brook. Despite going against often larger schools with bigger budgets, our local thespians were victorious with Domenico Brunetti, Ava Fales, Bailee Henderson, Jameson Inscho, Holli Rowan and Graham Waldrop named All-Star Cast.

"We had the most of all of the schools in the state win All-Star Cast," Director Wayne Cook shared. "I'm very proud of them."

Speaking of the Southeastern Theatre Conference, Cook said, "In the state of theatre, there's not a better award. This is the top for us. We're very thankful!"

Cook continued, "We are fundraising for our trip. It takes a lot of money to take 45 students to Lexington, Kentucky, for five days. We're trying to find people to give sponsorships to our program. For sponsorships of $100 or more, the sponsor would be put on our T-shirts.

"We're also selling tickets to our sendoff show. On Feb. 24 we're going to do our show one more time and we're giving away $1,000 to a person who has bought a ticket. It's one last opportunity to see the show locally!"

For more information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Cook at wcook@cullmancats.net or 256-739-3923.





Leadership (from Front)

Amy Leonard
amy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — In their monthly tour of Cullman County, members of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership 2023 class were introduced to local agencies and locations that add to the community's quality of life.

Agile Leadership Coach Melanie Maddox of M2C2 Solutions kicked off the day and led the class in examining its professional and personal motivators. The lively Cullman County Health Department District Administrator Judy Smith educated participants about the many services offered at the local health department, and Jennifer Malone, Cullman Regional marketing director, reviewed recent changes and upgrades to the hospital.

A visit to Align Alabama Health and Wellness gave the leadership class insight into the holistic approach to whole body wellness offered by Dr. Nathan Lewis and his fellow chiropractors and staff. Explaining an approach that addresses five core components of wellness, Lewis said Align Alabama targets not only chiropractic care, but also emphasizes the inclusion of nutrition, exercise, mindset and detoxification to establish and maintain homeostasis, or balance in body and life.

A tour of the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center (CWAC) by Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism (CPRST) Executive Director Nathan Anderson showed the amenities offered by CWAC, including an indoor pool, a variety of classes, basketball court, cycling room, childcare and new exercise equipment.

The tour also included WildWater Waterpark and its expected additions. Noting Cullman's reputation as a city known for festivals and celebrations, Anderson provided the attendance at these 2022 events:

- Rock the South - 65,000
- Strawberry Festival - 24,000
- Oktoberfest - 20,000
- Bloomin' Festival - 20,000
- Christmas Tree Lighting - 10,000
- Christkindlmarkt - 10,000
- 2nd Fridays - 2,000 (attendance average for the three events)

On the last leg of its journey, the class visited the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville, a spiritual retreat and home to Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, where the Poor Clares Nuns of Perpetual Adoration live.

Situated on 400 acres of southern Cullman County farmland, the Shrine was built in 1999 based on the vision of EWTN founder Mother Angelica. The Franciscan order was originally founded in 1209 by the Italian Saint Francis of Assisi and the architecture of the region is reflected in the construction of the Shrine.

The United Way of Cullman County was represented by Community Outreach and Impact Manager MaCayla Murphy, who introduced several of the agencies that receive support from the United Way and the community's contributors. Among the organizations in attendance were Victim Services of Cullman County, the North Alabama Agriplex and the Cullman County Commission on Aging.

The Chamber of Commerce describes the leadership class as "a nine-month program designed to identify, prepare and build upon existing leadership resources throughout the community. Participants are given valuable opportunities to meet with leaders in the community to share thoughts and concerns on a variety of issues facing Cullman County."