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The Cullman Tribune

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SAMMIE JOHNS

– SPORTS –

‘Lift others up’: Good Hope’s Sammie Johns recaps 1st year on varsity
» PAGE 4

Town of Colony in disagreement about historical cemetery marker

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

COLONY, Ala. — Colony’s only cemetery, a resting place of rich history in our county, was placed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register on April 9, 2021, due to research gathered by Colony Councilwoman Ethel Alexander.

At the time it was granted a position in the Register - a prestigious listing of historic cemeteries in the state of Alabama - the cemetery was only the sixth cemetery registered in Cullman County, out of 910 cemeteries statewide.

Dedicated Tribune readers will recall an article from July 2021 that reported how Alexander asked for funds to place a historical marker on the grounds of the cemetery, colloquially known as Colony Community Cemetery. (See www.cullmantribune.com/2021/07/03/ » PAGE 2



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The grave of Nancy Boyd is seen in the historical portion of the Colony Cemetery. Boyd deeded the land for the cemetery to Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church. »

– ARCHERY –

East Elementary, Vinemont High bring home state titles





VINEMONT HIGH SCHOOL, EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Top: Vinemont High School brought home the NASP Alabama State Championship this weekend with a score of 3,420. Bottom: East Elementary School brought home the NASP Alabama State Championship this weekend with a score of 3,152.

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — This year’s NASP Alabama State Championship was hosted in Montgomery over the weekend and several local teams returned home with some hardware. Vinemont High School (3,420) and East Elementary School (3,152) each collected wins, Vinemont Elementary School (3,130) and Cullman Middle School (3,313) each finished as runner ups in their respective divisions and Vinemont Middle School (3,275) brought home a third-place finish. » PAGE 6

PREP TRACK & FIELD

Good Hope, Cold Springs collect county championships

» PAGE 4

‘They deserve a chance’ Pet of the Week feature leads to 90% adoption rate

» PAGE 6

CMS teacher in Alabama ‘Sweet 16’ for Teacher of the Year

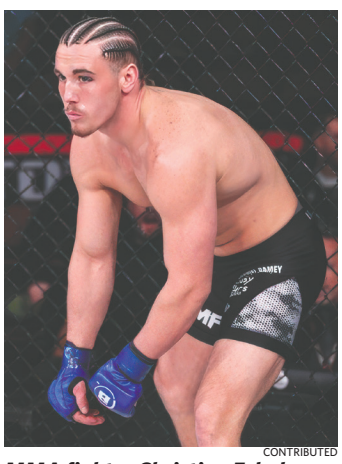


CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Katie McGee, a seventh-grade English teacher at Cullman Middle School, has been named a Sweet 16 finalist for State of Alabama Teacher of the Year.

» PAGE 3

Christian Echols looking to make name on MMA scene



CONTRIBUTED

MMA fighter Christian Echols before the Bellator fight in December 2022

» PAGE 8

100-plus players compete at Links for Literacy Golf Tournament

» PAGE 6

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CRIME

Arrests and Incidents reported April 10

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported April 10, 2023. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

April 8

- domestic violence; CR 62
- violation of protection order; CR 1030
- theft of property; CR 1725
- possession of marijuana; CR 1445
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Firestation Rd.
- harassment; CR 1258
- theft of property; CR 1435
- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; US Hwy. 31
- theft of property; CR 728

April 7

- theft of property; Hwy. 91
- domestic violence; CR 223
- theft of property; CR 216
- possession of controlled substance; possession of marijuana; sell/distribute drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 278 W
- domestic violence; CR 220
- criminal mischief; Hwy. 278 W
- domestic violence; CR 1478
- possession of marijuana; Day Gap Rd.
- theft of property; CR 282
- burglary; criminal mischief; US Hwy. 31

April 8

- burglary; CR 1623
- domestic violence; Hwy. 69 S
- assault; Lindsey Rd.
- possession of marijuana; Hwy. 69 S
- domestic violence; CR 1212
- domestic violence; reckless endangerment; CR 541
- assault; CR 1107
- assault; CR 1118
- criminal mischief; CR 1105

April 9

- domestic violence; CR 1162
- theft of property; CR 1545
- harassment; CR 1118
- theft of property; CR 1355
- theft of property; CR 813
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69 N
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1629

ARRESTS

April 7 – 9

Baker, Frank R.; 48
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Barnett, Sumer L.; 25
- FTA- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Brown, Patricia L.; 44
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Buckley, Moriah D.; 42
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Burns, Shawn C.; 42
- assault-domestic-reckless endangerment

Clark, Barry A.; 41
- public intoxication
- unauthorized use of auto-no force

Daneau, Phillip Alan M.; 34
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Doss, Rita T.; 66
- FTA- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs

Dover, Janissa C.; 30
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Frazer, Katrina N.; 40
- FTA- negotiating worthless instrument

Gerst, Levi J.; 41
- FTA- cruelty to dog/cat (2 counts)
- FTA- driving while license suspended
- FTA- switched tag

Jones, Melanie A.; 46
- FTA- improper lane usage

Labrecque, Michelle L.; 52
- FTA- promote prison contraband (drugs)

Looney, Blake S.; 22
- FTA- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle (no theft)

Luker, Joshua J.; 29
- Violation of Release Order- DUI (alcohol)

Minter, Brandon D.; 42
- FTA- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Overton, Dustin D.; 26
- FTA- assault-domestic-simple assault-family
- FTA- possession of marijuana
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree (2 counts)
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- FTA- sell/distribution of dangerous drugs
- attempting to elude police officer
- FTA- attempting to elude police officer (2 counts)
- FTA- criminal trespass
- FTA- driving while license suspended
- FTA- leaving scene of accident
- FTA- violation of domestic violence protection order

Pace, Amber N.; 37
- FTA- operating vehicle without insurance

Park, Orion A.; 24
- FTA- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft $1,500 - $2,500

Rhodes, Brittney L.; 34
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- possession of dangerous drugs

Smith, Jonathan K.; 49
- sell/distribute methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree (2 counts)
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- FTA- sell/distribution of dangerous drugs
- attempting to elude police officer
- FTA- attempting to elude police officer (2 counts)
- FTA- criminal trespass
- FTA- driving while license suspended
- FTA- leaving scene of accident
- FTA- violation of domestic violence protection order

Speegle, Ryan A.; 37
- FTA- assault-harassment (harassment/intimidation)

Thomas, Belinda S.; 49
- FTA- drug trafficking
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense (3 counts)
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- follow to close
- FTA- possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

Yarbrough, Jake O.; 20
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

April 7
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Marvin's; Hwy. 157
- identity theft; person
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Bower Dr. SE
- unauthorized use of vehicle; person
- harassment; person; 10th St. SE
- criminal trespass; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW

April 8
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St.; SW; general merchandise; $23

April 9
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Ave. C SE
- theft of property-4th degree; 2nd Ave. SW; miscellaneous

ARRESTS

April 7 – 9

Hodge, Michael K.; 33
- possession/receiving controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Whatley, Kristen P.; 40
- theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)

Smith, Buffy D.; 47
- FTA- theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)
- FTA- criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA- insurance violation

Odom, Frankie R.; 51
- public intoxication

Dodd, Richard D.; 46
- DUI

Beasley, Anthony R.; 51
- criminal trespass
- theft of property-4th degree

Johnson, Dan L.; 46
- FTA- insurance violation

Lopez, Diane F.; 37
- FTA- insurance violation (2 counts)
- FTA- expired tag

Looney, Tina A.; 56
- theft of property-4th degree

Looney, Blake S.; 22
- theft of property-4th degree

Gilland, Katee C.; 21
- FTA- possession f drug paraphernalia
- FTA- DUI (controlled substance)

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Colony (from Front)

colony-citizens-hope-to-place-marker-at-town-cemetery-following-listing-on-alabama-historic-cemetery-registry.)

But according to the Colony Community Cemetery Committee, the cemetery belongs to Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, which was not involved in the process of applying for or receiving a position on the register.

The committee voiced concerns over the marker through a letter written to attorney Lateefah Muhammad, chair of the Black Heritage Council of the Alabama Historical Commission.

Members of the committee stated that the cemetery is owned by Pleasant Grove, and not the Town of Colony itself.

The letter, signed by members of the committee, reads, "There appears to be a good amount of misinformation that has been submitted to your organization.

"We do not want to change its name or take credit for the misrepresentation that has been done. We cannot change history and do not want to misrepresent it."

The letter goes on to say that many of the names listed on the marker as early settlers only moved in the last 60 years, and mentioned that a few surnames were misspelled.

The erection and unveiling of the marker, originally scheduled for Nov. 5, 2022, was then canceled.

At a recent meeting of the Colony Community Cemetery Committee, Alexander, who spearheaded the mission to place the cemetery on the Register, took full responsibility for the misspellings, but maintained that the researched basis of applying in the first place is correct.

"This does not take away the historical significance of the marker," she said.

Alexander voiced her frustrations over the lengthy process and back-and-forth nature of getting the marker erected, and shared that many community members feel frustrated as well.

"No community meeting was ever called to see how the community felt about the marker," she said.

Alexander said funds raised for the marker, approximately $2,400, were raised by community members whom she feels are owed an explanation of why the marker has not been erected.

Bishop Oscar Turner, president of the Colony Community Cemetery Committee, expressed his frustrations at the church not being included in the process.

"We've had two or three meetings on this, and we only meet once a month. We're behind on other things we need to handle because of this," he said.

He expressed that he is not upset about the cemetery being granted a marker, but the way it was gone about, and had the committee been consulted, the mistakes could have been rectified before the marker went to casting.

"Once cast, the marker cannot be edited or corrected.

Turner explained, "We should have been in on making the decisions about it, but she (Alexander) had another group of people involved."

The marker is currently in the fellowship hall of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church. Moving forward, discussions have been held about fundraising for a new, corrected marker to be erected at the historical portion of the cemetery.



LEGALS

PB WIL BK 115 PG 732 - 04/03/2023 09:06 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
WILMA A. BAILEY, * CASE NO. PC 2023 - 101
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE: Letters Testamentary having been granted to Ricky Lee McDonald as Personal Representative of the Estate of WILMA A. BAILEY, deceased, on the 31st day of March, 2023, 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.

Ricky Lee McDonald
Personal Representative

Shay Persall
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
700 Second Avenue SW
Cullman AL 35055
(256) 841-7800

Attorney for Personal Representative

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown, Probate Judge

PB MIN BK 215 PG 183 - 03/24/2023 04:15 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
JEWELL MOORE aka * CASE NO PC 2022-344
JEWEL PARKER MOORE *
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL, PETITION FOR PROBATE WITH WILL ANNEXED AND PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION WITH WILL ANNEXED

TO: MOORE BRIDGES, VERLIE JEFFREY MOORE AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT OF KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES

The Petition of Johnny Wayne Moore, for the Estate of Jewell Moore aka Jewel Parker Moore, Deceased, has been re-set for hearing on the **20th day of April, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.**

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

Done this the 24TH day of March, 2023.

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

Michael R. Burleson
Attorney for Petitioner
200 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

PB MIN BK 215 PG 177 - 03/24/2023 03:23 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The estate of)
)
MICHAEL RICKY OLINGER,) Case No.: PC-2023-084
)
Deceased)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Ricky Lynn Olinger as Administrator of the Estate of Michael Ricky Olinger, deceased, on the 24th day of March, 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.

Ricky Lynn Olinger
Administrator of the Estate of
Michael Ricky Olinger, deceased

TO: The Publisher of *The Cullman Tribune*

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

Beverly Paschal Poston (PAS001)
Attorney for the Estate of
Michael Ricky Olinger, deceased.
200 1st Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
bposton@beverlypaschalposton.com
(256)739-3970 Fax (256)739-3968

Tammy Brown
Probate Judge

PB MIN BK 215 PG 499 - 04/10/2023 12:25 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE	)	**IN THE PROBATE COURT**
	)	
JOHN A. WILLIAMSON,	)	**CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**
	)	
DECEASED.	)	**CASE NO.:** PC2023-113

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that the Petition for Letters of Administration in the Estate of John A. Williamson (the "Estate") having been granted to **DENISE WILLIAMSON KILLEBREW** on the 10th day of April, 2023, by The Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against the Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against the Estate are hereby 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 the same will be barred and payment prohibited.

Denise Williamson Killebrew
Personal Representative

Nathan Gordon
Attorney for Personal Representative
Baker, Donelson, Bearman,
Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC
1901 Sixth Avenue North
Suite 2600
Birmingham, AL 35203

To: The Cullman Tribune
Please publish the above notice once a week for three successive weeks.

The Honorable Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama

4863-9892-9496v1
1031413-000001

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

PUBLIC NOTICE: Cullman City Cemetery
Ground flowers at the City Cemetery need to be removed by April 15 to prepare for Decoration Day on May 14.

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 & 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, April 12 - 7 p.m. Children and youth "RULES of ENGAGEMENT" Bible study classes. Free pizza for children at 6:30 p.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area at 6. Call 256-841-2060 for pickup. We will also be stuffing eggs and all help is appreciated!
• Friday, April 14 - 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 at 6:30 for a potluck meal. Spirit Life Church. Nursery provided.
• Saturday, April 15 - 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank. Healing Seminar by Teresa Pritchard 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
• Sunday, April 16 - 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 at 8, and also join Teresa Pritchard at 9 in the prayer room to pray for our church, nation and for those who need salvation and deliverance.
• Sunday, April 16 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area. Call 256-841-2060 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10 a.m. Adult class. 11 a.m. Praise & Worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd.

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.

Holly Pond Homemakers Club Meeting
Tuesday, April 11, at 1 p.m. at the Holly Pond Event Center. Speaker will be Christy Allred, who will talk about finding your balance. Hostesses will be Sue Morris and Gladys Wisener.

Heartland Quilt Guild Meeting
Thursday, April 13, at 6:30 p.m. at Christ Covenant Church, 1310 St. Joseph Dr., Cullman. All are welcome.

2023 Family Expo
Saturday, April 15, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center. Benefits the Cullman County Child Development Center.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Singing and Revival
Sunday, April 16, at 5 p.m. New Ground from Scottsboro will be featured guests. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278, approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. For more information call 256-796-5986.

Cullman Educator Retirees Association Meeting
Thursday, April 20, at 11 a.m. at Stone Bridge Farms. Our program will be presented by the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center/WildWater, followed by lunch and fellowship for those who wish to stay. Info: mjcjcera@gmail.com

Fairview High School Class of 1963 Meeting/Luncheon
Friday, April 21, at 1 p.m. at the Golden Corral in Cullman. The group will meet in one of the reserved rooms in the back of the restaurant.

39th Annual Bloomin' Festival Arts and Craft Fair
• Saturday, April 22, and Sunday, April 23, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The two-day art festival welcomes 150 artists who exhibit their work to over 20,000 visitors on the picturesque campus of St. Bernard Prep School.
• Recognized throughout the Southeast as a must-visit festival, Bloomin' Fest is a favorite among locals as well. All proceeds benefit the operational support of St. Bernard Preparatory School. Admission is a donation of $10; children 12 and younger get in free. For more information visit www.bloominfestival.com or call 256-739-6682.

Holly Pond Fire and Rescue Department Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, April 29, from 6-9 a.m. at the fire department off U.S. Highway 278. Donations will be accepted at the door. Proceeds will go to the Fireman's Fund. Everyone is welcome.

Relay For Life of Cullman County's Party in the Park
Saturday, April 29, 5-10 p.m. Depot Park. Honoring cancer survivors, the Party in the Park will also remember those who lost their battle with the disease. Relay For Life benefits the American Cancer Society's research and services. Enjoy children's activities, food trucks and live music. Visit www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal to register or join a team.

Strawberry Festival
Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m. Depot Park. Hosting over 24,000 visitors in one day, the Strawberry Festival was first celebrated in 1939. The festival features live music, a large craft show, fun and games for the whole family and Cullman's famous locally grown strawberries. This year's festival will be headlined by Blues Traveler.

Fairview High School Class of 1963 Meeting/Luncheon
Friday, May 19, at 1 p.m. at the Golden Corral in Cullman. The group will meet in one of the reserved rooms in the back of the restaurant.

50th Annual Arley Day Festival
• Saturday, May 20, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Hamner Memorial Park, Helicon Road, Arley, AL 35541. The 50th annual Arley Day Festival, Car Show and Parade is a family friendly, free event for young and old alike. Arts and crafts vendors, children's games, water slides, horseback rides, food vendors, musical entertainment, rock wall climbing, FREE hotdogs for kids and more. The parade lines up at 7:30 in the Arley Dollar General parking lot, proceeds down Highway 41, ending at Hamner Park where the car show starts. Pickleball demonstration at 10 on the park's new courts, followed by four 15-minute mini-lessons.
• Pancake breakfast at the Arley Fire Station, hosted by Arley First Baptist Church. Community breakfast at Meek Baptist Church in the fellowship hall. Both meals are open 7-8:30. Donations are appreciated and all proceeds goes to the Arley Volunteer Fire Department. The festival is presented by the nonprofit Arley Women's Club, Inc.; all proceeds remain in the communities served. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/Arley-WomensClub. To register as a vendor, or to be in the parade or car show and for schedule details, visit www.arleywomensclub.org/arley-day. Please send any questions to arleydayfestival@arleywomensclub.org.

Hamm Family Reunion
Saturday, May 20, at noon. Hanceville Lions Club. 111 Michelle St. NW, Hanceville. Please bring a covered dish.

Fairview High School Class of 1963 60th Reunion
Friday, June 16, at 1 p.m. at the Golden Corral in Cullman. For more information call Joyce Marie Williams Rodgers at 256-339-3451.

Teacher (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – March Madness might be over, but there's still one more Sweet 16 worth keeping an eye on well into April, as a teacher at Cullman Middle School has made the cut in Alabama's "Sweet 16" to select the state's Teacher of the Year.

Katie McGee, a seventh-grade English teacher at Cullman Middle School, has been named a finalist for the prestigious state award.

"I am grateful and extremely flattered to be receiving such a prestigious honor. Any recognition or accolades I receive must be shared with my colleagues," McGee said. "The faculty, staff and administrators at my school create an atmosphere that cultivates innovation and professional growth. I am fortunate to work for Cullman City Schools – a system filled with magnificent educators and supported by its community. I can only hope to make my community proud as I represent District VI in the Teacher of the Year program this year!"

Cullman Middle School Principal Jake Johnson said he is thrilled to have one of his educators nominated as a finalist for Alabama Secondary Teacher of the Year, noting it's a well-deserved recognition of her hard work and dedication to her students and profession

"It's wonderful to see her being recognized for her exceptional teaching skills, creativity and commitment to education," Johnson said.

"As a principal, I am proud to have such an outstanding teacher in our school community. She has made a significant impact on her students' lives and has contributed positively to our school culture. We congratulate her on this achievement and wish her all the best in the final round of the competition."

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
APRIL 11, 2023

PREP CHEER

‘Lift others up’: Good Hope’s Sammie Johns recaps 1st year on varsity

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — Good Hope cheerleader Sammie Johns cheered up on varsity for the first time as an eighth grader last season and she talked about that experience, plus learning so much from a great group of girls.

“The experience was definitely amazing. At first, it was tough transitioning from middle school sports to high school, but I definitely learned many new skills and learned how to become an overall better cheerleader. The support of the girls on the team really make it worth while,” Johns said. “I’ve definitely learned a lot of valuable life lessons and skills from this amazing group of girls. It’s been a blessing getting to cheer under Brandy Lowe. They’ve definitely taught me to lift others up and that hard work pays off.”

Johns has learned some things from coach Lowe and was introduced to the sport by some great people. She also talked about what she learned from the seniors and the rest of the upperclassmen.

“I have learned so much from Mrs. Lowe. She definitely has high expectations, but she is very supportive and makes sure we have the tools to succeed in cheer and life,” Johns said.

“Lacy and Josh Stancil introduced the sport to me as a young girl and ever since then, they have supported me through every step. The seniors are definitely the backbone of any team. It’s an honor to be a part of their last season and to learn from their hard work and dedication. They have definitely been big role models in my life. They have taught me how to grow as a member of the team and how to grow as an individual.”

Good Hope’s cheer team made it to state this past season and Johns talked a little bit about what that experience was like, plus what she learned from making it to state. She is already doing some training right now and will work on some more things over the summer to help get her ready for this upcoming year.

“To compete at such a high level was definitely thrilling and I am super grateful for the opportunity. I learned how to succeed under pressure and to leave everything I have on the mat.”

“I have already attended many stunt clinics with Alabama cheer, and I intend on improving my tumbling skills and becoming a better flyer over the summer.”

Johns has a personal goal and team goal for this upcoming year, and she was so blessed to cheer with some great girls this past year. She also talked about some cheerleaders that she looked up to, plus the best advice that she was ever given.

“My team goal this year is to win state and my personal goal is to have my full (a tumbling pass) by the end of the season. To be honest, winning was the best. This team pulled together and became something great in spite of people saying that it was going to be a ‘rebuilding year’ and that was definitely a great feeling to be a part of,” she said.

“I have been to Alabama games since birth and have always looked up to the Bama cheer team. As long as I can remember, I have always wanted to be a part of that team one day. The best advice that I was ever given was to never settle. My mom has told me this since birth and it has always reminded me to keep pushing and that I am capable of doing big things.”



SAMMIE JOHNS

Good Hope cheerleader Sammie Johns

Championships (from Front)





NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Good Hope Lady Raiders and the Cold Springs Eagles won this year’s Cullman County Track & Field Championships at Cold Springs High School Monday.

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. — This year’s Cullman County Track & Field Championship was hosted at Cold Springs High School Monday and two new county champions were crowned. The Cold Springs Eagles reclaimed the top prize in the boys’ division and on the girls’ side, the Good Hope Lady Raiders edged the Cold Springs Lady Eagles with a win in the final event of the day to earn their second consecutive county title.

Individually, Cold Springs’ Ethan Edgeworth earned MVP honors in the boys’ competition and in the girls’ division, Fairview’s Allyson Hill and Cold Springs’ Paizley Whitlow each selected as Co-MVPs.

Check below for a list of all county medalists

WOMEN’S EVENTS

100-Meter Dash
1. Kaylee Faulkner, West Point (13.16)
2. Jaelyn Faulkner, West Point (13.42)
3. Bailey Keef, Good Hope (13.53)

100-Meter Hurdles
1. Allyson Hill, Fairview (17.37)
2. Ella Dickerson, Cold Springs (17.85)
3. Cadence Watson, Good Hope (18.85)

200-Meter Dash
1. Jaelyn Faulkner, West Point (28.23)
2. Bailey Keef, Good Hope (28.75)
3. Kaylee Faulkner, West Point (28.93)

300-Meter Hurdles
1. Allyson Hill, Fairview (51.72)
2. Cadence Watson, Good Hope (52.42)
3. Ella Dickerson, Cold Springs (52.91)

400-Meter Dash
1. Macie Huffstutler, Cold Springs (1:02.99)
2. Bailey Keef, Good Hope (1:04.59)
3. Whitney Quick, Vinemont (1:08.18)

800-Meter Run
1. Rudi Derrick, Good Hope (2:34.83)
2. Paizley Whitlow, Cold Springs (2:37.38)
3. Claire Huffstutler, Cold Springs (2:42.62)

1600-Meter Run
1. Paizley Whitlow, Cold Springs (5:53.17)
2. Rudi Derrick, Good Hope (5:53.88)
3. Macie Huffstutler, Cold Springs (6:08.17)

3200-Meter Run
1. Paizley Whitlow, Cold Springs (12:27.28)
2. Reagan Parris, Cold Springs (12:50.66)
3. Caroline Lamoureux, Holly Pond (13:26.02)

4x100-Meter Relay
1. West Point (52.99)
2. Hanceville (56.51)
3. Cold Springs (57.32)

4x400-Meter Relay
1. Good Hope (4:31.12)
2. Cold Springs (4:33.18)
3. West Point (4:49.01)

4x800-Meter Relay
1. Cold Springs (10:41.36)
2. Good Hope (11:24.95)
3. West Point (11:36.80)

Discus Throw
1. Kabri Redding, Fairview (102-07)
2. Laci Segrest, Fairview (93-02)
3. Ellanora Slusser, Cold Springs (89-03)

High Jump
1. Cadence Watson, Good Hope (5-00.00)
2. Kabri Redding, Fairview (4-10.00)
3. Kailyn Redding, Fairview (4-08.00)

Javelin Throw
1. Marlee Williams, Good Hope (91-00)
2. Aidan Freeman, Cold Springs (84-08)
3. Anna Strane, Fairview (84-08)

Long Jump
1. Allyson Hill, Fairview (15-03.50)
2. Bailey Keef, Good Hope (15-03.00)
3. Kailyn Redding, Fairview (14-08.50)

Pole Vault
1. Cadence Watson, Good Hope (7-06.00)
2. Ryleigh Wright, Cold Springs (7-06.00)
3. Claire Huffstutler, Cold Springs (7-06.00)

Shot Put
1. Laci Segrest, Fairview (32-05.50)
2. Zoe Marks, Good Hope (30-01.50)
3. Gracie Goodwin, Vinemont (29-11.50)

Triple Jump
1. Brooklynn Wells, West Point (32-07.50)
2. Allyson Hill, Fairview (29-11.00)
3. Ella Dickerson, Cold Springs (29-07.00)

MEN’S EVENTS

100-Meter Dash
1. Zach Campbell, Hanceville (11.61)
2. Gunnar McBee, Holly Pond (11.99)
3. Marquies Leeth, Hanceville (12.08)

100-Meter Dash Ambulatory
1. Daniel Figueroa, Holly Pond (16.26)

110-Meter Hurdles
1. Cameron Nunn, Cold Springs (16.62)
2. Dylan Butts, Good Hope (19.41)
3. Ethan Fox Westall, Holly Pond (19.56)

200-Meter Dash
1. Zach Campbell, Hanceville (23.99)
2. Marquies Leeth, Hanceville (24.24)
3. Gunnar McBee, Holly Pond (24.49)

200-Meter Dash Ambulatory
1. Daniel Figueroa, Holly Pond (34.50)

300-Meter Hurdles
1. Ethan Fox Westall, Holly Pond (46.90)
2. Dylan Butts, Good Hope (47.14)
3. Hank Hudson, Good Hope (48.22)

400-Meter Dash
1. Gunnar McBee, Holly Pond (54.67)
2. Hayden Jones, West Point (55.72)
3. Eli Sims, West Point (56.19)

800-Meter Run
1. Ethan Edgeworth, Cold Springs (2:01.03)
2. Ethan Lemons, Vinemont (2:03.93)
3. Gabriel Laney, West Point (2:06.60)

1600-Meter Run
1. Ethan Edgeworth, Cold Springs (4:28.92)
2. Ethan Lemons, Vinemont (4:38.35)
3. Jayden Allred, Cold Springs (4:44.24)

3200-Meter Run
1. Ethan Edgeworth, Cold Springs (9:14.33)
2. Ethan Lemons, Vinemont (9:15.71)
3. Jayden Allred, Cold Springs (9:49.21)

4x100-Meter Relay
1. Hanceville (45.28)
2. Good Hope (49.60)
3. Cold Springs (51.44)

4x400-Meter Relay
1. West Point (3:50.97)
2. Cold Springs (4:05.16)
3. Hanceville (4:11.96)

4x800-Meter Relay
1. Cold Springs (8:39.64)
2. West Point (8:50.27)
3. Fairview (9:11.54)

Discus Throw
1. Aiden Dujoud, West Point (143-07)
2. Connor Pitts, Hanceville (121-11)
3. LJ Smith, Hanceville (120-08)

Discus Throw Ambulatory
1. Daniel Figueroa, Holly Pond (50-02)

High Jump
1. Will Calvert, Hanceville (6-00.00)
2. Nic Fallin, Cold Springs (5-10.00)
3. Cameron Nunn, Cold Springs (5-08.00)

Javelin Throw
1. Ayden Thomason, Vinemont (151-08)
2. Riley Wayne, West Point (141-06)
3. Josh Winfrey, Cold Springs (135-10)

Long Jump
1. Nic Fallin, Cold Springs (21-04.00)
2. Boston Gibbs, Holly Pond (20-03.50)
3. Gunnar McBee, Holly Pond (19-01.00)

Pole Vault
1. Cameron Nunn, Cold Springs (12-00.00)
2. Nic Fallin, Cold Springs (11-06.00)
3. Hank Hudson, Good Hope (10-06.00)

Shot Put
1. Colton Lindsey, Good Hope (41-09.00)
2. Alex Salazar, Vinemont (41-06.00)
3. Aiden Dujoud, West Point (40-09.00)

Shot Put Ambulatory
1. Daniel Figueroa, Holly Pond (16-08.50)

Triple Jump
1. Nic Fallin, Cold Springs (40-08.50)
2. Brosnan Ward, Hanceville (37-11.50)
3. Asa Sutter, West Point (37-07.00)

Sights from Sportsman Lake Park Egg Hunt at Cullman County Ag Center

PHOTOS COURTESY TIFFANY MCKOY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE





















Adoption (from Front)

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Tribune has hosted its Pet of the Week feature for several years, and Cullman County Animal Shelter Manager Andrea Hudson was thrilled to share, "When a dog is pet of the week, most of them get adopted within a few days. We've got about a 90% adoption rate for our featured pets."

Hudson said higher adoption rates are due to a community focus on training and behavior modification to make the animals adoptable, spotlighting the animals in a local publication and the shelter's re-education efforts for the public about shelter animals in general.

"There is a stigma about animal shelters. We're trying to re-educate the public on that.

"We want to let them see that we do care, we do work with them, we want to place them with the right home to make sure they don't end up back here," said Hudson.

Hudson said the general public's opinion about animal shelters can sometimes be less than positive, and that can negatively affect the adoption rate at some shelters.

"That's what a lot of people don't realize," she said. "These dogs, they deserve a chance."

Donna Ruttkay, volunteer and dog trainer at the shelter since 2016, comes in daily to work with the animals.

She uses a combination of whistles, gestures, outdoor recreation and even a splash of German commands to help the dogs understand what will be expected of them in their new homes.

"Many dogs come to us with no leash exposure, jumping, no boundaries or anything," said Ruttkay.

"We help them understand behavior modification to make them more adoptable."



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

A previous Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week, Sam

Hudson also wanted to give a special thanks to East Point Animal Hospital, the shelter's veterinary partner. "East Point is amazing!" she gushed. "They will work us in no matter how busy they are, because they understand the gravity of what we do here."

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Tournament (from Front)

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Link of Cullman County hosted its annual Links for Literacy Golf Tournament at Terri Pines Monday and 100-plus players came out on a beautiful day to compete and support a great cause. The tournament helps fund several of The Link's educational programs and Executive Director Melissa Betts was excited to see a good crowd on hand at the course to support the organization.

"With this event we really focus in on all our literacy and educational programs that we offer at The Link and those would be things like all the summer camps we have coming up. We offer Kindergarten readiness camps for students that are getting ready to go into kindergarten and those are at seven locations across the county," Betts said.

"So, if you've got one going into kindergarten, check in with their school and we'll be up there trying to get them registered for that summer camp. We have summer enrichment and an ESL (English as a Second Language) class that has just recently relaunched after Covid and thankfully we had a partnership with Wallace State Community College that helped us with that relaunch. The classes are full so we're looking to add additional classes for that."

Not all of The Link's programs are funded through grants so Betts and the organization is grateful to receive local support.

"We also offer Wise Up, which is a financial literacy class in our county high schools 9-12 grade. They're able to learn things about how to handle money and how to stay out of credit card debt and some of those basic things that we want students to know by the time they're leaving high school and entering adulthood," Betts said.

"This tournament helps us sponsor all of those programs. We use the proceeds from this tournament to help make all of those services free for our neighbors.

"Some of our other programs have grunt funding but these particular programs do not so its really important that the community becomes aware of what we offer and come out to support us."

The tournament featured three Hole in One Sponsors this year: $25,000 cash from Farmers Insurance – Jim McDonald Agency, $10,000 cash from Mitch Smith Chevrolet and a $10,000 Sandals trip provided by Main Street & More Travel – Sandy Herren.

The Link's educational services include:

- Volunteers in Public Schools (mentors paired with students K-middle school)
- After-school Tutoring and Adult Literacy Tutoring
- English as a Second Language, 2023 grant funded by Wallace State Community College Adult Education Department
- Summer Camps: Summer Enrichment (rising first-eighth graders) and Kindergarten Readiness (seven sites hosted around the county)
- Wise Up Financial Literacy for ninth and 12th graders, taught in six Cullman County high schools by facilitators



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

100-plus players came out to compete in this year's Links for Literacy Golf Tournament at Terri Pines Monday.

For more information on registering for literacy offerings through The Link, contact Dakota Trammell at dakotatrammell@linkingcullman.org.

Titles (from Front)

Individually, East Elementary's Kinsley Matson (278) was the top elementary girls scorer, Cullman's Maddie Seidel (291) was placed first in the middle school girls division and in the high School boys division, Vinemont's Jagger Lee (293) was the top finisher.

LOCAL ARCHER RESULTS
Top 12 scores count toward team total

East Elementary (First Place) (3,152)
- Kinsley Matson: 278
- Jackson Newsom: 268
- Talon Burleson: 268
- Kinley Grimes: 267
- Maci Nelson: 265
- Reagan Latham: 263
- Anna Claire Kallhoff: 260
- Harper Easterwood: 260
- Justice Hulsey: 259
- Julyus Lassiter: 257
- Fisher Crosslyn: 254
- Hayden Nix: 253

Vinemont Elementary (2nd place) (3,130)
- Brianna Baker: 274
- Will Smithson: 269
- Owen Robinson: 268
- Bella Lee: 267
- Max Parris: 264
- Ella Lee: 263
- Adriana Millwood: 262
- Hunter Woljevach: 257
- Alyvia Smyth: 254
- Ila Powell: 253
- Cash Whisenant: 252
- Emory Norris: 247

Fairview Elementary
- Karter Wiginton: 254

Welti Elementary
- Karsen Thomason: 268

Sacred Heart
- Owen Murphy: 260
- Melia McNatt: 227
- Lily Kerber: 215
- Christopher Shikle: 207
- Mitchell Queen: 203
- Jonlyn Gibbs: 195
- Kade Chamblee: 192
- Murphy Thomas: 172
- Preslie Basch: 158
- Austin Glass: 152
- Mia Morin: 109

Good Hope Elementary (13th place) (2,782)
- Abagail Anderson: 251
- Caleb Raper: 241
- Gage Brasher: 240
- Zane Hendrix: 239
- Anthea Anrhony: 236
- Olivia Gray: 236
- Kaylyn Hall: 235
- Aliyah Hallmark: 232
- Brianna Bibiano: 230
- Faith Corbitt: 220
- Kenzlee Smith: 216
- Braylin Stanley: 207
- Brantlee McCluskey: 206

West Point Intermediate (22nd Place) (2,622)
- Kason Duke: 247
- Cylas Kimbril: 227
- Jessa Parker: 227
- Lincoln Quattlebaum: 223
- Kenzly Williams: 222
- Zane Marks: 220
- Eva Luquire: 215
- Carson Ball: 215
- Canaan Thrower: 211
- Isabella Neighbors: 206
- Lucas Fortenberry: 206
- John Capps: 203

Cullman Middle School (2nd Place) (3,313)
- Maddie Seidel: 291
- Thatcher Lucas: 285
- Katelyn Jowers: 282
- Mitchell Olvey: 281
- Colton Hicks: 276
- Elliana Belcher: 275
- Alex Cornelius: 274
- Emmaline Powell: 274
- Presley Latham: 274
- Reagan Blackwood: 272
- Lilyann Thomason: 265
- Bryant Eastman: 264

Vinemont Middle School (3rd Place) (3,275)
- AnnaLee McRae: 288
- Tucker Drake: 283
- Gavin Phillips: 282
- Haley Millwood: 278
- Alex McCormick: 277
- Greyson Fresh: 274
- Marley Williams: 270
- Lucas Hembree: 269
- Makayla Brown: 264
- Molly Dungan: 264
- Easton Walker: 263
- Sipsey Drake: 263

Good Hope Middle School (8th Place) (3,132)
- Chance Brock: 273
- Noah May: 272
- Jayden McHan: 272
- Logan Collier: 268
- Makinnon Holt: 267
- Lee Dickerson: 260
- Adonai Guerrero: 259
- Caroline Neighbors: 258
- Noah Martin: 256
- Ella Agee: 253
- Nevaeh Kilgore: 249
- Shianna Greathouse: 245

Fairview Middle School (11th Place) (3,100)
- Dakota Benitez: 280
- Allee Duke: 279
- Jake Wood: 274
- Jayden Henley: 258
- Konner Henley: 258
- Will Cavender: 256
- Gabrielle Brooks: 256
- Austin Hill: 254
- Paisley Hopper: 247
- Andrew Keck: 247
- Ava Pruett: 246
- Emma Buckelew: 245

Hanceville Middle School (18th Place) (3,043)
- Jackson Cleek: 267
- Kerrigon Moore: 264
- Abby Black: 262
- Izaiha Acuff: 260
- Abigail Brady: 257
- Mason Wright: 254
- Carson Cain: 251
- Lakelan Wallace: 251
- Laila Lewis: 251
- Keely Wood: 250
- Callie Aker: 238
- Alyssa Harvell: 238

Saint Bernard Prep (25th Place) (2,915)
- Yesenia Santiago: 281
- Analia Lajara: 261
- James Grey: 258
- Caroline McBride: 249
- Eugene Byrd: 243
- Sarah Cumbie: 239
- Ella Davis: 236
- Anna Claire Harrison: 232
- James Crabb: 232
- Avery Hines: 231
- Jordyn Black: 227



CULLMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Cullman Middle School finished second at this weekend's NASP Alabama State Championship with a score of 3,313.

- Emilie Gutowski: 226
- Silas Krische: 226

Holly Pond Middle School (30th Place) (2,822)
- Alex Bentley: 264
- Riggs Fulmer: 251
- Jordan Pierce: 248
- Hudson Stephens: 247
- Katelyn Orear: 246
- Connor Mallon: 238
- Xavior Bentley: 237
- Hunter Linton: 234
- Rylan Lindsey: 233
- Trey Roberson: 229
- Aeron Pierce: 220
- Payton Briscoe: 218
- Parker Ayers: 215
- Brindlee Lovett: 191

West Point Middle School (31st Place) (2,806)
- Lane Osborn: 266
- Cole Ballew: 253
- Danika Kugler: 252
- Braxton Freeman: 248
- Emma Daniel: 241
- Levi Lawrence: 239
- Chloe Adams: 231
- Skylie Clay: 223
- Cole Chamblee: 221
- Zoey McMahon: 219
- Ian McGuire: 213
- Zoey Stancil: 200

Vinemont High School (First Place) (3,420)
- Jagger Lee: 293
- Caroline Miller: 293
- Dalton Bryan: 290
- Alexis Sartin: 288
- Logan Ford: 288
- Jayden Friedrich: 284
- Bradley Johnson: 283
- Shelby Thompson: 283
- Trinity Sartin: 282
- Daniel Brown: 281
- Reece Weissend: 278
- Briana Leigeber: 277

Cullman High School (Sixth Place) (3,304)
- Evan Dockery: 293
- Forrest Calvert: 291
- Brinley Hurt: 282
- Will Bolzle: 281
- Keyonna Puckett: 279
- Ty Jackson: 276
- JD Elerbee: 273
- Tiffany Calvert: 272
- Jayden Grimes: 271
- Hayden Scott: 267
- Karen Martinez: 260
- Briana Willoughby: 259

Good Hope High School (11th Place) (3,258)
- Mason Mccury: 293
- Will Crawford: 279
- Chloe Brock: 274
- Alexis Reburn: 271
- Andru Swann: 271
- Grant Seymore: 269
- Gannon Bowerman: 268
- Marlee Williams: 268
- Jett Swann: 268
- Branson Neighbors: 266
- Emma Thompson: 266
- Caden Pesola: 265

- **Fairview High School (13th Place) (3,222)**
  - Grant Laney: 284
  - Avery Freeman: 275
  - Alex England: 274
  - Hannah Butler: 271
  - Logan Race: 271
  - Harper Shedd: 270
  - Savannah Pack: 268
  - Mason Gregory: 264
  - Abby O'Leary: 263
  - Alaysis DeSmedt: 263
  - Nathan Free: 260
  - Linkon Patrick: 259

West Point High School (21st Place) (3,125)
- Joshua Williams: 290
- Kendra Case: 278
- Jacob Hogland: 267
- Jakob Snyder: 264
- Elizabeth Brady: 264
- Jazlynn Tudor: 254
- Zeke Helmer: 254
- Oscar Hernandez: 254
- Lacey Smith: 253
- Lane Mattox: 251
- Logan Miller: 250
- Silas Baty: 246

GROWING DENTIST OFFICE

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Obituary Announcements: April 8-10

Jimmie Clifford McCroy, 75

Jimmie Clifford McCroy, age 75, of Warrior, Alabama passed away on Saturday, April 8, 2023, in Cullman Alabama. He was born in Cullman to Lee Clifford and Dorothy Frances Graves McCroy. He is preceded in death by his father and sister: Nancy Frances Carden. Mr. McCroy is a veteran of The United States Marine Corps. Funeral services are Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Cullman Memory Gardens. Bro. Barry Heatherly will officiate the service. Survivors are: mother: Dorothy Graves McCroy, niece: Brandi (Marc) Ponder, nephew: Shane (Tammy) Carden, great nieces: Bailee Ponder, Brittney (Gavin) Harbison, Maegan (Brandon) Tucker, great nephews: Taylor (Natalie) Carden, Paxton Ponder and Case Ponder, 6 great-great-nieces and nephews and several cousins. Visitation is Thursday, April 13, 2023, at Moss Service Funeral Home from 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.mossservicefh.com for the McCroy family. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Bertha Mae Harris, 60

Bertha Mae Harris, 60, of Cullman, entered into rest on April 5, 2023, at Woodland Village Nursing Home surrounded by her loving family. Bertha was born on June 24, 1960, in Cullman. No services are planned at this time. Bertha is survived by her daughter, Sheila Kemp (Charles Wallace); son, Greg Peek (Amy Butler); grandchildren, Tyler (Gracie) Brown, Emily Brown, Nick (Gracie Garnett) Starnes, Lance Wallace, Nathaniel Henderson, Navaeh Kneece; great grandchild, Alivia Starnes; sisters, Libby (Clyde) Saint, and Wendy Raley; brother, Bruce (Hilda) Harris; 11 nieces; 6 nephews; and a host of great nieces and great nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Pete and Alice Harris; brothers, Jimmy, Ronald, Billy and Ricky Harris; sisters-in-law, Brenda and Janice Harris; and one niece. Memories and condolences may be shared at www.nicholsfuneralhomes.com.

Kathryn Waters James, 83

Kathryn Waters James died peacefully Sunday, April 9, 2023, surrounded by her family. She was born Aug. 2, 1939, the youngest child of Virgil and Myrtie Waters, in Cullman County. She attended West Point High School, graduating in 1957. She later attended business college in Birmingham and eventually made her way to Montgomery where she met the love of her life, Charles L. James, Jr. Upon his retirement from the Air Force, they made a life together in St. Petersburg, Florida where they had many friends. Kathryn was preceded in death by her parents, sister Kathleen, brothers Kenneth and Kiefer, and husband Charles (Chick). She was a loving, kind person who treasured her friends and family. Graveside service will be Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at Bethlehem West Cemetery at 11 a.m. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Wanda Arlene David, 59

The funeral service for Wanda Arlene David, 59, of Cullman, will be 2 p.m., Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at Northside Baptist Church, Addison, Alabama. The body will lie in state at the church from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. prior to the service. A visitation will be held Tuesday, April 11, 2023, from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home. Bro. Randy Phillips will officiate the service. The interment will follow the service in the Northside Baptist Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the David family. Mrs. David was born March 16, 1964, to Ernest Edward and Nova Erlene Wood Wagner. She passed away from this life on April 7, 2023, at UAB. She was an active member at Northside Baptist Church in Addison. She was a pastor's wife who was actively involved in the children's and women ministries of the church. She was preceded in death by her father, Ernest Edward Wagner; and a daughter, Christina M. David. Mrs. David is survived by her mother, Erlene Rodgers; daughters, Becky David, Sarah David, Elizabeth Wagner; brothers, Wayne (Rhonda) Wagner, Dennis Wagner, Bruce (Denise) Wagner, Ernie (Lynn) Wagner, Dave Douglas; sister, Beth Lay; and a host of family and friends. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy can be posted to www.cullmanfuneralhome.com for the David family.

SFC Kermit Martin Ivey, 86

Graveside service for SFC Kermit Martin Ivey, age 86, of Hanceville, will be at 11 a.m. on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo. Visitation will be from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Ivey passed away on Monday, April 10, 2023, at UAB Hospital. He was born June 17, 1936, in Georgia to Grady Martin Ivey and Rosa Ivey. He loved with his whole heart. He loved his entire family and an abundance of friends. To know him was to love him. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, James Ivey, Hubert Ivey, Nell Spradlin, Pete Ivey, Alton Ivey, and Opal Ivey. Survivors include his wife, Patricia Ivey; children, Judy (Alan) Phelps, Joanie Oaks, Tony (Brandi) Ivey, Colby (Tisha) Chamblee, Christine Chamblee, and Katie Chamblee; grandchildren, Kerry (Brooke) Baswell, Page (Will) Dowdy, Kody (Tatyana) Baswell, Sara (Jacob) Kirkpatrick, Zak (Jordan) Ivey, Matthew Phelps, Kadi (Justin) Smith, and Amari Malcom; great-grandchildren, Noran Kirkpatrick, Asher Kirkpatrick, Mia Kirkpatrick, Breaker Baswell, Bridge Baswell, Brash Baswell, Bhiana Baswell, Brayden Baswell, Max Baswell, Vicktor Baswell, Madeline Dowdy, Georgia Dowdy, Carter Ivey, and Carson Ivey; brother, J.C. (Pam) Ivey; and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends. The family would like to extend a special thanks to Hanceville EMT, CRMC Emergency/Trauma units, UAB NICU Medical Staff, and the Air Evac Lifeteam. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Flourish of Cullman, Inc. at www.flourishofcullman.com or call 256-735-4186.

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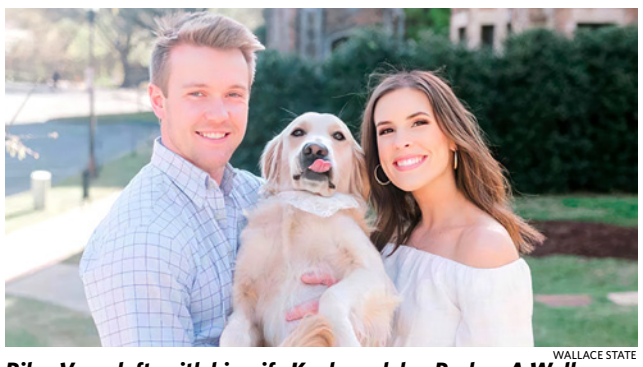
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Lessons learned at Wallace State helped build business

Gail Crutchfield
Wallace State

This is one in a series of stories celebrating Community College Month during April.



WALLACE STATE

Riley Voce, left, with his wife Kayla and dog Parker. A Wallace State alum, Voce is one of the owners of Blenz Bowls.

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — In the half-dozen years since he graduated from Wallace State with a degree in business administration and transferred to the University of Alabama, Riley Voce has become a successful business owner. He and his business partner will soon have 19 locations of Blenz Bowls, smoothie bowl cafes, located on 13 college campuses. He credits a lot of his success with the networking skills he learned at WSCC and honed at UA.

"That was the biggest take-away from college for me, was just learning to network and talk to people," said Voce, who is a graduate of West Point High School.

Like many college freshmen, Voce said he didn't have a concrete idea of what he wanted to do, and his dream job felt a little out of reach.

"My real dream was to move to South Carolina and work on a boat and eventually work my way up to eventually selling yachts on the Outer Banks," Voce said with a laugh.

Voce came to Wallace State on a full Presidential Scholarship and started taking classes toward his Business Administration degree. He became involved in the college's Rotaract club, where he met business instructor Terri McGriff Waldrop.

"She was a great role model in networking and being kind to people," Voce said, adding he benefited from that when he transferred to the University of Alabama.

"There, you knew you were kind of a small fish in a big pond," he said. "If you really wanted to make the most of your time, it was really about networking."

While at UA, Voce said he tried his hand at a few businesses, but nothing proved successful until he and his friend Zac Rogers went to Miami for one week and were introduced to smoothie bowls. These are usually created with frozen fruits, including acai berry, and milk with toppings such as granola, fresh fruit, chia seeds, nuts, honey and more.

Joking about opening a restaurant based on smoothie bowls turned into serious talks and those turned into developing a business plan, financial analysis, a name, branding ideas and then the purchase of a trailer from which to run the business on the campus of the University of Alabama. They now have a mixture of store fronts and food trucks on several college campuses, with more scheduled to open by the business's fifth anniversary in August.

"We'll have 19 locations at colleges like Alabama, Auburn, Tennessee, Ole Miss, South Florida, just all kind of cool schools," Voce said.

They employ mostly college students and offer internships as well, so they can learn how a business operates.

Voce also has a hand in real estate, offering rental property in Tuscaloosa. Both businesses, he said, have benefitted from his ability to network. "It's huge, especially if you want to scale your business," he said of networking. "A ton of our growth is done by growing personal networks. It's testament to being kind to people, caring about people. That's how you grow your network every day."

Voce said he's happy with his decision to come to Wallace State.

"Wallace State was a good stepping-stone for me as I wasn't really sure of a career," he said. "I really didn't know what or where I wanted to go during or after Wallace, but I met great people who believed in me and gave me confidence to go after big ideas."

Those ideas have paid off with two successful businesses and new dreams.

"We're just really passionate about Blenz Bowls and want to continue to grow it and make it a household name at some point," Voce said.

Echols (from Front)

Tiffany McKoy
tsmckoy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Christian Echols, a Good Hope High School graduate, is beginning to make a name for himself in mixed martial arts (MMA).

Echols said he was born into the MMA scene. His father was a boxer who turned to MMA, fell in love with it and passed it on to Echols.

Echols earned national recognition when he knocked out top Bellator MMA prospect Pat Downey on Dec. 9, 2022. Echols said he was told it wasn't a smart fight to take for the sake of his career, but he ignored the talk from the MMA community and took the chance. After landing the uppercut, Echols said, he knew he had it won. "I felt like I was in a movie!"

Echols' most recent fight was in the B2 Fighting Series on April 1, when he took down his opponent with a submission in 30 seconds.

"There's nothing like an MMA fight," Echols said. "They call it the game of inches because if you mess up, it could be the end of the night for you.

"While you're in the cage fighting, for 15 minutes there's a constant possibility that someone can put your lights out or finish you in front of all your buddies and fans."

Even though Echols is coming off a four-fight winning streak, he said he is looking ahead to the future. His goals are to win the B2 Series title and then eventually compete in Dana White's Contender Series, where a win could get him an Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) contract.

"I want to rattle off one or two more wins and then get on the Contender Series this year," Echols said.

Echols said he wants to be a fighter people enjoy watching.

"I want my fans to be happy with supporting me," he said. "I want people to say 'Oh, I'd love to take my kid to watch Christian fight.'"

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