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NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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Pedestrian struck outside Cullman Publix succumbs to injuries

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A pedestrian struck outside Publix in Cullman on Tuesday, May 9, succumbed to her injuries after being transported to UAB Hospital in Birmingham.

Cullman County Coroner Jeremy Kilpatrick said Patricia Ross, 91, of Cullman, died at UAB.

"She was struck by a car at Publix last night," he said. "The 911 call was placed shortly after 7 p.m."

According to Cullman Police Chief David Nassetta, the incident was a low-speed crash on private property, and nothing at the scene implied recklessness on the part of the driver, Janice Lee, 77, of Vinemont.

"It really surprised us when we found out that she had passed away, because, according to the » PAGE 7



TIFFANY MCKOY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Ribbon cut on new basketball court at Smith Lake Park



TIFFANY MCKOY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Members of the Cullman County Commission, the Alabama Mountains, Rivers & Valleys Resource Conservation & Development Council, Cullman County Economic Development, Cullman County Parks and Recreation and more at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new basketball court at Smith Lake Park

Tiffany McKoy
tsmckoy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The ribbon was cut on the new basketball court at Smith Lake Park on Tuesday, May 9.

Due to the location and condition of the old basketball goals, it was determined that a new, more modern court was needed to accommodate the growing popularity of Smith Lake Park. Funding was approved in August 2022, and site work began shortly after that. Due to supply chain delays, getting the basketball goals took extra time.

According to the Cullman County Commission, the new basketball court is a significant milestone for the community and a testament to the power of collaboration and partnerships. In addition, it will add to the many outdoor recreational opportunities that make Smith Lake Park a great place to visit.

"We couldn't have done this without the help of our local delegation, and it was a blessing to work with them on this," said Com- » PAGE 9

Cullman County man sentenced to 75 years for failure to register as sex offender



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

David Lee Moore » PAGE 6

Jim 'Coach' Taylor receives 2023 Impact Award » PAGE 11

South Vinemont Council votes to annex properties



TIFFANY MCKOY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right are council members Chris Thompson, Nina Justice, Charlotte Cosper, Bonnie Goodwin and Sonya Copeland and Mayor Reggie Dodson. » PAGE 7

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported May 10

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

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

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

No incidents or arrests reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

May 6

- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; Elizabeth St. NE; damaged tow rack; $200

May 7

- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; person; Main Ave. SW; miscellaneous

May 8

- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; fishing pole; $52
- theft of property-4th degree; person; Logan St. SW; phone; $450
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; 4th St. SW
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; general merchandise; $82

ARRESTS

May 8 – 9

Elliott, Robbie C.; 68

- theft of property-4th degree

Merritt, Kristi F.; 52

- public intoxication

Mathis, Brad D.; 57

- FTA- insurance violation
- FTA- driving without license

Bryan, Cindy L.; 41

- public intoxication

Domingo, Alfredo; 25

- theft of property-3rd degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Council recognizes EES Archery Team, recaps Strawberry Festival

Tiffany McKoy
tsmckoy@cullmantribune.com



TIFFANY MCKOY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman City Councilman Brad Smith, left, recognizes the East Elementary Archery Team and coach Branch Whitlock, second from left, along with Principal David Wiggins, second from right, and Cullman City Schools Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff, right.

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City Council on Monday night recognized the East Elementary School Archery Team, who took the state title in the Elementary Division at the 2023 National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Alabama State Championship in Montgomery April 6-7. The team was undefeated this year all the way through state.

Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism Executive Director Nathan Anderson shared reports from the Cullman Strawberry Festival, which took place May 6. According to Anderson, more than 27,000 people attended.

"We found that about half of our attendees leave our festival site and go see the rest of our city. We have reports from local restaurants that had lines out the door," Anderson said.

"It was a big day. I cannot say enough about the team that I have. Many of these guys put in an exhausting amount of hours to produce this festival and they did an incredible job."

Anderson said more than 40 local businesses were represented inside the festival footprint and farmers sold out of strawberries by 3 p.m.

There have been complaints from the public about not enough local food vendors being represented at the festival.

Anderson addressed that, saying, "I hope we're going to bring them back, and we are in discussions to bring locals back, because we want as many local businesses represented as possible."

Mayor Woody Jacobs reported that repairs to Warnke Road have been completed and the Second Avenue Northeast Streetscape project near city hall continues.

The following were approved:

- A special event request from Trey Lowry of Pearl Skate Supply for a grand opening skate event on First Avenue Northeast on Saturday, May 13, from 5-9 p.m.

- A special event request from Waid Harbison of United Way of Cullman County for a Community Health Fair at Festhalle on Saturday, June 3, from 10 a.m.-2p.m.

- A special event request from Paige Clabo of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce for 2nd Fridays events June 9, July 14 and Aug. 11, from 5:30 p.m.-10 p.m.

- A special event request from Michael Pugh for Rock the South at 1872 County Road 469 July 20-22

The following resolutions and ordinances were approved:

- Resolution No. 2023-41 to accept the streetlights on Wall Street Northeast, which is a part of the public street system

- Resolution No. 2023-42 to award the bid for Industrial Park V Improvements to the lowest responsible bidder, Manning Construction, LLC.

- First Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-22 to annex 447 County Road 1466 as R-1 District, which received a favorable recommendation from the Planning Commission

- First Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-23 to annex 332 County Road 1467 as R-1 District, which received a favorable recommendation from the Planning Commission

- First Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-24 to annex two properties on County Road 700 as R-1 District, which received a favorable recommendation from the Planning Commission

Gudger addresses health care visitation bill, I-65, mental health

Tiffany McKoy
tsmckoy@cullmantribune.com



OFFICE OF SEN. GARLAN GUDGER

Sen. Garlan Gudger speaks about the health care visitation rights bill.

CULLMAN, Ala. — Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman, recently gave an update on legislation he's been working on this session.

Gudger sponsored Senate Bill 113, aimed protecting and enhancing visitation requirements for patients, clients or residents of health care facilities. Gudger said he has been working for the past two years to pass this piece of legislation that would allow patients of health care facilities to "have the right to visit with any individual of their choosing" during the facility visiting hours. According to Gudger, this endeavor began when he heard the stories of family members not able to see their loved one during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gov. Kay Ivey signed the bill into law in April.

Looking forward, Gudger said, he is taking the initial steps to find a solution to increasing traffic congestion and crashes on Interstate 65.

"We have more traffic than we've ever had before. When there's a wreck (on the interstate) you have to go through downtown (Cullman on U.S. Highway 31), and it clogs up every artery that we have for our infrastructure," Gudger explained.

According to Gudger, he has been working with Lieutenant Gov. Will Ainsworth to get a resolution sent to the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) for a study about what it would take to make I-65 six lanes statewide.

"I've already been in contact with ALDOT," Gudger stated. "It would be a 10-year project. What is the feasibility? How would we do it? And give me a strategy so that we can start on it."

Gudger talked about the new 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

"There is a bill called 988, which is the equivalent to 911. If someone has any mental health problems, whether it's your family at home or someone walking down the street, if this bill passes, you will be able to dial 988 statewide and you would have what they call a crisis mobile unit come to that person if that is what is needed," he explained.

According to Gudger, the goal is give people struggling with mental health issues the proper care they need instead of involving law enforcement.

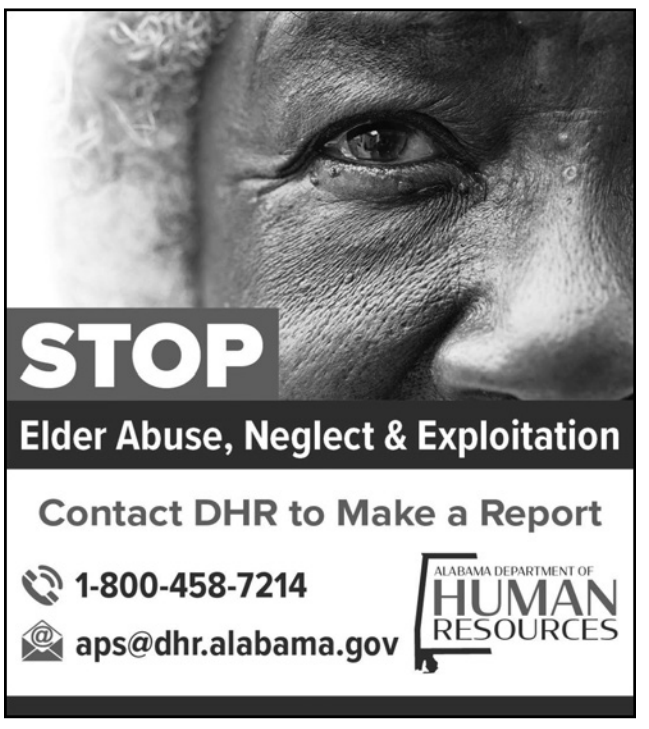
Nationwide, 988 is designated as the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline number. Right now, when Alabama residents call 988, those calls are routed to 911 centers. The 988 bill will allow Alabama residents to access the nationwide 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline number. It will fund brick and mortar 988 call centers and mobile units, and provide professional training specifically for mental health emergencies.

"This will give better assistance with mental health issues for residents as well as free up our 911 dispatchers for other calls. In 2010, there was a 60% slash in funds for mental health care, and this bill will help with that cut," wrote Alisha Parker, executive legal assistant in Gudger's office, in an email to The Tribune.

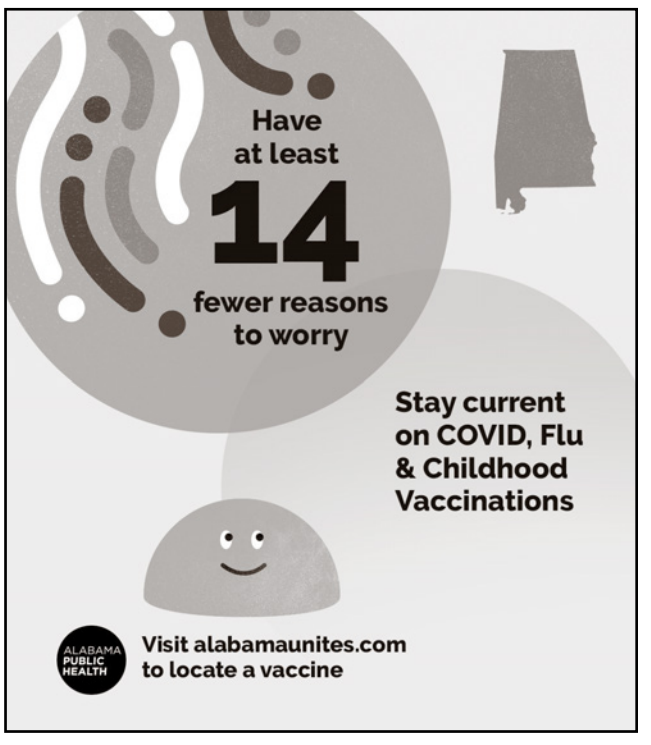
Gudger said the service will cost users less than $1 per month, and it will help taxpayers in the long run because their money won't be going toward as many hospital stays, extra personnel hires, etc.

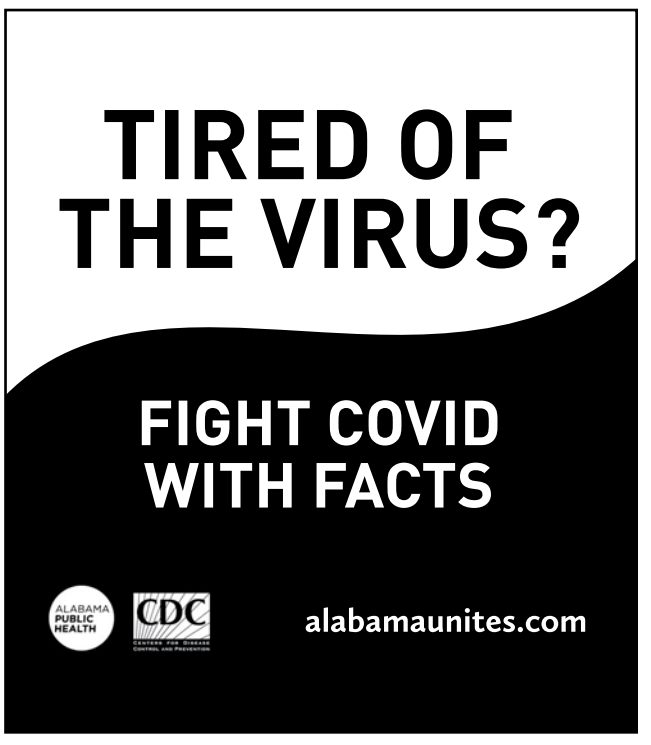
"I think this is something that is warranted and worth it for mental health to get us back on track," he said.











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.
• Friday, May 12 - 11 a.m. Adult potluck lunch
• Friday, May 12 - 7 p.m. Recovery Ministry Guest Speaker is Jeff Gilliland - Fellowship and 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, May 14 - 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, May 14 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area. Call 256-841-2060 for pickup. Breakfast @ 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults @ 10. Adult class @ 11. Praise and worship and message by Pam 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.

Heartland Quilt Guild Meeting
Thursday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m. We will meet at St. Andrews Methodist Church on 615 Main Ave. SW., Cullman, Al 35055. All are welcome.

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.

Arts in the Garden Art Show
Saturday, May 13, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Woodlands & Wildflowers Garden at Sportsman Lake. This event is free and open to everyone.

Cullman Memory Gardens Decoration
Saturday, May 13 and Sunday (Mother's Day), May 14. Great effort has been put into Cullman Memory Gardens and it is being restored to its original serenity and beauty. This has taken much effort and expense and we need those of you that have relatives buried there to help us out. We have a committee consisting of Amy Walker, Ron Foust, Neil Culpepper, Austin Hall and Jerry Smith who will be there at various times Saturday and Sunday and we would greatly appreciate your financial help in the projects that we have to restore the cemetery. Gifts to the cemetery fund are tax deductible and a receipt will be given. (Cullman Memory Gardens Cemetery Foundation)

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.

Cullman Educator Retirees Association Meeting
Thursday, May 18, at 11 a.m. at Stone Bridge Farms. Our program will be presented by the North Alabama Agriplex, followed by lunch and fellowship for those who wish to stay. We welcome new members and visiting retirees. Info: mjcjcera@gmail.com

Cullman High School Class of 1956 Meeting Luncheon
Thursday, May 18, at noon at the Brandin Iron restaurant in West Point in the private dining room. All class of 1956 are invited 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.

Holly Pond Lions Club Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, May 20, from 6-9 a.m. Join us for good food and fellowship in the Lions Club Building at 220 Lion's Park Road in Holly Pond. All-you-can-eat pancakes, bacon and sausage for a donation. Proceeds will go toward the upkeep of Holly Pond Cemetery.

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.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Singing
Sunday, May 21, at 5 p.m. Sonlife Quartet from Chattanooga, Tennessee 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.

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.

7th Annual Bernard Blues and BBQ Arts & Crafts Festival
• September 9-10, 2023
• Contact: Joyce Nix – 256-255-5860; jnix@stbernardprep.com

7th Annual Bernard Blues and BBQ
Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 9-10, at St. Bernard. Featuring pottery, quilts, brooms, leather art, cypress furniture, paintings, jewelry, plants and more. Visit Ave Maria Grotto for a reduced price admission of only $5. Admission donation to the festival is $10 per person; children 5 and younger free. Proceeds benefit St. Bernard Prep School. Rain or shine 9 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. Visit www.stbernardprep.com for more information.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MAY 11, 2023

PREP SOFTBALL

Holly Pond's season ends at East Regional with losses to Pisgah, Woodland

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

ALBERTVILLE, Ala. – The Lady Broncos hit the road Tuesday morning to compete in this year's East Regional Tournament in Albertville but unfortunately for Bronco fans, Holly Pond's postseason run came to an end with losses to Pisgah and Woodland.

Pisgah 5 – Holly Pond 1 (Game One)
Samantha Giles and Bai Widner led off the top of the first with back to back singles and Giles came around to score later in the inning to give the Lady Broncos a 1-0 lead.

Pisgah plated a pair of runs in the bottom half of the first to take a 2-1 lead and after a scoreless second and third inning, the Lady Eagles added another run in the fourth to make it a 3-1 game. Pisgah tacked on two more runs in the sixth to extend its lead to 5-1 and Holly Pond managed to get a pair of runners on base in the top of the seventh, but a double play cut the scoring opportunity short and secured a 5-1 win for the Lady Eagles.

Giles, Widner, Madyson Rickman, Maycie Black and Maggie Nail each posted a hit for Holly Pond in the loss.

Woodland 5 - Holly Pond 1 (Game Two)
Woodland struck first in their opening at-bats as they loaded the bases with one out. A bases-loaded walk gave them an early lead, then a two-out, two-run single pushed their lead to 3-0.

The Lady Bobcats loaded the bases again in the bottom of the second and a base-loaded walk gave them a 4-0 lead. Holly Pond got something going offensively in the top of the fifth.

Ellie Burks drew a one-out walk and Maggie Nail lined an RBI triple to center field to cut it to 4-1. The Lady Broncos put a couple of runners on base in the top of the sixth but couldn't do anything with it.

Woodland added another run in the bottom of the sixth as they scored on a one-out error to make it 5-1. Holly Pond looked to keep their season alive in the top of the seventh. Molly Neal hit a one-out single, but they couldn't cut more into the deficit after that as the Lady Broncos' season came to an end with a 5-1 loss to Woodland.

Nail finished with a hit and an RBI for Holly Pond. Samantha Giles and Neal each added a hit as well.

Holly Pond will lose Giles, Madyson Rickman, Aliyah Ryan, Lexie Smith and Bai Widner to graduation later this month so they will have plenty of shoes to fill as they prepare for another postseason run in 2024.

Sammy Confer contributed to this article.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Holly Pond Lady Broncos fell to Pisgah and Woodland at the East Regional Tournament Tuesday.

PREP SPORTS

'Be the best teammate I can be': Holly Pond's Alyssia Mitchell talks sophomore year

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. — In this interview, I talked to Holly Pond Sophomore Alyssia Mitchell about her experience playing both volleyball and basketball for the Broncos during the last school year, starting with volleyball.

"Last season on JV, we came up short, but we grew as a team. I played middle and had a very important job to help the outsides and get blocks. After the JV season was over, I received the opportunity to play up on varsity. It was so fun, and my teammates really encouraged me. Even though I wasn't the star player, I knew I had an important role: to help get the team ready for those big games and tournaments. I also learned that being loud and supportive on the bench is just as important as being loud on the court."

She added,

"I would like to mention an upcoming senior: Kamryn Tankersley. She was a teammate who I knew I could talk to. She made sure I knew it was okay to mess up, and she taught me not to take the moment for granted. We were area champs and county runners-up last season and I can't wait to see what the Lady Broncos bring to the table this year. As coach Adrien Adams always said, you have God at the end of the day."

Mitchell talked about her coaches and what all she learned from them, plus what she learned the most about last season, and some of her favorite memories from last season.

"Coach Lexi Sullivan was always encouraging. She always knew how to make me laugh and told me not to get down on myself. Coach Adams reminded me that I could always be better than I was. I learned that it's always good to encourage and be there for your teammates when needed," Mitchell said. "I think the thing that I learned the most about last season was to never give up and give it your all. I think one of my favorite memories was winning area. It was so fun being able to celebrate with a group of girls on such a big accomplishment."

Mitchell was blessed to get to play with a great group of girls this past season and she also talked about what she hopes to see from this team next season.

"I will always remember that we had each other's backs, if not the first time, the next, and the amount of trust between each other," she said.

"This upcoming season, I hope to see the team winning county, area, and being the best they can be during state."

Holly Pond's basketball team had a successful season as they finished runners-up in the area and made the Sweet 16. Mitchell talked about that, what she took away, what it was like playing with a great group of girls, and what she learned from her coaches.

"Last season went very well. We were the JV county champions and I was on the All-Tournament team. On varsity, we were the runners-up in the area tournament and made it to the Sweet 16. I learned to never take the moment for granted and to always give it your all, even when you may be down," she said. "Playing with a group of girls that encourage me all the way and be the best supporters possible is one of the things that made me the player that I am today."

She added, "I loved coach Mary Lauren Hartline, coach Rachel Daugherty, and coach Molly McKelvy. They taught me how to be a disciplined player. They always knew that I was capable of doing things that I thought I would never be doing. They are very inspiring. They were dedicated to what they were doing and they gave it their all at everything. They were always encouraging. I love coach Hartline. She has brought varsity a long way. She puts a lot of effort into everything she does to strive and be the best. They taught me that giving up was never the answer and to always push through."

Mitchell soaked up as much as she could from last year's upperclassmen, and she will work on some things to get ready for next season.

"I will really miss Maddi Ham. She taught me that to get better, you can't just pick the ball up at practice and then wait until the next practice to work on things. Get in the gym and get those extra reps in. Work on that drill that you're having trouble within practice. There is always room to improve.

"Another one of my upperclassmen was Kamryn Tankersley. She made sure that I knew that it was okay to mess up. She was always encouraging her teammates. I knew I could go to them without being pushed away," she said.

"During the off-season, I will be working on being consistent at making shots from everywhere, being able to take care of the ball while under pressure, put myself in game-like situations, and to gain strength."

Mitchell talked about her goals and the team goals for this upcoming season and what will make this team special to watch.

"My individual goals for this season would be to get better every day, work on things that need to be critiqued, and be the best teammate I can be. As for team goals, we would like to make it farther than we did last year, fix all the little things that need to be fixed, and overall, just to play as a team," she said. "What will make this team special to watch next season is the way that we have set goals, we know how to communicate amongst each other, and we have discipline and leadership on this team."

Mitchell talked about some of her role models growing up, basketball-wise, and some of the best advice that she was ever given.

"As I was growing up, I would consider my trainers and coaches as my role models. My trainer, Cori, has helped me be the player I am today. Without him, I would not know how to shoot a basketball the way that best fits me or how to overcome things when I would get tired.

"The best advice I was ever given was to never give up and to always look for the best in things."



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Holly Pond's Alyssia Mitchell

Kessler and Smith honored on NBA All-Rookie 1st and 2nd Teams



NBAE

Former Auburn standouts Walker Kessler and Jabari Smith Jr. earned spots on the NBA's All-Rookie first and second teams.

Greg Ostendorf
AU Athletics

NEW YORK – Auburn men's basketball alum Walker Kessler and Jabari Smith were both honored on the 2022-23 Kia NBA All-Rookie First and Second Teams, as announced by the NBA on Monday.

A center for the Utah Jazz, Kessler earned a spot on the first team along with the Orlando Magic's Paolo Banchero, Indiana Pacers' Bennedict Mathurin, Sacramento Kings' Keegan Murray and Oklahoma City Thunder's Jalen Williams. Kessler was third in first team voting with 95 votes and a finalist for the NBA Rookie of the Year Award averaging 9.2 points, 8.4 rebounds and 2.3 blocks per game for the Jazz.

He became the first rookie in 25 years to record at least four games of 7+ blocks, trailing Tim Duncan's five times in 1998, and the first Jazz rookie to ever record a 30-point, 10-rebound game.

Smith, a power forward for the Houston Rockets, garnered second team honors alongside teammate Tari Eason, the San Antonio Spurs' Jeremy Sochan as well as the Detroit Pistons' Jalen Duren and Jaden Ivey. He averaged 12.8 points, 7.2 rebounds per game and shot 40.8 percent from the field.

Smith, who is 19 years old, became the first teenager in NBA history to record three-straight 20-point, 10-rebound games. He was also the first Rockets rookie to accomplish that feat since Hakeem Olajuwon in 1984.

Kessler and Smith, who were members of Auburn's 2021-22 SEC regular-season championship and NCAA Tournament squad, are now a part of an elite group of former Tigers to be named to the NBA All-Rookie Team next to Charles Barkley (1985), Chris Morris (1989 – Second Team), Chuck Person (1987), Wesley Person (1995 – Second Team), Marquis Daniels (2004 – Second Team) and Isaac Okoro (2021 – Second Team).



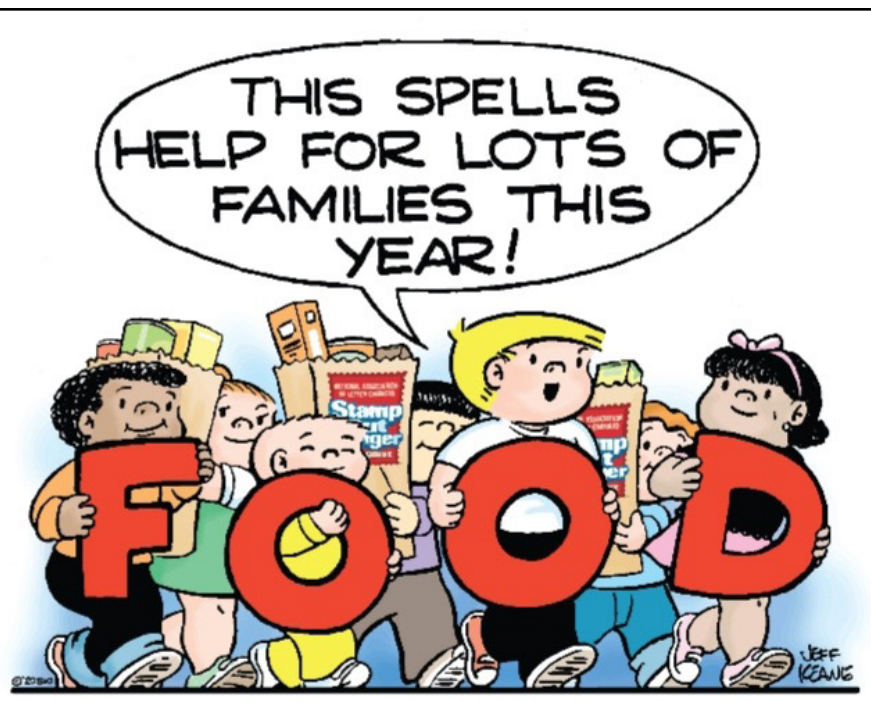


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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MAY 11, 2023

COLUMN: Stop and smell the corn dogs!

Joe Hobby
Contributor

I drove by our community ballpark the other day and saw that the All-Star baseball games were well underway. It's hard to believe that the Little League baseball season has already come and gone. Has it already been two months since Opening Day? It seemed like I just saw what seemed to be thousands of parents and grandparents crowded around the baseball diamonds to encourage their future major league players. Please don't question me - I'm sure that most parents at the ballpark will tell you their child is going to make it to the big leagues - Triple A at the very least.

I believe that all ballparks have one thing in common: the bigger the field is, the more serious the game becomes. That's why my favorite game is the one with the smallest field: T-ball. Hands down, it's the best game to watch in the world - other than bikini beach volleyball, of course.

I like it because most kids don't even know the rules, nor do they care. It's wonderful, organized chaos with colorful uniforms and imitation leather gloves. The coaches try their best to coach, but the parents, most of whom know nothing about baseball, are screaming instructions at their kids like they're managing the Yankees in the World Series.

"Run, Jacob, run!"

"No, no! Go back, Jacob, go back!"

"Keep your foot on the base."

"Touch him with the ball!"

I don't think you hear comments like that in the major leagues. And you certainly won't hear:

"Pay attention!"

"Put your hat back on!"

"Pull up your pants!"

"Quit throwing rocks!"

"Do you have to potty?"

I've seen an umpire stop a game because several players from both teams had to go to the bathroom. Forget T-ball, that was Pee-ball.

When you watch a T-ball game, you'll quickly notice that there are about two or three kids on each team who understand what's going on. The rest of them would probably rather be home watching Peppa Pig, especially if they're playing in the outfield.

All three of my boys began their T-ball careers in the outfield, specifically right field. The old saying "He was out in left field" would be more accurate if it was, "He was out in right field."

For those of you not well versed in this culture, right field is T-ball purgatory. You play right field because balls are rarely hit in that direction, making it the perfect place for players who are too young, or uninterested in the game. But playing right field is as boring as a lecture on microeconomics.

As a result, you can see kids entertaining themselves by looking for bugs, throwing dirt and, in extreme cases, lying on the ground with their glove over their faces. My youngest son Brad had a unique habit of counting all the people in the bleachers, which was quite a feat because he could only count to 10.

On the rare occasion when a ball is hit into right field, the right fielder never makes the play alone. He will almost always get help from the first baseman, second baseman, center fielder and probably the left fielder. They usually end up in a scrum, fighting over the ball like dogs over hamburger meat. When one of them finally comes up with it, the runner is rounding third.

I videotaped Brad's first T-ball game years ago and watched it the other day. It's amazing how totally uninterested he was. That's because the only reason he was "playing" was because his friends were out there. He undoubtedly got more enjoyment running around the ballpark than he did playing in right purgatory. So, when he was in the game, he often carried his outfield shenanigans to the infield, sometimes bringing play to a complete halt. He particularly enjoyed harassing his first- and second-base teammates. He would duck walk between the bases, turn his hat backwards and get right in their faces until the coaches physically put him back in his proper spot.

A lot of parents would have been embarrassed with their child's on-field behavior, but I found it quite entertaining. That's because Brad was my third son to play T-ball. I'm a slow learner, but after two kids I finally came to a realization about my boys being baseball stars. It wasn't gonna happen. Now I see T-ball for what it's supposed to be - a way for kids to have fun, and for parents to judge their children's interest in the sport going forward.

I also had the foresight to record a post first-game interview with my son on video. Here's a partial transcript:

"Brad, did you have fun playing T-ball?

"Yes sir."

"Did you hit the ball?"

"Yes sir."

"Did you catch the ball when it came to the outfield?"

"Yes sir."

"Oh, I must have missed it. When did you do that?"

"When you wasn't looking."

And with that, he looked over his shoulder, and made what he considered to be the most important statement concerning the game.

"Dad! I've gotta go now. If I'm not back in the dugout I'm gonna miss my treat!"

Interview over.

Hopefully other parents can learn this lesson faster than I did. It's just a game - treat it that way. Take time to enjoy the moments that will vanish all too fast. It's T-ball, a rite of childhood passage. Take time to stop and smell the corn dogs.

Joe Hobby is a comedian from Alabama who wrote for Jay Leno for many years. Find more of Joe's stories on his blog: https://mylifeasahobby.blogspot.com. Follow him on Facebook at Joe Hobby Comedian- Writer.

Man (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County Circuit Court Judge Greg Nicholas on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, sentenced David Lee Moore, of Hanceville, to 75 years in prison. The sentence stems from Moore's March 1 conviction for failing to register as a sex offender with the Cullman County Sheriff's Office in violation of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act.

"As I stated after the trial our sex offender registration laws are tough for good reason and we will not only prosecute those who break them to the fullest, but we will also ask for tough sentences on anyone who is convicted," said Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker.

Moore was convicted in a one-day trial in March. During the trial, the jury heard from Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry and Cullman County Sheriff's Office Lt. Jason Allen. Moore was previously convicted of first-degree sodomy of a 5-year-old child and multiple other felonies.

"First I would like to thank my assistant district attorneys, trial coordinators and staff who did a great job helping me prosecute this case. I would also like to thank the jury for their diligence. Our sex offender registration laws are tough for good reason and any offender who breaks those laws in Cullman County will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. I would like to specifically thank Sheriff Gentry, who testified and his deputies for enforcing our sex offender laws," Crocker said after the trial.

"I would like to commend my deputies for the hard work they did in this case and the district attorney's office for the hard work they did in this case. I would particularly thank District Attorney Crocker who took time to personally try this case with his assistant district attorneys. As I stated many times my office will make sure protecting our children is a top priority," Gentry said after the trial.

More on Moore: www.cullmantribune.com/2016/11/19/hanceville-police-arrest-registered-sex-offender-on-drugs-stolen-vehicle-charges.





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Vinemont (from Front)

Tiffany McKoy
tsmckoy@cullmantribune.com

SOUTH VINEMONT, Ala. — The South Vinemont Town Council on Tuesday night voted to annex four parcels off of Goodwin Road.

According to Town Clerk Kayecea Sasser, the annexations are already reflected in the town's zoning map.

The council reported it has received positive reviews on the town's senior citizen events.

The next event will be held Monday, May 15, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Vinemont Community Center. Any senior citizen is welcome to attend.

The event will be sponsored by The Shaddix Company.

The council passed:

- Ordinance no. 2023-05-01 Zoning Map Amendment

- Resolution no. 2023-05-01 Surplus Honda 4-wheeler

Pedestrian (from Front)

officers on scene, she was conscious; she was talking," Nassetta said.

CPD Traffic Homicide Investigator Sgt Joey Duncan said he has spoken with the district attorney's office and will be doing a complete investigation on its recommendation.

No charges have been filed.

The Cullman Police Department posted on Facebook:

On, 05/09/2023, at approximately 7:07pm, Patricia Ross, 91yr old from Cullman, AL., was the pedestrian involved in the vehicle crash that occurred at Publix parking lot, located at the Cullman Shopping Center. The driver involved in the crash was Janice Lee 77yr old of Vinemont, AL.

Ross was transported by Cullman EMS from the scene to UAB Medical Center, where she was later pronounced deceased. Lee did not sustain any injuries.

Tiffany McKoy contributed to this article.

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Obituary Announcements: May 9-10

Bobby Joe Waldrip, 89
Bobby Joe Waldrip, age 89, lifelong resident of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Saturday, May 6, 2023. Bobby was born in Bremen, Alabama on April 21, 1934, to Horace and Stella Morgan Waldrip. He was a graduate of Cold Springs High School and St. Bernard College, served in the US Army, was a member of Sharon Grove United Methodist Church, and was a longtime local businessman and partner in the Waldrip-Blocher Company. He is preceded in death by his wife of sixty-four years, Ann Chatham Waldrip; sister, Jewel (Judy) Waldrip Graves; and his parents. Survivors are his daughter, Susan Waldrip Dendy of Birmingham; son-in-law, Richard Riddick Dendy of Birmingham; and granddaughter, Lily Jordan Dendy of Boston, Massachusetts. Visitation will be on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at Moss Service Funeral Home from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. Funeral services will be on Friday, May 12, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow services in Shedd Cemetery in the Trimble community. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations in Bob's honor may be made to the Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org) or Childhaven.com. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.mossservicefh.com for the Waldrip family. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Cora Lee Ola Pigg, 96
Cora Lee Ola Pigg, 96, of Addison, passed away May 8, 2023 at her residence. She was born May 22, 1926, in Addison, Alabama. Cora loved her family. She enjoyed doing yardwork, including taking care of her lawn and garden. Cora also loved talking on the phone to her friends. A visitation will be held on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Addison. An additional visitation will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2023, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Addison, with the funeral service to follow at 1 p.m. Interment will follow in Sardis Baptist Church #2 Cemetery. Brother Tim Box will officiate. Cora is survived by her son, Craig Pigg and his wife Marsha; daughter, Vickey Andrews; granddaughter, Lana Hines and her husband Vance; grandson, Matthew Andrews; great granddaughters, Emmy and Elly Hines; sister, Betty Adams; and a host of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Russ Pigg; parents, Ollie Wesley Maddox and Joanna Smothers Maddox; brothers, James Maddox, John Maddox, and Quinton Maddox; and sisters, Ellie Edmonson, Annabelle Johnson, Opal Blackwood, and Eva Laursen. Memories and condolences may be shared at www.nicholsfuneralhomes.com.

Robin William Fergusson Franks, 80
Memorial services are incomplete at this time for Robin William Fergusson Franks, 80, of Blountsville, Alabama. Mr. Franks passed away May 9, 2023, at his residence. He was born Nov. 4, 1942, to John and Dorothy Cousins Franks. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the Franks family.

Faye Nell McGriff, 91
Funeral Service for Faye Nell McGriff, age 91, of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at New Hope #2 Baptist Church with Elder Donnie McPherson officiating; interment in New Hope #2 Cemetery. There will be a visitation at the church from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. prior to the service. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. McGriff passed away on Monday, May 8, 2023. She was born Feb. 4, 1932, to Steven Cross McPherson and Dessie Mae McPherson. She was preceded in death by her husband, Feltus McGriff; daughter, Janice (Floyd) Arrington; grandson, Clint McGriff; parents; brothers, Wayne McPherson and Don McPherson; and sister, Reba Federer. Survivors include her son, Gary (Teresa) McGriff; grandchildren, Michelle (Van) Johnson, Eric (Mallory) Arrington, Jason (Jennifer) Arrington, Chris (Misty) McGriff, and Jennifer Lovoy; great-grandchildren, Olivia Johnson, Keller McGriff, Kaetlyn McGriff, Travis Arrington, Taylor Arrington, Anna Grace Arrington, Harper Branham, and Jenna Claire Branham.

James Jeremy Morrison, 47
Graveside Service for James Jeremy Morrison, age 47, of Cullman, was held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at Cullman City Cemetery with Maxie Haygood officiating. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Mr. Morrison passed away on Monday, May 8, 2023, at UAB Hospital. He was born on Sep. 3, 1975. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Billy and Bette Jean Morrison, and uncles, John Morrison and Byron Morrison. Survivors include his mother, Beth Morrison (Monte Whaley); son Ryan (Laura) Morrison; daughter, Lindsey Morrison (Robert Phillips III); grandchildren, Weston Morrison and Bennett Morrison; uncle and aunt Neal and Tracy Morrison; cousins, Kalah (Robert) Eltagonde, Haley (Chase) Nelson, Brookelynn Morrison, and Alexa Scott; and great-uncle, Ray Morrison. Carolotta Lou Cox-Miller, 80 Funeral services for Carolotta Lou Cox-Miller of Hanceville will be 2 p.m. Friday, May 12, 2023, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Damascus Cemetery. Reverend Wayne Wisener will officiate the service. Visitation for family and friends will be on Friday at the funeral home from noon until 2 p.m. Mrs. Miller was born on Dec. 21, 1942, in Cullman, Alabama to the late Eunice and Edith (Binkley) Cox. She passed away at the age of 80 on May 9, 2023, at UAB Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama. Survivors include her two grandsons, Justin (Kaley Mills) Clowdus and Trentan (Blakely Martin) Miller; great-grandson, Maverick Miller; and sister, Elizabeth Washington. Mrs. Miller was preceded in death by her daughter, Rhonda Miller; husband, Jimmy Miller; sister, Barbara "Bob" Johnson; and her parents. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Miller family.

Sylvia Evelyn Annunziato, 73
Sylvia Evelyn Annunziato, 73, of Hanceville, passed away on May 9, 2023, at her residence, surrounded by her family. She was born July 28, 1948, to Carmine and Joan Pagano Annunziato. No services are planned at this time. She is survived by her son, Raymond (Judy) Trombetta; her daughter, Kimberly (Andrew) Massello; grandchildren, Alexandra, Bianca, and Raeven; and her dog, Johnny. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy can be posted to www.cullmanfuneralhome.com for the Annunziato family. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the Annunziato family.

Carles Lemeul Farr, 69
Carles Lemeul Farr, age 69, of Vinemont, Alabama passed away on Monday, May 8, 2023. Carles is survived by his wife, Shirley Renee Farr; his daughters, Donna Renee Standridge, Amanda Farr, Crystal Farr, Branada Farr, Josee Williams (C.J.), Kristen Williams (Adam) and Destany Williams, his sons, Carles Mathew "Petey" Farr, Tyler Hammock (Anna Grace), Ethan Hammock (Bridgette) and Blake Williams (Emily), his sisters, Theresa Manies, Kathy Wagnon, Shonya Hill, Trinia Harris and Crystal Posey and his brothers, Billy Farr (Charlotte) & Doug Farr (Melodie); 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Carles was preceded in death by his parents, Lauton and Wenonna Farr. A visitation for Carles will be held Wednesday, May 10, 2023, from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Ave. NW, Cullman, AL 35055. A celebration of life funeral service will occur Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. Carles will be laid to rest in Crossroads Cemetery, 6674-6698 Co Rd 1114, Vinemont, AL. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.mossservicefh.com for the Farr family.

John Paul Luke Tomeny, 24
John Paul Luke Tomeny, 24, passed away on May 6, 2023. Born May 6, 1999, to Dr. Patrick and Nelly Tomeny in Dunedin, Florida, John Paul is survived by his parents; nine siblings; Nathalie Tomeny, Dr. Patrick (Elise) Tomeny III, Andrea (Magdiel) Flores Tomeny, Fr. Matthew Tomeny, MIC (LT, USNR), Claire (John) Griffith, Mary Tomeny, Joseph Tomeny, Mark Tomeny and Joshua Tomeny; nieces and nephews; Jack, Cory, Ava, Audrey, Patrick IV, Genevieve, Selmira, Hermina, Magdalena, Kolbe; his grandmother, Rosemary Tomeny; uncles and aunts, Jody (Tony) Mayer, Courtney (Dennis) Raffray, Tricia Donahue, Brennan Tomeny, Luis Salvadores, Andres (M Luisa) Salvadores, Isidoro (Ingrid) Salvadores, Marcela (William) Cormier, Tomas (Ingrid) Salvadores and Jeanette "Kity" Salvadores and a multitude of cousins. John Paul was preceded in death by his grandparents, Patrick Tomeny Sr., and Luis and Nelly Salvadores, and three uncles, Pablo and Sergio Salvadores, and Michael Donahue. He was an avid fisherman and golfer, as well as a huge football and hockey fan. He loved spending time on the water, boating, and at the beach. He enjoyed the company of his friends and family, especially his nieces and nephews. He was very loved and will be missed by many. A Mass of Christian Burial for John Paul will be Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 3 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 217 Second St. SE, Cullman, AL; interment will follow in Christ The King Monastery Cemetery at 5060 County Road 1635, Cullman, AL. The family will receive friends on Thursday from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

David Lloyd Corbin, 49
Celebration of Life Visitation for David Lloyd Corbin, age 49, of Cullman, will be 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 14, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Corbin passed away on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at Cullman Regional. He was born July 23, 1973, to Lloyd Junior Corbin and Vicky Louise Corbin. He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Kelly Marti Corbin; son, Kyle (Tori) Corbin; granddaughter, Joslyn Clark Corbin; godson, Johnny Ray Harbison; sisters, Christy Schnittker and Brandi Corbin; nephews, Lane Schnittker and Logan Schnittker; nieces, Paige (Morenallson) Constant and Annie Corbin; great-nephew, Sway Constant; and great-niece, Ezzi Constant.

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‘Home’: Cullman Women Sing spring concert

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The setting sun poured in through the towering stained glass windows of Seventh Street Baptist Church on Tuesday evening as Cullman Women Sing, a select treble ensemble, belted spiritual classics and songs with a far-reaching theme of homecoming at its spring concert “Home.”

Cullman Women Sing is made up of 33 talented and diverse singers who gather together “for the joy of singing,” in their own words. Twice a year they share that joy with the public through spring and winter concerts.

The singers lent their rich voices to several genres through the night, such as gospel, musical theater and jazz.

Ruben Burgos joined in with percussion, Chuck Johnston with bass, Rachel Wyatt with violin; main accompanist Kristi Warden shared her talents on piano. The ensemble is led by Artistic Director Laura Doss, who has taught vocal and choral music at the Alabama School of Fine Arts for more than two decades.

Singers include Karen Andrews, Charlotte Blakely, Marquita Boike, Patti Bostick, Lori Bowden, Nikki Burgos, Lydia Corry, Sherry Creed, Renee Crowe, Susan Eddleman, Taylor Folks, Meg Glover, Janna Henderson, Vicki Hicks, Shelley Hodo, Julia James, Susan Johnson, Dianne Knight, Debra Plunkett, Adrienne Reed, Linda Schgier, Sheila Shumaker, Sheila Sizemore, Diane Smothers, Becky Tankersley, Clydette Thornburg and Joan von Lehe.

If you are interested in joining Cullman Women Sing, contact Doss at dossfarms@charter.net.



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Artwork from the Cullman Women Sing spring concert, “Home”

LEGALS

SPECIAL NOTICE RE LOCAL LAWS

NO SPECIAL, PRIVATE, OR LOCAL LAW CAN BE PASSED, except in reference to fixing the time of holding courts, unless notice of the intention to apply therefor shall have been published, without cost to the State, in the county or counties where the matter or thing to be affected may be situated. The notice must state the substance of the proposed law and be published at least once a week for four consecutive weeks in some newspaper published in such county or counties. Such publication must have been completed prior to the day on which the bill is introduced.

Proof by affidavit (proof of publication) which verifies that notice has been properly published must be exhibited to the House of Representatives and the Senate, and one copy of such proof must be attached to the original copy of the bill which is offered for introduction.

The county or municipality affected by a local law introduced by a legislator must pay for advertising the notice, if the notice is signed by the Legislator, even though the bill is not passed. (Section 11-13-6, Code of Alabama 1975)

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY

[THIS COPY FOR THE NEWSPAPER: THIS NOTICE MUST BE PRINTED PRECEDING THE BILL]
STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

NOTICE is hereby given that a bill substantially as follows will be introduced in the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama and application for its passage and enactment will be made:

M8JU1H-1 04/18/2023 FC (L)ma 2023-1545

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to Cullman County; to amend Section 45-22-81.01 of the Code of Alabama 1975, providing for additional court costs in the state courts and the City of Cullman Municipal Court, to reallocate the use of the funds for the school resource officer program; and to provide retroactive effect.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 45-22-81.01 of the Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§45-22-81.01

(a) This section shall be operative only in Cullman County.

(b)(1) Notwithstanding any special, local, or general law to the contrary, there is levied additional court costs and charges as follows:

a. All traffic tickets (not involving alcohol or drugs, or both)..... $5.00
b. All misdemeanor alcohol arrests..... 10.00
c. All misdemeanor drug arrests..... 20.00
d. All misdemeanor D.U.I. arrests..... 25.00
e. All other misdemeanor arrests..... 5.00

f. All felony alcohol arrests..... 50.00
g. All felony drug arrests (excluding trafficking cases) 50.00
h. All felony D.U.I. arrests..... 50.00
i. All drug trafficking arrests..... 100.00
j. All other felony arrests..... 10.00

(2) The above fee shall be levied in all criminal cases including, but not limited to, felony cases, misdemeanor cases, and traffic violation cases, whose jurisdiction is in the Circuit Court of the 32nd Judicial Circuit, the District Court of Cullman County, and the City of Cullman Municipal Court. The costs and charges levied by this section shall be in addition to all other costs and charges presently levied and shall be collected as other costs and charges. ~~The levy of the costs and charges shall commence on May 19, 1993, and all cases pending at that time shall be subject to the levy of costs and charges.~~

(3) All money derived from the costs and charges shall be remitted to the county treasurer who shall place the fees collected in a special fund known as the ~~"D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Fund,"~~ SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) FUND for the purpose of funding the ~~D.A.R.E. program~~ School Resource Officer (SRO) program in all Cullman City and Cullman County schools.

(4) Disbursement and administration of the fund shall alternate every five years between the Cullman City government and the Cullman County government, with the Cullman County government initially administering the fund.

(5) Disbursements shall be made ~~at the rate of fifteen dollars ($15) per child~~ based on the per child enrollment of each school system participating in the ~~D.A.R.E.~~ School Resource Officer (SRO) program. Disbursements shall be used for the purposes of the SRO program.

~~(6) The annual allocation may be used for the following items: Workbooks, pencils, bumper stickers, name cards, stickers, T-shirts, book markers, special student awards, culmination certificates, and culmination refreshments.~~

(c) Each law enforcement agency providing ~~D.A.R.E.~~ school resource officers ~~shall~~ may be reimbursed from ~~this source of funds for all initial D.A.R.E.~~ the fund for school resource officer training ~~expenses resulting from the two week basic seminar sponsored by the Department of Treasury as well as for all officer inservice training~~ expenses ~~from the yearly conference sponsored by the National D.A.R.E. Officers Association, and conference sponsored by the Alabama D.A.R.E. Officers Association~~.

(d) ~~Further disbursement~~ Disbursement of funds shall be decided by a governing board made up of all of the following ~~people~~:

(1) The Chair of the Cullman County Commission.
(2) The Mayor of the City of Cullman.
(3) The Sheriff of Cullman County.
(4) The Chief of Police of the City of Cullman.
(5) The Cullman County Schools Superintendent.
(6) The Cullman City Schools Superintendent.
(7) A seventh member to be appointed from the business sector and by approval of the other board members.

(e) The governing board may approve requests for ~~equipment~~ specific expenditures to be used in the ~~D.A.R.E. classrooms, for vehicles to be used for the D.A.R.E. program, and either~~ School Resource Officer (SRO) program, including full or partial salaries of additional officers needed to expand the ~~D.A.R.E.~~ School Resource Officer (SRO) program.

~~(f) The governing board may also approve requests for D.A.R.E. activities taking place outside the classroom.~~

~~(g)~~ (f) All funds not used shall be held in trust and carried over to the next year."

Section 2. Any use of funds expended prior to the effective date of this act in compliance with the provisions of this act are ratified and confirmed.

Section 3. This act shall become effective immediately following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

Holly Pond's Tapscott awarded Alabama Cattlemen's Foundation scholarship

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Ethan Tapscott was awarded the High School Attending Two-Year Scholarship at the Alabama Cattlemen's Foundation Scholarship Banquet held Friday, May 5, in Wetumpka. Tapscott is the son of Matthew and Brandi Tapscott of Holly Pond.

Tapscott will graduate from Holly Pond High School and attend Wallace State Community College to pursue a degree in agribusiness.

He was one of 127 scholarship recipients awarded over $113,000 in scholarships by the Alabama Cattlemen's Foundation (ACF). The ACF serves to engage in educational and scientific activities to improve the beef cattle industry in Alabama and educate youth on the importance of beef cattle in Alabama. It provides the opportunity to make tax deductible donations for the educational work of the foundation and is largely funded by the sale of the "Cowboy Tag" vanity license plate.

Throughout the year, the ACF supports numerous organizations and events which help to educate and train future generations of the livestock industry.

The ACF has awarded scholarship money each year to Alabama youth with more than $1.2 million being awarded to date.

The Alabama Cattlemen's Association is a service based non-profit organization founded in 1944 and headquartered on Capitol Hill in Montgomery. Producer and member driven, the ACA's mission is to enhance the business climate of the state's beef cattle industry, promoting a positive image while educating consumers that beef is a safe, wholesome, nutritious and convenient food product. The Association has county chapters in all 67 counties and represents 10,000 members statewide. It is also the Qualified State Beef Council in Alabama.



ALABAMA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Ethan Tapscott, right, was awarded the High School Attending Two-Year Scholarship at the Alabama Cattlemen's Foundation Scholarship Banquet held Friday, May 5, in Wetumpka. He is pictured with Alabama Cattlemen's Association President Chuck Madaris of Hope Hull (Lowndes County).

Court (from Front)

mission Chairman Jeff Clemons. The project was made possible through the support of Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman; Rep. Corey Harbison, R-Good Hope; the Alabama Mountains, Rivers & Valleys Resource Conservation & Development Council; the Alabama Tourism Department and the Cullman County Community Development Commission. Cullman County Economic Development Director Matt Kinsland was in charge of facilitating the grants that funded the project:

- The Cullman County Community Development Commission: $12,000
- The Alabama Mountains, Rivers & Valleys Resource Conservation & Development Council: $7,069
- Sen. Garlan Gudger: $7,800

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

CHARLES E. WATTS, INC. hereby gives notice of completion of contract with the Alabama Department of Transportation for construction of Project No. STPAA-0091(507) in Cullman County, Alabama. This notice will appear for four consecutive weeks beginning on 05/11/2023 and ending on 06/01/2023. All claims should be filed at PO BOX 1686 GADSDEN, AL 35902 during this period.

CHARLES E. WATTS, INC.

PB MIN BK 216 PG 27 - 05/01/2023 02:00 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
SKYLER ALLEN LEWIS * CASE NO PC 2023-035
An alleged incapacitated person. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP AND LETTERS OF CONSERVATORSHIP AND AMENDED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP AND LETTERS OF CONSERVATORSHIP

TO: **ALEX LEWIS**
MICHELLE SQUIRES
ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES

Please take notice that a Hearing on the Petition for Letters of Guardianship and Letters of Conservatorship and Amended Petition for Letters of Guardianship and Letters if Conservatorship has been re-set for the **15th day of June, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.,** before the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman, Alabama.

Cullman County Courthouse
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

DONE this the 1st day of May, 2023.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

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

Shelbie G. Hankey
Attorney for the Petitioner
101 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

PB MIN BK 215 PG 828 - 04/24/2023 01:32 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
RUBY MAE GRINDLE, CASE NO.: PC2023-070

Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to SANDRA L. CHAPMON as Personal Representative of the Estate of RUBY MAE GRINDLE, deceased, on the 24th day of April, 2023, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

SANDRA L. CHAPMON
Personal Representative

Connie L. Glass
Attorney for Personal Representative
Elder Law Firm of Connie Glass, P.C.
2306 Pansy Street SW
Huntsville, AL 35801

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

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

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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

MEAGAN LEE WATSON,
Plaintiff

Vs. Case Number: **DR-2021-900136.01**

RYAN ALLEN WATSON,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

Ryan Allen Watson, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Meagan Lee Watson's Petition to Modify by July 3, 2023 or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against him in Case Number 25-DR-2021-900136.01 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 5th day of May, 2023.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain,
Clerk of Circuit Court

PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY:
ANDRIA SIMS
300 1st AV SE, STE 104
CULLMAN, AL 35055

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

BRITTNEY NICOLE WYATT,
Plaintiff

Vs. Case Number: **DR-2017-900030.02**

TYLER AARON WYATT,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

Brittney Nicole Wyatt, plaintiff, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Tyler Aaron Wyatt's Contempt Petition by July 3, 2023 or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against her in Case Number 25-DR-2017-900030.02 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 3rd day of May, 2023.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain,
Clerk of Circuit Court

PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY:
ANNETTE IRONS-PARKER
215 MAIN AV SW
CULLMAN, AL 35055

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE:)
K.L.O.,) CASE NO. JU 2022-024.02
A Minor Child, 01/14/2022)

NOTICE

The Petitioner having made a Motion for Service by Publication in the above styled action, it is

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Celina Overton, the Mother of K.L.O., born on or about 01/14/2022, respond to the Petition by the 8th day of June, 2023, or thereafter a judgment may be rendered in favor of the Petitioner.

Contact may be made: Attorney for Petitioner: Michael J. Baggett, 206 Ninth Street SW, Cullman, AL 35055, (256) 737-0740 or Clerk of Court: Lisa McSwain, 500 2nd Ave SW Cullman, AL 35055.

DONE this the 14 day of April, 2023.

WELLS R. TURNER, III
JUVENILE JUDGE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

FILED IN OFFICE
APR 14 2023
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY

STATE OF ALABAMA, CULLMAN COUNTY
I, Lisa McSwain, Clerk of Circuit Court in and for said County and State, hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy as the same appears of record in this office.
Witness my hand and official seal, this 25th day of April, 2023.
Lisa McSwain
Clerk of Circuit Court

PB WIL BK 116 PG 139 - 04/25/2023 02:15 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF: *
REBECCA JANE ARNOLD, * **CASE NUMBER:** PC2023-130
DECEASED. *

Letters Testamentary of said decedent having been granted to the undersigned on the 25th day of April, 2023, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

STEPHEN MARK ARNOLD

ANNETTE IRONS-PARKER
Attorney for Personal Representative
PARKER AND PARKER, P.C.
Attorneys at Law
215 Main Avenue, Southwest
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-775-4444

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks in said newspaper.
The Cullman Tribune

Tammy Brown
Honorable Tammy Brown
Probate Judge

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
CHERRY GAIL JOHNSON, CASE NO.: PC2023-142
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to LUTHER CLAUDE JOHNSON, as Personal Representative of the Estate of CHERRY GAIL JOHNSON, deceased, on the 2nd day of May, 2023, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

Luther Claude Johnson
Personal Representative

Carl E. Chamblee, Jr.
Attorney for Petitioner
Chamblee & Malone, LLC
111 Watterson Parkway
Trussville, Alabama 35173
205-856-9111

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

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

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

LEGALS

SPECIAL NOTICE RE LOCAL LAWS

NO SPECIAL, PRIVATE, OR LOCAL LAW CAN BE PASSED, except in reference to fixing the time of holding courts, unless notice of the intention to apply therefore shall have been published, without cost to the State, in the county or counties where the matter or thing to be affected may be situated. The notice must state the substance of the proposed law and be published at least once a week for four consecutive weeks in some newspaper published in such county or counties. Such publication must have been completed prior to the day on which the bill is introduced.

Proof by affidavit (proof of publication) which verifies that notice has been properly published must be exhibited to the House of Representatives and the Senate, and one copy of such proof must be attached to the original copy of the bill which is offered for introduction.

The county or municipality affected by a local law introduced by a legislator must pay for advertising the notice, if the notice is signed by the Legislator, even though the bill is not passed. (Section 11-13-6, Code of Alabama 1975)

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY

(THIS COPY FOR THE NEWSPAPER: THIS NOTICE MUST BE PRINTED PRECEDING THE BILL]
STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

NOTICE is hereby given that a bill substantially as follows will be introduced in the 2023 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama and application for its passage and enactment will be made:

RSPUMM-1 02/02/2023 ss (F)SS 2023-297

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to Cullman County, to amend Section 45-22-225 of the Code of Alabama 1975, to change the composition of the Cullman County Tourism Bureau; and to amend Sections 45-22-242 and 45-22-242.11 of the Code of Alabama 1975, to provide for the rate of taxation and for the use of the proceeds of the tax.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 45-22-225, 45-22-242, and 45-22-242.11, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§45-22-225

(a) The Cullman County Tourism Bureau shall be comprised as follows: (1) Two members appointed by the Cullman City Council, of which one shall be an elected city councilman and one shall be a representative of tourism relating to the restaurant industry; (2) two members appointed by the full board of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, of which one shall be either the chair of the chamber or the president of the chamber and one shall be a representative of tourism relating to the Smith Lake Community; (3) two members

appointed by the Cullman County Commission, of which one shall be an elected county commissioner and one shall be a representative of tourism relating to the agri-tourism industry or the faith-based tourism industry; (4) one member appointed by the hotel association; (5) one member appointed by the Wallace State Community College President; (6) one member who shall be the Cullman County Parks and Recreation Director; (7) one member appointed by the Cullman City Parks and Recreation Board Director or President; and (8) one member who shall be a representative of the tourism industry selected by a majority vote of the state delegation; provided however, that in the event the delegation vote is tied, the Senator representing Cullman shall make the deciding vote.

(b) Members of the bureau shall serve staggered, four-year terms as follows: (1) appointees of the hotel association, Wallace State Community College, the Cullman County Parks and Recreation Board, and the Cullman City Parks and Recreation Board shall serve six--year terms; (2) one appointee each for the Cullman City Council, the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Cullman County Commission shall serve four--year terms; and (3) all other appointees shall serve two-year terms.

~~(c) The Cullman County Treasurer shall open a separate bank account for the Cullman County Tourism Bureau by June 1, 2021."~~

"§45-22-242

(a) There is levied in Cullman County, in addition to all other taxes now imposed by law, a privilege or license tax

paralleling the state tax on businesses renting rooms, lodging, or accommodations to transients provided for in Sections 40-26-1 to 40-26-21, inclusive, hereinafter referred to as state lodging tax, in the manner and at the rate hereinafter prescribed.

(b) Upon every person, firm, or corporation engaging in Cullman County in the business of renting or furnishing any room or rooms, lodging, or accommodations to transients in any hotel, motel, inn, tourist camp, tourist cabin, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly furnished to transients for a consideration, in an amount to be determined by the application of the rate of five percent of the charge for the room, rooms, lodgings, or accommodations, including the charge for use or rental of personal property and services furnished in the room. ~~Notwithstanding the foregoing, upon the retirement of existing debt for the Exit 305 Interchange, County Road 222 and outstanding debt on the building occupied by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, located at 301 2nd Ave SW, Cullman, AL 35055, the application of the rate to be charged for the room, rooms, lodgings, or accommodations, including the charge for use or rental of personal property and services furnished in the room shall be four percent.~~ There is exempted from the tax levied under this part any rentals or services taxed under the state sales tax provided for in Chapter 23 of Title 40. The tax shall not apply to rooms, lodgings, or accommodations supplied for a period of ~~30~~90 continuous days or more in any place."

"§45-22-242.11

(a) The State Department of Revenue shall charge Cullman County for collecting the county lodging taxes levied in this part the lessor of the actual amount of total collections, but the collection charge shall not in any event exceed 2.5 percent of the total amount of the special county taxes collected under this part. The charge for collecting the taxes for the county may be deducted each month from the taxes collected before certifying the amount of the proceeds from the taxes due to Cullman County each month. The State Commissioner of Revenue shall pay into the State Treasury all county taxes collected under this part as the taxes are received by the State Department of Revenue. On or before the first day of each successive month, commencing with the month following the month in which the department makes the first collections under this part, the commissioner shall certify to the Comptroller the amount of taxes collected under this part and paid into the State Treasury for the benefit of Cullman County during the month immediately preceding the making of the certification. Before certifying the amount of the taxes paid into the State Treasury for the benefit of Cullman County during each month, the commissioner may deduct from the taxes collected for the month the charges due the department for the collection of the taxes for the county. It shall be the duty of the Comptroller to issue a state warrant each month payable to the Cullman County ~~Commission,~~Tourism Bureau, in an amount equal to the amount so certified by the State Commissioner of Revenue as having been collected for the use of the county.

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

LEGALS

(b) Upon receiving the tax proceeds, the ~~county~~ treasurer of the Cullman County Tourism Bureau shall transmit the proceeds as follows:

(1) Two-fifths of the proceeds to the Cullman County Chamber of Commerce to be used at the discretion of the chamber of commerce to pay any operational expenses while promoting small businesses, while~~promotion~~ promoting the ~~of~~ marketing ~~for~~ of Cullman ~~being~~ as a destination shopping location, working with and enhancing the City of Cullman's and Cullman County's Industrial Boards, ~~to~~ and working with the Cullman County Tourism Board.

(2) ~~One-fifth of the~~ The remaining three-fifths of the proceeds ~~to~~shall remain with the Cullman County Tourism Bureau to be used at the discretion of the bureau exclusively for the purpose of promoting tourism through festivals, community events, arts projects and tournaments that benefit ~~throughout the City of Cullman and Cullman County for the benefit of~~ all of the residents of Cullman County. Also, these funds may be used to pay the operational expenses, salaries and benefits of the Bureau's director and staff.

~~(3) The remaining two-fifths of the proceeds that are sent to the Cullman County Commission from the Alabama Department of Revenue shall continue to be sent to the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce for the sole purpose of paying off the existing debt, which shall not be extended, of the Exit 305 Interchange, County Road 222. Once the existing debt of the Exit 305, Interchange, County Road 222 debt is paid off, then 100 percent of the two-fifths will transfer for the sole purpose of paying off the remaining outstanding debt on the building occupied by the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, located at 301 2nd Ave SW, Cullman, AL 35055, which shall also not be extended. Upon the retirement of the above-mentioned debt, two fifths of the proceeds shall be transmitted to the Cullman County Tourism Bureau to be used at the discretion of the bureau exclusively for the purposes stated in subdivision (2). The remaining one-fifth of the proceeds shall expire on December 31, 2024.~~

(c) Effective June 1, 2021, the balance of the proceeds remaining to be distributed to Cullman County after the cost of collection and distribution to the Alabama Mountain Lakes Association have been deducted pursuant to Section 40-26-20, shall be controlled by the Cullman County Tourism Bureau.

(d) Effective June 1, 2021, the City of Cullman shall transmit to the Cullman County Tourism Bureau, an amount equal to one-quarter percent of the privilege tax levied and collected, pursuant to Ordinance 2007-7, on persons, firms, or corporations renting accommodations to transients in the City of Cullman."

Section 2. This act shall become effective immediately following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.



Jim 'Coach' Taylor receives 2023 Impact Award



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

At the fourth annual Alumni & Friends Dinner and School Auction, Pastor John Bussman (left) presents Jim "Coach" Taylor (right) with St. Paul's Lutheran School 2023 Impact Award

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — When Jim "Coach" Taylor first learned he was the recipient of this year's Impact Award at St. Paul's Lutheran School, he was surprised. It came as no surprise, however, to every other educator, staff member, parent and student that he was the recipient of such a high honor, typically only reserved for former educators and students.

Taylor's career with St. Paul's spans nearly a decade, and all began with a student named Will Fowler, who had muscular dystrophy.

There was a crucial need for Fowler to have direct support in order for him to attend St. Paul's, and Taylor showed up as the hands and feet - literally - for Fowler to receive the education his parents wanted him to have.

After Fowler left St. Paul's, Taylor proposed a deal. "I told them I wasn't leaving, so they needed to find me something to do!" he smiled.

The staff and headmaster at the time readily accepted the deal to keep Taylor on the St. Paul's team by increasing the P.E. program from two days a week to four days. Through this change of pace, Taylor was able to meet students where they are, and foster a sense of independence through structured play.

"God knew exactly what He was doing when I ended up at St. Paul's," shared Taylor during a tearful acceptance speech at the Terri Pines clubhouse.

Emily Trahan, of St. Paul's, echoed a sentiment that many others shared that evening: "Coach Taylor is such a kind and giving soul and we are beyond blessed to have him at St. Paul's."

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