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KATIE PARRISH

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'The purpose...is to highlight the victims'

DA, sheriff, chief address recent murder convictions

Tiffany McKoy
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker, along with Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry and Cullman Police Chief David Nassetta on Monday April 24, 2023, held a press conference to address two murder convictions Crocker's office obtained Thursday, April 20.

Thomas Leon McClellan was convicted of murder for the Jan. 27, 2021, slaying of his wife, Tammy McClellan of Arkadelphia.

Brett Steven Amerson's conviction stemmed from a hit-and-run crash on Dec. 18, 2018, that took the life of Bradley Ray Patterson, 39, of Holly Pond.

Crocker noted the significance of this week being National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

"The purpose of this meeting today is to highlight the victims and also to highlight the efforts of our local law enforcement, who I'm proud to stand here with today," he said. » PAGE 3



VIDEO CAPTURE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry, Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker and Cullman Police Chief David Nassetta are seen at a press conference on Monday, April 24.

CPD Autism Awareness Month patch sales benefit Autism Speaks



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Police officers (left to right) Joey Duncan, Nick Watkins, Adam Clark and Todd Craig pose with special Autism Awareness Month patches for sale at the Cullman Police Department.

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — As Autism Awareness Month comes to a close, the Cullman Police Department is set to wrap up its special patch sale fundraiser for Autism Speaks.

Police Chief David Nassetta made sure to give credit where credit is due, noting the driving force behind the fundraiser is School Resource Officer Seth Sullivan. Sullivan is on the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) Board of Directors for Region 6 representing Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

"He's so good with the kids," Nassetta smiled. "He's able to communicate with those kids; he knows more about the special needs that kids with autism have. He's really good at working with them and helping ensure that those kids aren't as nervous around our officers."

Nassetta shared that when interacting with individuals with autism, the CPD has officers who have certain aptitudes for certain situations. "A lot of times we go on calls and we don't realize what issues the individual may be dealing with, especially adults," he said. "With kids, of course the parents can inform us, but we have certain officers who may have a better feel at dealing with adults who may be having mental issues or disabilities."

The specialty patch sale challenge was started by the New Rochelle Police Department in Westchester County, New York in February 2017. NWPD Detective Chris Grecco and his wife are the parents of an autistic child.

Want to own your own Autism Awareness Month patch? Stop by the Cullman Police Department from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday until May 1. Patches are $10 each, cash only.

Good Hope City Council moving forward on new pavilion



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Good Hope City Council approved a Resolution to enter into an agreement with Leonard Designs for professional design services on a new pavilion at Monday night's council meeting. » PAGE 2

Little Free Library unveiled in Dodge City



TIFFANY MCKOY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

(Left to right) Renee Welsh, Sharon Townson, Teeara Johns, Jason Burney and Jerry Lynn pose for a photo in front of the new Little Free Library in Dodge City. » PAGE 2

Wallace State Tennis Teams wins ACCC Championships

» PAGE 5

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported April 24

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported 24, 2023. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

April 20

- theft of property; Hwy. 278 E
- assault; Hwy. 31
- possession of marijuana; Hwy. 157
- theft of property; CR 1564
- burglary; CR 1043
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; 3rd St. NE

April 21

- domestic violence; interference with domestic violence emergency; CR 1114
- domestic violence; Hwy. 67
- theft of property; Hwy. 69 S
- domestic violence; CR 1772
- theft of property; CR 1527
- attempt to elude police officer; CR 728
- harassment; CR 54
- harassment; CR 38
- illegal possession of prescription drugs; Hwy. 31

April 22

- harassment; CR 592
- harassment; CR 1224
- domestic violence; White Oak Loop
- burglary; CR 703
- violation of protection order; CR 1030
- violation of protection order; CR 538

April 23

- possession of dangerous drug; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; US 231
- obstructing police-interference with domestic violence call; Hwy. 91
- reckless endangerment; CR 1129
- harassment; CR 1159
- permitting dogs to run at large; CR 1251

ARRESTS

April 20 – 23

Arnold, Nicholas E.; 56
- FTA- assault-aggravated assault family-other weapon

Barnett, Joseph B.; 42
- FTA- manufacturing methamphetamine
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs

Brannan, Hayden F.; 29
- FTA- reckless driving

Brown, James S.; 28
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- obstructing police-interference with a domestic violence emergency call

Chandler, Joseph R.; 41
- FTA- public intoxication

Ellis, Gary L.; 33
- larceny/theft-miscellaneous

Frost, Matthew Z.; 38
- FTA- larceny/theft-theft of article from auto

Graves, Kevin D.; 37
- public intoxication

Jackson, Cynthia L.; 57
- public intoxication

Jacobs, Christopher S.; 55
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Keeton, Charles L.; 61
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA- DUI (alcohol)

Klosinski, Mary E.; 34
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- tampering with physical evidence

Lenz, John L.; 51
- FTA- negotiating worthless instrument

Martin, Zachary P.; 37
- possession of methamphetamine
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

McLaughlin, Ronald J.; 47
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Meyer, Paul S.; 45
- Probation Violation- attempting to elude police officer

Moore Jr., Bobby L.; 34
- interference with domestic violence emergency call

Myers, Brandon W.; 33
- criminal mischief-damage to public property

Odell, Christopher J.; 44
- illegal possession of prescription drugs
- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft $1,500 - $2,500

Parris, Andrew E.; 43
- Probation Violation- burglary-non residence-force

Pate, Stacey L.; 39
- forgery-counterfeiting
- forgery-forged instrument

Richter, Ashley L.; 38
- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Richter, Tiffany D.; 39
- assault-child abuse-simple-non family

Robertson, Weston J.; 36
- DUI (alcohol)

Rouse, Zachari H.; 36
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- driving while license suspended
- FTA- switched tag

Rutledge, Tanarus L.; 38
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- discharging firerarm into occupied building, railroad, aircraft, automobile

Sandlin, Issac J.; 21
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

Schofield, Alexis C.; 20
- FTA- promote prison contraband (drugs)
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs

Sloan, Christopher R.; 41
- FTA- DUI (controlled substances)

Smalley, Casey D.; 38
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Smalley, Jeremy E.; 42
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Steele, Jacob W.; 33
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Stephens, Matthew D.; 39
- FTA- assault-domestic-simple assault-family
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- public intoxication

Taylor, Kevin O.; 42
- FTA- driving while license suspended
- FTA- operating vehicle without insurance
- FTA- switched tag

Wright, Nicole M.; 38
- FTA- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Yeager, Christopher E.; 51
- FTA- violation of domestic violence protection order

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

April 22

- criminal mischief-3rd degree; person; Lee Ave. SW; damaged tires; $400
- domestic violence-3rd degree-harassment; person
- leaving scene of accident; person; 3rd St. SE; damage to 2017 GMC Acadia; $800
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $65

April 23

- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Ambassador Dr.
- theft of property-4th degree; criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; general merchandise; $32

ARRESTS

April 21 – 23

Baker, Tyler A.; 26
- theft of property-1st degree
- theft of property-4th degree
- possession forged instrument-3rd degree

Freeman, Justina M.; 28
- receiving stolen property-1st degree

Klosinski, Mary E.; 34
- FTA- domestic violence-3rd degree
- FTA- disorderly conduct

Robertson, Weston J.; 36
- FTA- driving without license

Salvador, Lazaro C.; 39
- DUI

Arnold, Nicholas E.; 56
- FTA- DUI

Sandlin, Isaac J.; 21
- FTA- driving while license suspended

Sandler, Andrew J.; 35
- public intoxication

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No incidents or arrests reported.

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

Ashley, Cleghorn named Wallace State Teacher, Student of the Year

Gail Crutchfield
Wallace State

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Nursing instructor Heather Ashley was named Wallace State Community College's Teacher of the Year and Rayce Cleghorn as the college's Student of the Year Friday, April 21, during the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's State of Education program.

"Both of these individuals are deserving of this honor," said Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics. "Heather Ashley has been an asset to the Department of Nursing Education since her first day on the job and I've enjoyed watching Rayce Cleghorn grow and expand his talents since he first started performing with the college's performing arts programs as a youth volunteer. They are both great ambassadors for Wallace State."

Ashley has been an instructor at Wallace State for six years and is a graduate of Wallace State's Nursing program. She acts as the chair for Let's Pretend Hospital, which helps first graders learn about hospital or emergency room visits as well as personal health and safety measures, and she has coached a successful Department of Nursing Education Alabama SkillsUSA champion team. She also serves her community as a board member of the Good Samaritan Health Clinic in Cullman.

Ashley was chosen after a nomination process where students turned in names of instructors they deemed worthy of the title Teacher of the Year.

Many appreciated her positive attitude and kindness and could identify with her own perseverance in earning her degree.

"She goes beyond for her students," said one student. "Mrs. Ashley is a positive voice in the madness. She is very organized and helps you understand the content with comparisons. She isn't ashamed to have failed a semester of nursing school and that helps the reinstatement students feel better about the situation."

"Mrs. Ashley is truly an amazing asset to Wallace State nursing," another student said. "In the short time I have known her, I have noticed how much she cares and advocates for her students and truly cares about our success. Mrs. Ashley radiates kindness and has such a vibrant personality. She is truly an inspiration to me and my fellow classmates."

"Mrs. Ashley is a great instructor, very compassionate, caring and knowledgeable. She stands firm and she does it so gracefully, which makes her easy to communicate with," another student said.

Cleghorn has been a part of the college's Fine and Performing Arts program since he was 10 years old and is the youngest of four siblings who have attended the college and performed in Wallace State's vocal and theater ensembles.

His first on-stage performance was in 2012 in the ensemble of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" with his older sisters Tahauny and McCoy, when Tahauny was a student at the college. His next performance was in "Shrek" with both of his sisters and older brother Duke.

He has been in almost every theater or vocal performance ever since. This year, he added a performance in the Allegro Dance Theatre's production of "The Nutcracker" to his resume. He has also performed in other community theater productions and is a first-place winner in solo expressive interpretive movement at the International Youth and Discipleship's Teen Talent competition.

"Rayce is very deserving of this honor," said Ricky Burks, director of the Wallace State Fine and Performing Arts programs. "Along with being extremely talented, he's also a polite, respectful and conscientious young man."

"We are so blessed to have had Rayce and his siblings perform with our programs for more than a decade," said Tiffany Richter, director of the Wallace State vocal ensembles. "To watch Rayce's talents increase over those years has been a pleasure and I see a bright future ahead of him."

Cleghorn's last performance in a Wallace State production as a student will be at the April 27 "Spring Under the Stars" event at 6:30 p.m. at the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts. He will complete his education at Wallace State this semester before transferring to a four-year university and pursuing other opportunities.

"I want to do as much performing as possible," Cleghorn said. "I'm like a sponge, I want to do anything that comes my way."

He's shown particular interest in performing acrobatics and stunts and his dream job would be at Universal Studios and Disney World.

"Really, anything that will let me sing, dance, jump off something high, flip, whatever I've got to do, is what I want to do," he said.

Cleghorn is the son of Derek and Carol Cleghorn of Addison, both of whom are also Wallace State alumni.



WALLACE STATE

Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics, left, with Student of the Year Rayce Cleghorn and Teacher of the Year, Nursing instructor Heather Ashley. Both were recognized during the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's State of Education luncheon on Friday, April 21.

Good Hope (from Front)

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — The Good Hope City Council held its second and final April meeting at Good Hope City Hall Monday night and after approving the minutes and finances from their last meeting, the council approved a resolution to move forward on plans for a new pavilion in the city. Resolution No. 007-2023 authorized Mayor Jerry Bartlett to enter into an agreement with Leonard Design to provide drawings and specifications for a new pavilion to go in the city's newest park across the street from Dollar General.

Resolution No. 007-2023: Leonard Design for Architectural Drawings of Pavilion

"Whereas, City of Good Hope has the authority to oversee and expend duties; and whereas, Good Hope does desire to keep citizens active in our community by adding entertainment for children; and wherefore, drawings are needed in order to bid the project. Leonard Design can provide drawings and specifications.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Mayor of the City of Good Hope is hereby authorized to sign the proposal to move the project forward, to have Leonard Design for professional design services in the amount of $4,800.00."

The Good Hope City Council will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting at Good Hope City Hall Monday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Library (from Front)

Tiffany McKoy
tsmckoy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Friends of the Public Libraries of Cullman County's Renee Welsh and Cullman County Public Library System Director Sharon Townson on Monday, April 24, met with Dodge City Mayor Jason Burney, Councilwoman Teera Johns and Councilman Jerry Lynn to unveil a new Little Free Library in front of Dodge City Town Hall.

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota, that promotes neighborhood book exchanges.

More than 150,000 public book exchanges are registered with the organization and branded as Little Free Libraries.

According to Welsh, the Little Free Library installations are purchased, assembled and then decorated. They are installed in easily accessible locations for seniors and children.

They are weatherproof, which ensures that the books inside are protected.

When asked why he wanted to bring a Little Free Library to Dodge City, Burney said, "It's important to encourage kids to read more.

"We want to do what we can to keep the kids reading."

Each Little Free Library is registered and has a charter number on the front.

Participants can download the free app (Little Free Library) and find the closest location.

Participants are encouraged to take a book and leave a book, but it's not required.

Read about other Little Free Library installations around Cullman at www.cullmantribune.com/2022/09/03/little-free-library-open-at-art-park.

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 & 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 26 - 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.
• Friday, April 28 - 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.
• Sunday, April 30 - 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 30 - 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. 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.

Swamp John's Dinner
Tuesday, April 25, from 4-7 p.m. at St Andrew's Methodist Church. Eat in or carry out. Y'all come!

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.

BBB of North Alabama Cullman Shred Day
Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m.-noon at King Edward Plaza Shopping Center. This event will give area residents and small businesses the opportunity to help protect identities and the environment in a quick and easy drive-thru set up.

The following FREE services will be available onsite:
• Document shredding: Only paper documents will be accepted. All other materials such as cardboard, plastic, metal and binders must be removed. There is a limit of three large trash bags or file storage boxes per vehicle.
• Drug take-back: Cullman Police Department will be collecting prescription and over-the-counter medications. Needles will not be accepted.
• Non-perishable food donations: Benefits Cullman Caring for Kids
• For more information, call 256-533-4804.

Holly Pond Homemakers Club Meeting
Tuesday, May 16, for lunch at Charlie Bea's Restaurant in Oneonta. The group will meet at First Baptist Church of Holly Pond at 10 a.m. to travel to the restaurant for a delightful lunch and good fellowship. Invite prospective members to attend and encourage regular members to attend.

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.

Convictions (from Front)

When speaking about the Amerson verdict, Crocker spoke about Patterson's family. "Even though this was a win in terms of getting a conviction," he said, "there are no winners in a case like that because of the tremendous loss which the Patterson family will carry with them even after these court proceedings are over, and we stand with them."

Of the McClellan case, he said, "Tommy McClellan was found guilty of murdering his wife, Tammy, in their home. It was a cold, callous, senseless crime. We came to know Tammy's family – her children, her siblings – and so many people, her co-workers, people who her life touched, and we stand with her family as well."

Crocker expressed how grateful he is that his office, the Cullman Police Department and the Cullman County Sheriff's Office work well together.

Gentry closed the press conference reminding everyone about the victims.

"This week is really about victims. It's something that has always been a priority for our office. A lot of times people forget about the victims," he said.

"The end result is that you give the family a little bit of justice. That's what law enforcement is about," said Gentry. "That's what the district attorney's office is about. That's what the police department is about – bringing peace."

For more information about the Patterson conviction: www.cullmantribune.com/2023/04/20/murder-conviction-in-2018-hit-and-run-death-of-holly-ponds-bradley-ray-patterson

For more information about the McClellan conviction: www.cullmantribune.com/2023/04/20/jury-convicts-thomas-mcclellan-of-murder.

CORRECTION

In the article titled "Chamber recognizes Students, Teachers of the Year," published Saturday, April 22, we incorrectly reported that Amanda Stidham is a teacher at East Elementary School. She is a teacher at Cullman City Primary School. We regret the error.


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Nick Griffin - Varsity Sports Editor
Sammy Confer - Youth/JV Sports Editor
Howard Cole - Photojournalist
Martha Needham-Photojournalist
Bill Piper - Photojournalist
Robin Winton - Newsroom Manager
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PREP SPORTS

‘You can do anything if you set a goal and stick to it’: Good Hope’s Katie Parrish talks 8th grade year

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. — Eighth grader Leila Pearl was a part of another great cross country season for Cold Springs and she talked about what all she learned during that season and what it was like being around a great group of people.

“I feel like the season went pretty good and that everyone was so confident this year. I mostly learned that when you don’t reach your goal, you shouldn’t give up. That’s how I earned my first medal,” Pearl said. “It was pretty great. They all had great confidence and attitudes, which helped the team become closer.”

Leila talked about her coaches and what she learned from them, plus some things she soaked up from the seniors and upperclassmen.

“They’re very supportive about everything. Even if you don’t reach those goals that they have set for you, they have confidence for you the next time. I also learned that even in the hardest part of our workout, don’t give up on it,” Pearl said. “I learned from them to always be positive and a team leader, even when no one is watching.”

Leila will work on a couple of things to get ready for the upcoming season and talked about her goals, plus the team goals. She also talked about what will make this team special to watch this upcoming season.

“I will work on my attitude and speed to get into the top 10,” she said. “My individual goals are to be a better leader, be more positive, and not get injured this season. My team goals are for us to get closer and win state this year. What will make us special to watch next season is how much work we’re going to put in this off-season going into the season is definitely something that everyone is going to want to see. We’re going to do something special this upcoming season.”

Leila talked about one of her role models that she had growing up and shared some of the best advice she was ever given.

“Jayden Allred is the person who I look up to the most in the track and cross-country seasons because he always strives to make people better. The best advice that I’ve been given is to always put God first and to never give up on your goals.”



KATIE PARRISH

Good Hope’s Katie Parrish

PREP CROSS COUNTRY

‘Always put God first’: Cold Springs’ Leila Pearl recaps 8th grade season

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

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“I feel like the season went pretty good and that everyone was so confident this year. I mostly learned that when you don’t reach your goal, you shouldn’t give up. That’s how I earned my first medal,” Pearl said. “It was pretty great. They all had great confidence and attitudes, which helped the team become closer.”

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LEILA PEARL

Cold Springs’ Leila Pearl

PREP BASKETBALL

‘Basketball season is always special in Cold Springs’: Zane Brown talks junior season

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. — Last season was another fun one for the Cold Springs Eagles and they finished the year strong. Junior Zane Brown talked about all he learned during the season and what he has taken away from his time on varsity so far.

“Last season was a growing year for us. We lost a lot of seasoned guys, and we got off to a rough start to the season, but late in the season, I think we started to get it going. We turned into a really tough team to play at home. We thrived on our own floor. It wasn’t the most successful year in terms of the win column, but we grew a lot as a team. I think we definitely will work to get things back on track for this upcoming year,” Brown said. “It’s been such an awesome experience. We’re super lucky to have such a rich basketball history at Cold Springs, so getting to just be a part of it has been amazing. Getting to play for coach Tim Willoughby and learn under him is something I’ll cherish forever.

He added,

“I’ve learned so much, both on and off the floor. I’ve been blessed to have some amazing teammates through the years as well. Getting to learn the ropes from guys like Brody Peppers, Seth Williams, Tanner Kilgo, and Cody Bales was so beneficial to me as a player and person. I’ve learned a lot on the court. I’ve learned to play a lot smarter and I’m fully grasping what the mentality needs to be in order to win. Through the years, I’ve also learned how to lead, take responsibility, and hold both myself and my teammates accountable.”

Zane soaked up as much as he could from coach Willoughby, plus he talked about what it has been like to play with some great players last season.

“He was amazing. I’ve yet to find anyone as passionate as he is. His intensity and love for the game was just undeniable. Just being around him brought out a different kind of will to succeed and do things the right way. He taught me a lot both as a player and a young man. He led by example, willing to do whatever it took to improve,” he said. “I learned so much about the game from him. He has an analytical gift for basketball. He can spout off statistics for what seems like an eternity. There is no one smarter as far as the game goes. His resilience and pride are two things that I will definitely try to emulate in my career and life.”

He added,

“It was a great experience. Basketball season is always special in Cold Springs. Our community really shows out during that time of year. We learned a lot about each other last season. I think we all worked hard and took steps to really improve. We had a great group of seniors. I’ll always love those guys. They were a very skilled group that brought a lot of fun to the game. They taught me a lot about leading and owning up to mistakes. Playing with them definitely made me into a better player.”

Zane will work on some things to get ready for next season and talked about his and the team goals as well.

“I’m definitely going to be in the gym this offseason. I want to improve my athleticism and add some size to help when finishing around the basket. I’m also going to put a lot of work into my shot and really try to increase my shooting percentage from behind the three-point line,” he said. “We definitely want to win more games. We really want to uphold the high standard we have here in Cold Springs and do right by our community. We want to be a hard-working, competitive team next year. If we can simply improve and be better than we were last year, success will follow.”

Zane talked about what will make this team special to watch next season, plus some of his role models growing up, and the best advice that he was ever given.

“I think our competitiveness and passion will make us special. We’re going to work hard and lay it all out to try and win,” he said. “Coming up through our program, I always looked up to Roberto Ayala and Seth Williams. Those two were guys who never played for stats or accolades. They worked hard and just made winning basketball plays. The best advice I’ve been given has got to be from coach Willoughby. He always told us that, ‘A man who assumes success is bound to achieve it.’ It means going about things the right way, and doing things with the right intention will lead you where you want to be.”

Zane talked about his favorite coach Willoughby moments, plus some memorable memories while playing for him.

“Some of my favorite coach Willoughby moments were definitely his antics on the bench. It often felt like he was outworking everyone on the floor, jumping, yelling, and gesturing his way through games. Despite all of that, I never once saw him break a sweat. I also always enjoyed the film sessions. Seeing his meticulous eye for tendencies and schemes was breathtaking. He was an amazing strategist with the basketball genius to match.”

He added,

“Winning an area championship is definitely at the top of the list. That experience was incredible. I’ll always fondly remember preparation for big games- watching film and working in practice- and just how much fun it was to see all that time pay off. Beating Locust Fork last year at home is also pretty high, just the exciting back-and-forth atmosphere and getting to cap it off with a buzzer-beating layup. That was scored on a play we practiced every day for moments like that.”



ZANE BROWN

Cold Springs’ Zane Brown

Recycling Collection
Now Available in Cullman County for Residents and Businesses
Cardboard | Plastic | Paper | Metal | Glass

Reduce your garbage volume with Bi-monthly Recycling Pickup

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OSIRIS
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(256) 615-2510
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Not affiliated with Cullman County Sanitation Dept.
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Championships (from Front)

Gail Crutchfield
Wallace State

ALBERTVILLE, Ala. – Wallace State's Men's and Women's Tennis teams each earned Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) titles on Saturday at Sand Mountain Recreation Area in Albertville. The men won their fifth consecutive ACCC championship, with the women winning their second. Coach Tim Garner was named ACCC Coach of the Year for the fifth time in the men's division and second time in the women's division.

The men's team won 18 matches, earning the first-place finish over Coastal Alabama-South (8) and Bevill Sate (1).

Sebastian Gamez, a sophomore from Canare, Columbia, was named the ACCC Men's Player of the Year.

The men have been unbeaten this year in regular-season conference play at 6-0, with an overall record of 15-4.

They will compete in the NJCAA Nationals May 15-19 in McKinney, Texas. They are currently ranked 8th in the nation by Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA).

The women also won 18 matches, besting Central Alabama (6) and Coastal Alabama-South (3).

Kim Coots, a freshman from Huntsville, was named the ACCC Women's Player of the year.

The women were 8-0 in regular season conference play, with an overall record of 12-8.

They will compete in the NJCAA Nationals May 6-10 in Tyler, Texas. The women are currently ranked 14th in the nation by ITA.



WALLACE STATE

The Wallace State Mens' and Womens' Tennis teams both won ACCC Tournament Championships over the weekend.



WALLACE STATE

Garner credited the freshman on both the men's and women's teams for coming through this year to help lead their teams.

"My freshman really stepped up this year," he said, adding several have offers from four-year universities to play next season.

Garner is looking forward to seeing what his players can do at nationals next month.

"If we play to our potential, anybody can do some major damage at nationals," he said. "I wouldn't count any of our players out at the national tournament, that's for sure."

Registration for summer and fall semesters in underway. Summer 2023 classes begin May 24. Fall 2023 classes begin Aug. 18. For more information, visit www.wallacestate.edu, call 256.352.8000 or come by Lion Central in the lobby of the James C. Bailey Center Monday-Wednesday 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or Friday 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.





Cullman Regional seeking approval to build ambulatory surgery center in Hartselle

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Regional is taking steps to build an ambulatory surgery center (ASC) at Hartselle Health Park, a multiservice outpatient facility opened by the hospital in 2021. In Alabama, health care providers must seek state approval to build or add certain health care services including ASCs. Cullman Regional has initiated the approval process by submitting a Letter of Intent to Alabama's Certificate of Need (CON) Review Board.

"An outpatient surgery center in Hartselle is another way to provide south Morgan County with local access to important quality health care services," said Dr. Bill Smith, chief medical officer at Cullman Regional. "Advances in anesthesia and minimally invasive surgical techniques have resulted in an increasing number of surgical treatments that can be done safely in an outpatient setting. This gives patients more choice and more convenience."

Many communities in Alabama have outpatient surgery centers like the one Cullman Regional is proposing. Most offer a wide variety of surgery options including endoscopy/colonoscopy, hernia repair and gall bladder removal. These surgeries and procedures are typically performed on an outpatient basis even when done in a hospital.

The proposed ASC would be built on property owned by Cullman Regional on the east side of U.S. Highway 31 and across from Hartselle Health Park's two physician clinics. A construction timeline for the project will be announced if the CON application is approved.

Cullman Regional recently received approval on a separate CON application to build a freestanding emergency department at Hartselle Health Park. The construction for that project is set to begin soon.

"The Hartselle community showed tremendous support for the Hartselle Health Park freestanding ED throughout the approval process with the CON Review Board," said Cullman Regional CEO James Clements. "We're so grateful for that and we will need it again to bring an outpatient surgery center to Hartselle."



WSCC: Spring Under the Stars set for April 27

Gail Crutchfield
Wallace State

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The final show for the Wallace State Community College Fine and Performing Arts programs for the spring 2023 semester will be the annual Spring Under the Stars concert on Thursday, April 27, at 6:30 p.m. in front of the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts.

"This will be our third year for Spring Under the Stars, and we're so excited to offer it again," said Tiffany Richter, director of the Wallace State vocal programs. "What started out as a social-distancing option for performing has become a favorite event on campus and in the community."

On tap for the event are performances by the Wallace State Jazz Band, Wallace State Concert Band, Wallace State Singers, Wallace State Choir, Wallace State Theatre and Allegro Dance Theatre.

This will be the first year for the Wallace State Theatre program to participate in the event. They will be performing a song from this spring's production of the musical "The Robber Bridegroom."

"We were pleased to add a performance to this show," said Angela Green, director of the WSCC Theatre program. "Spring Under the Stars is a great opportunity to show the community and prospective students the type of work we do here in all of our performing arts programs, and we're excited to share a little bit of this show during the event."

The Wallace State vocal programs will perform pieces from their recent production of "Down by the Riverside: Tracing the Roots of Gospel Music." This will be one of the last times local audiences will get to see a portion of the show before the students travel to Europe to perform in Germany, Austria and Italy.

"Come see it for the first time or come see it again," said Richter. "These students have worked very hard to learn how to sing what can be challenging songs vocally. I'm very proud of how well they have performed and the enthusiasm they've shown for the genre."

Admission to Spring Under the Stars is free. Spectators should bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. Food trucks from Frios, Devil Dawgs and Augusta's will be on-hand to offer dinner and refreshments.



WALLACE STATE

The Wallace State Choir performs during the 2022 Spring Under the Stars event outside of the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts.

LEGALS

PB MIN BK 215 PG 810 - 04/24/2023 11:23 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
JAY COLEMAN GLASSCOCK, * CASE NO. PC 2017 – 339
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: Ruby Jean Glasscock

TAKE NOTICE that a Verified Motion for Partition of Real Property has been filed by Adam D. Glasscock and that the 11th day of July, 2023, at 9:00 AM/PM has been set for a hearing in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, in the Cullman County Courthouse.

YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE HEARING, BUT YOU MAY ATTEND THE HEARING AND SUPPORT OR CONTEST SAID PETITION IF YOU SEE FIT TO DO SO.

DATED this 24th day of April, 2023.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

Shay Persall
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
700 2nd Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256) 841-7800

PB ADT BK 65 PG 888 - 04/14/2023 01:21 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ADOPTION OF P.R.W.
A minor child.
D.O.B. 01/27/2023
CASE NO.: AD2023-014

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: JESSE REAY, KEVIN GARCIA AND ANY UNKNOWN FATHER OF A CHILD P.R.W., BORN JANUARY 27, 2023 TO SAVANNAH LANE WILSON

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Nathaniel Rae Rambacher and Shalyn Ashley Creel, Petitioners. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within Thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with Counsel for said petitioner, whose name and address are shown below, and with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 14th DAY OF April, 2023

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

Amy M. Osborne
Attorney for Petitioners
4770 Eastern Valley Road, Suite 111
The Shoppes at Letson Farms, PMB 106
McCalla, AL 35111

PB MIN BK 215 PG 695 - 04/14/2023 01:11 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA,

IN THE MATTER OF J.T.F., A minor child.) **CASE NUMBER: PC2023-103**

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE

TO: ANY UNKNOWN FATHER OF A MINOR CHILD J.T.F, BORN March 12, 2021 TO SAMANTHA LYNN RAY

Please take notice that a Petition for Name Change was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Duffy Striker, Petitioner. If you should contest this name change, you must file a written response within Thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with Counsel for said petitioner, whose name and address are shown below, and with the Clerk of Probate Court, 200 2nd Avenue S.W., Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE this 14th day of April, 2023.

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

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

PB ADT BK 65 PG 919 - 04/24/2023 09:53 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
CULLMAN COUNTY * CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
* CASE NO: AD 2023-006

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF:
BRUCE CORRICK AND SANDRA CORRICK

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: ANY KNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNDISCLOSED PERSONS, THE BIOLOGICAL MOTHER, JENNIFER WEAVER, AND THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF THE MINOR CHILD S.S.W. DATE OF BIRTH 01/12/2016.

A PETITION FOR ADOPTION WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, BY BRUCE CORRICK AND SANDRA CORRICK. IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS ADOPTION YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE. THE RESPONSE MUST BE FILED WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONER, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS IS SHOWN BELOW, AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, POST OFFICE BOX 970, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35056.

DONE this the 24th day of April, 2023.

Alex J. Chaney
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 1052
Cullman, AL 35055

To the Publisher of the Cullman Tribune

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

PB ADT BK 65 PG 917 - 04/24/2023 09:31 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
CULLMAN COUNTY * CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
* CASE NO: AD 2023-007

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF:
BRUCE CORRICK AND SANDRA CORRICK

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: ANY KNOWN, UNKNOWN, UNDISCLOSED PERSONS, THE BIOLOGICAL MOTHER, JENNIFER WEAVER, AND THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER, SCOTTY LEWIS, OF THE MINOR CHILD H.E.L. DATE OF BIRTH 02/19/2013.

A PETITION FOR ADOPTION WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, BY BRUCE CORRICK AND SANDRA CORRICK. IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS ADOPTION YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE. THE RESPONSE MUST BE FILED WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONER, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS IS SHOWN BELOW, AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, POST OFFICE BOX 970, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35056.

DONE this the 24th day of April, 2023.

Alex J. Chaney
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 1052
Cullman, AL 35055

To the Publisher of the Cullman Tribune

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

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, Brearman,
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.

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

Funds still available for Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — According to the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries, funds are still available for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP).

SFMNP is a federally funded program administered by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries' Farmers Market Authority Section which provides seniors who meet certain financial eligibility requirements with a $50 benefit card to purchase fresh produce from certified farmers at farmers markets and farm stands in Alabama, from May to November. Funds can be used at state-sanctioned farmers markets, farm stands or u-pick operations. Previous card holders can keep the original card but MUST reapply, along with any new seniors.



ADAI
Sample benefit card

Apply now at https://agi-app.alabama.gov/fma/seniorNutrition. For a full list of eligible markets and stands, check out https://agi.alabama.gov/farmersmarket/locations/.

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COMPETITIVE PAY
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315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE
256-352-2221

Obituary Announcements: April 22-24

Jackie Harris, 87
Funeral service for Jackie Harris, age 87, of Lawrenceville, held on Monday, April 24, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Bruce Harris officiated; burial at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Ms. Harris passed away peacefully on Friday, April 21, 2023, at her residence in Georgia. She was born Oct. 12, 1935, in Alabama to Woodrow Wilson and Francis Spearman. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Carroll Harris and sister, Jenny Womack. Survivors include her daughter, Kelley (Ray) Taylor; brothers, Phillip Harris, Joe Spearman, Jerry Spearman, and Jerald Spearman; grandson, Matthew (Jamie) Harris; great-grandchildren, Bailey Harris and Bella Harris. Ms. Harris attended Cullman High School graduating in the year 1953.

Leslie Cason Williamson, 57
Leslie Cason Williamson, born Jan. 17, 1966, passed away to Heaven on April 22, 2023. Leslie is preceded in death by her parents, James Corlis Cason and Judith Graham Pell Coggins. She is survived by her husband, Sheldon Duane Williamson; one son, Graham Scott Williamson; three sisters, Connie Cason Toomey (Denny), Kimberly Cason Emerson (Paul), Mary Beth Cason Long (Bruce); brother, Samuel Coggins; one niece and three nephews; and stepfather, Andy Coggins. She was a loving and loved wife, mother, sister, and friend. We will miss her dearly. Friends are invited to join the family for a time of visitation on Monday evening, April 24, 2023, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Visitation will be held at Holly Pond Funeral Home. Funeral services will be Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at Duck River Baptist Church, with burial following in the adjoining cemetery. Leslie will lie in state, at the church, an hour prior to services. Obituary lovingly written by the Williamson family. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Williamson family.

J.M. Parker, 81
Mr. J.M. Parker passed away on Saturday, April 22, 2023 at his residence. He was born June 7, 1941, to Thomas Raymond and Hettie Parker. He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife Connie Parker; daughter, Shelly (Steve) Crow; daughter, Sonya (Allen) Hopson; son, Blake (Dianne) Parker; daughter, Susan (Jeff) Kirk; eleven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. A memorial service for Mr. Parker will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25, at Crossroads Baptist Church in Warrior. In lieu of flowers please make donations to Crossroads Baptist Church. These donations will be for young adults 18-21 for their mission trip funds.

Patricia Ann Strickland, 87
Funeral service for Patricia Ann Strickland, age 87, of Hanceville, will be at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home; burial at Hopewell Cemetery.

Bradney Craig White, 56
Bradney Craig White, 56, of Fayette, passed away April 21, 2023, at his residence. He was born Jan. 14, 1967, in Jasper, Alabama. He was a good son and brother who enjoyed hunting and fishing. He loved sharing his life with his family and loved ones. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. until noon at Nichols Funeral Home in Addison with funeral services to follow at noon. Interment will be in Fairview Cemetery. Brother Chuck White will officiate. Bradney is survived by his mother, Iona White; brother, Greg White (Nancy); son, Dillon White (Hollie); grandson, Riften White; cousins, Jim White (Marie), Trann Snow (Paul), Wes White (Belinda), Tammie Tidwell, Randy White (Ginger), Sandy Horsley, Lynn Parker (Joey), Wendell Jones, Dianne Jones, Joyce Grimmett, Clifton Grimmett, Nathan Grimmett, and Harlan Barbee; and a host of other family and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, C. G. White; and grandparents, Chester and Bertha White and Roy and Florence Barbee.

Mary Kate Sandlin, 80
Mary Kate Sandlin, age 80, of Clearwater, Florida, passed away on April 2, 2023. Mary was born on January 17, 1943. Mary started her life in the small town of Haleyville. She was adopted by Carrie and Dewey Eady, who loved her like their own child. She grew up with two cousins and best friends, Sheila Eady- Boone and Jerry Lucas. At the age of 16 she married Norman Schick and started a family. She later went on to become a crossing guard and school lunch aid at the schools her children were attending. In the early 1980s she started working for Amerisure Insurance. In 2002 she moved to Clearwater, Florida and became a Home Health Aid working for Home Instead. After retirement she continued to help her elderly friends driving them to stores, doctors, and other places they needed to go. Mary was a strong donator for Saint Jude and gave yearly as well as extra money that she would send. She always believed that children should not be hindered with disease or other illnesses but since these problems happened, she was more than willing to give her time and money to those in need. Mary was known by many, remembered by more, and loved by all. A graveside memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023, at 1 p.m. at Littleville Cemetery in Haleyville. Mary is survived by her daughters, Katherine Krawczyk and Norma Looney; and sons, Chris Schick and Steven Schick. She was preceded in death by her mother, Carrie Wakefield; father, Dewey Eady; sister, Vernell Rompasky; and brother, J.R. Eady.

Robert Jackson Smith, 76
Robert Jackson Smith, age 76, of Hanceville, Alabama, passed away on March 23, 2023, after being diagnosed with metastatic lung cancer. Known as "Bob" to friends and family, he was called "Pabo" by his seven grandchildren. Bob was born on April 10, 1946, in Geneva, Illinois, to Charles Jackson Smith and Lillie Vansaun Berry Smith. He grew up in the community of Short Hills, New Jersey, where he graduated from Millburn High School. Bob attended college for two years at Washington and Lee University in Virginia before enlisting in the Army. After his military service, he attended the University of Alabama to complete his degree and graduate with a BA in Economics. He worked for over 25 years in the insurance industry, spending the majority of that time at McGriff, Seibels, and Williams, insurance brokers in Birmingham, Alabama. He played soccer in high school and while in college at Washington and Lee University, and playing golf was his favorite hobby during his adult life. Bob was an avid reader and a master of solving sudoku puzzles. Blessed with a keen intellect, he enjoyed a good pun and was known to pull a good prank as well. Bob is survived by his children, Sharon Smith Murphree (Jason Murphree), Christine Leigh Smith, and Robert Shaler Smith (Emily Smith); his grandchildren, Jackson Murphree, Emma Murphree, Jake Murphree, Mya Murdock, Miles Murdock, Alexis Smith, and Liam Smith; his sister, Susan "Sue" Ham (Sam); and a host of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Lillie Smith; his brothers, Charles Smith and Nicholas Smith; and his sister, Lucy Marshall. A memorial service to celebrate Bob's life is being held on April 29, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. at Crosshaven Church in Hanceville, Alabama.

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ACCS: Alabama needs skilled fiber optic workforce

Alabama Community College System now offers rapid, no-cost training

Russell Moore
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Salaries and demand for fiber optic technicians and installers are on the rise, and starting this week rapid, no-cost training is available for these jobs at community colleges across the state.

Through the Alabama Community College System's Skill for Success program, Alabamians can learn how to install and maintain fiber optic networks in less than a week.

The training can be completed quickly because part of the course is done online with interactive learning that is self-paced.

Upon completing the online portion of the course, trainees then complete two days of hands-on training with qualified instructors at any of the 24 community and technical colleges around the state.

The training is offered at no cost to participants thanks to appropriations from the Alabama Legislature.

The course was developed by the Innovation Center, a division of the Alabama Community College System that brings together the state's community colleges, industries and community partners to deliver Skills for Success training.

"Today's communication networks depend on fiber optic connectivity, so the demand for a skilled fiber optic workforce is critical and growing," said Jimmy H. Baker, chancellor of the Alabama Community College System.

"By delivering rapid training, Skills for Success quickly provides the training that can lead to immediate employment."

The online coursework covers the fundamentals of fiber optics, including industry standards and best practices.

Participants then receive hands-on training when they learn how to install, test and maintain fiber optic cables, as well as how to troubleshoot and maintain fiber optic systems.

"When you walk out of here you're going to have opportunities to say that you know how to terminate fiber, you know how to test fiber, you know how this works," said Josh Byars, an employee with Joe Wheeler FlashFiber who served as the hands-on instructor for the fiber optic training pilot course at Wallace Community College in Dothan.

"Salaries for fiber technicians have increased by 12% in the past five years and demand for these professionals is expected to increase by 8% by the year 2031, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"Participants who complete the training also earn an ACCS Credential, which signals to businesses that the individual has mastered the skills taught in the program and is immediately ready for employment.

The ACCS Credential can also be used as a foundation for additional classes and training at Alabama community colleges.

"The number one challenge for most businesses right now is finding and retaining a skilled workforce.

"Skills for Success training is developed in partnership with Alabama industries so it is customized with input from employers for jobs that are in high demand," said Vice Chancellor of Workforce and Economic Development for the Alabama Community College System, Keith Phillips.

Those interested in learning more and signing up for the training can go online to innovation.accs.edu.

