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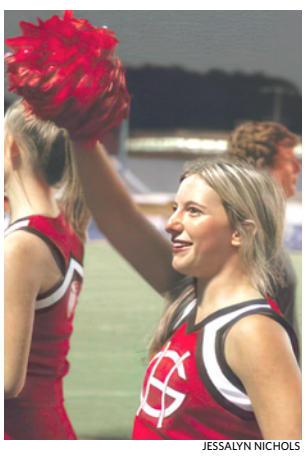
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JESSALYN NICHOLS

– SPORTS –

'Always have faith in yourself and your team': Good Hope's Jessalyn Nichols talks sophomore season
» PAGE 10

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SPECIAL GRADUATION ISSUE
ADDISON, MEEK AND WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL

Commission responds to community concerns about Sportsman Lake ducks

Tiffany McKoy
tsmckoy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Recently, parkgoers have raised concerns about the ducks and the food available for purchase for them at Sportsman Lake Park. Worries are that the food lacks proper nutritional value and is having negative effects on the animals.

Concerns have been brought to Cullman County Parks and Recreation and the Cullman County Commission.

In a post on its Facebook page on Thursday, May 18, the commission said:

We are so fortunate to have Sportsman's Lake (sic) in Cullman. It is a wonderful park for families to enjoy with walking trails, playground equipment, putt-putt golf, and train rides. In addition, the park has a beautiful lake that ducks choose to visit. The ducks are not housed at Sportsman's (sic) Lake and are free » PAGE 2



TIFFANY MCKOY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

A sign at Sportsman Lake Park advertises fish and duck food available for purchase in the park's concession stand

Dinner on First: New location, same feel



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Server Emmanuel Santiago-Silva (left) places the first course, a bowl of chilled peach soup, at a table setting during Dinner on First Thursday, May 18.

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Dinner on First, hosted annually by the Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism (CPRST) Foundation, looked a little different this year. The event usually takes place outside along First Avenue in the Warehouse District. However, due to weather concerns, The Venue at Cotton Creek opened its doors Thursday night, May 18, to allow hundreds of attendees to gather, drink, dine and raise funds for the Foundation's major project of 2023- a complete resurfacing of Miracle Field.

Upon entering the venue, guests were ushered in to the sound of live music from BREZ, enjoyed drinks from cash bars set up in the cocktail area and indulged in delicious appetizers including ratatouille puffs and scallops crafted by the team of Terri Pines and served by Executive Chef Rob Harper.

Dining tables were set with azure runners and fragrant centerpieces of hydrangeas and roses, with lemon accents brightening the atmosphere; all the while, local studio owner Emily Bussman painted the scene in real time for a beautifully bespoke piece to be auctioned as a memento of the evening.

Bread with herbed oil and bottles of vino » PAGE 12

Cullman County Child Development Center graduates 6



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Seniors gather for the ceremonial tossing of the caps Friday, May 19, 2023, at the Cullman County Child Development Center. » PAGE 14

AL unemployment rate record low 2.2%; Cullman County's rate 1.4%

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Cullman County parks summer events

» PAGE 13

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported May 19

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported May 19, 2023. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

May 15

- harassment; CR 808
- reckless endangerment; CR 1855
- domestic violence; CR 808
- theft of property; CR 310
- domestic violence; CR 437
- theft of property; CR 1485
- criminal mischief; theft of property

May 16

- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 747
- harassment; Hwy. 91
- assault; CR 1859
- possession of drug paraphernalia; 1st Ave. SE
- domestic violence; CR 992

May 17

- possession of controlled substance; attempt to elude police officer; obstructing governmental operations; CR 702
- domestic violence; CR 501
- possession of controlled substance; CR 490
- theft of property; 2nd Ave. NW
- burglary; CR 1564
- possession of marijuana; possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 157
- domestic violence-criminal mischief; CR 1545
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 157
- harassment; CR 702
- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 223
- theft of property; CR 747

ARRESTS

May 15 – 17

Allred, Terry D.; 45

- FTA- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft less than $500
- FTA- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft $500 less than $1,500

Bailey, Jimmie R.; 69

- public intoxication

Campbell, Christy M.; 40

- causing delinquency, dependency or need of supervision

Click, Justin J.; 21

- Probation Violation- assault-child abuse-simple-non family

Dauksza, Matthew E.; 41

- causing delinquency, dependency or need of supervision

England, Gaberalle Lee A.; 29

- FTA- failure to immunize dog/cat for rabies
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- promote prison contraband (drugs)
- possession of dangerous drugs

Glass, Billy R.; 48

- possession of dangerous drugs

Higgins, Jeremy H.; 37

- assault-aggravated assault-A to M-aggravated assault (attempted murder)

Hook, Samuel J.; 34

- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)

Horton, Austin L.; 23

- criminal mischief-damage to private property

Jernigan, Coby D.; 22

- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs
- burglary-residence-force
- stolen vehicles-auto theft

Johnson, Joanne V.; 47

- permitting dogs to run at large

Kitchens, Timothy J.; 32

- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- stolen vehicles-auto theft
- FTA- duty upon striking unoccupied vehicle

Murray Sr., Tevin O.; 26

- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- attempting to elude police officer
- obstruction governmental operations
- FTA- driving while suspended, revoked or cancelled
- FTA- operating vehicle without insurance
- FTA- speeding-no workers-construction zone

Sawyer, Tammy Y.; 53

- possession of methamphetamine

Scott, Tyra A.; 44

- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Sellers, Brent M.; 51

- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- driving while license suspended
- FTA- failure to register vehicles
- FTA- failure/refusal to display insurance
- FTA- possession of a concealed weapon without a permit

Snow, Kayla L.; 30

- DUI (alcohol)

Spears, Britney; 35

- Probation Violation-assault child abuse-simple-family
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- Probation Violation-forgery-counterfeiting
- Probation Violation-fraud-identity theft
- FTA- negotiating worthless instrument

Teague, Tanya Michelle S.; 53

- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- larceny/theft-miscellaneous

Villa Jr., Antonio; 43

- public intoxication

Walker, Joey V.; 25

- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- carrying brass knuckles/slingshot

Wallace, Amber M.; 45

- FTA- forgery-counterfeiting
- FTA- forgery-forged instrument
- FTA- larceny/theft

Watts, Jesse W.; 38

- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

May 11

- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; Billy Ray Taylor Auto Sales; Hwy. 157

May 16

- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Sacred Heart Monastery; Convent Rd. NE

May 17

- theft of property-3rd degree; person; Lee Cir.; miscellaneous

ARRESTS

May 17 – 18

Watts, Jesse W.; 38

- FTA- theft of property-4th degree

Allred, Terry D.; 45

- FTA- theft of property-4th degree
- FTA- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Speakman, Alisha N.; 42

- receiving stolen property-1st degree

Jernigan, Coby D.; 22

- FTA- domestic violence-3rd degree
- FTA- theft of property-4th degree

Ragsdale, Brian L.; 40

- theft of property-4th degree

Wilbanks, Jeremy D.; 37

- FTA- public intoxication
- FTA- resisting arrest
- FTA- disorderly conduct (2 counts)

Cuevas, Natalia A.; 42

- DUI

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

AL unemployment rate record low 2.2%; Cullman County's rate 1.4%

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Governor Kay Ivey on Friday announced that Alabama's preliminary, seasonally adjusted April unemployment rate is 2.2%, down from March's rate of 2.3%, and below April 2022's rate of 2.5%. April's rate represents 51,462 unemployed persons, a new record low, compared to 53,017 in March and 57,712 in April 2022.

Cullman County's rate of 1.4% is the second lowest in the state, tied with Morgan, Marshall and Madison counties.

"Yet again, we see the resiliency of our state's workforce. When Alabama works, Alabama families thrive and records are broken time and time again," said Ivey. "We have a quick growing economy, and we are leading the game when it comes to economic success. Boasting the lowest unemployment rate in the Southeast, Alabama is well on its way to having the lowest unemployment rate in the nation."

According to Ivey's office, the number of people in the workforce reached a new record, increasing 3,367 over the month to 2,293,022. Additionally, the number of people counted as employed reached a new record high, increasing 4,922 over the month to 2,241,560.

"Continuing this positive trend, Alabama's employers added more than 40,000 jobs over the last year, reaching the third highest jobs count in history," said Alabama Department of Labor Secretary Fitzgerald Washington. "Wages have yet again set a new record high, rising by more than $30 a week since last month alone. More money in the pockets of Alabamians is always a good thing."

Ivey's office also reported:

- Over the year, wage and salary employment increased 40,800 to 2,143,700, with gains in the private education and health services sector (+8,000), the government sector (+6,300) and the professional and business services sector (+6,100), among others.

- Over the month, wage and salary employment increased in April by 7,900. Monthly gains were seen in the leisure and hospitality sector (+3,800), the financial activities sector (+1,700) and the private education and health services sector (+1,300), among others.

- Total private average weekly wages reached a new record high in April, rising to $1,023.12, up $31.02 over the month and up $27.68 over the year. Additionally, both the trade, transportation and utilities sector and the financial activities sector hit new record high weekly wages, rising to $835.56 and $1,305.68 respectively.

- Counties with the lowest unemployment rates: Shelby County at 1.3%, Morgan, Marshall, Madison and Cullman counties at 1.4% and St. Clair, Limestone, Lawrence, Elmore and Blount counties at 1.5%

- Counties with the highest unemployment rates: Wilcox County at 6.0%, Greene County at 4.0% and Clarke County at 3.7%.

- Major cities with the lowest unemployment rates: Alabaster, Madison, Trussville and Vestavia Hills at 1.2%; Homewood, Hoover and Northport at 1.3%; and Athens at 1.4%

- Major cities with the highest unemployment rates: Selma at 4.5%, Prichard at 3.2% and Bessemer and Gadsden at 2.5%

Ducks (from Front)

to come and go as they have for decades.

The County Commission was contacted regarding concerns about the food for sale at the concession stand for the ducks. The Commission has listened to the concerns and taken further steps to determine whether the food available at the concession stand is safe for the ducks.

The following were consulted regarding the food:

- Seth Maddox - migratory bird expert with Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

- Dr. Tony Frazier - Alabama State Veterinarian

- The Alabama Department of Agriculture

All three agree that the food at the concession stand is safe because the birds are not captive and are free to eat insects and plant material available in the area.

If you do not want to purchase the duck food available at the concession stand, you may bring food for the ducks, but please do not feed the ducks bread. Further, if you wish to remove the ducks, Dr. Frazier has advised that YOU MUST check with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and comply with all regulations that may apply.

This post did not sit well with online commenters.

Lauren Ashley Royster commented: Lauren Ashley Royster
Why don't you lock the gates to the park at dark like you're supposed to to protect the ducks from abuse? There have been 2 recent instances of people entering the park when it's supposed to be locked and killing and mutilating the ducks.

I would hope the people that rescued and cared for those injured ducks didn't bother contacting whatever "authorities" for approval before helping the ducks that have to be continually reached from sportsman lake because they're so thoroughly neglected.

Selene Hagan commented:
Cullman County Commission you all have been misinformed.

The majority of the ducks that are at your lake have traveled to your location by car from the irresponsible owners that have dumped these farm animals. They did not come on their own. There is a HUGE difference in a wild duck and a domesticated duck.

Now about the feed, you all offer inappropriate food for folks to purchase and feed the ducks. Catfish feed is for catfish. Dog food is for dogs. Cat food is for cats. DUCK food is for DUCKS. Feed them the right food!

There aren't enough people buying food on a daily basis to even feed these ducks enough to survive. Did you know that most domesticated ducks require, at minimum, 1/2 lb of feed per day, per duck? If the lake cared about these ducks, they would feed them daily as any responsible owner would and not leave it up to the folks that bare no responsibility. But having already admitted that these ducks don't belong to the lake, then I can see why the lake doesn't care about their nutritional requirements! It's all about the lake ornaments to attract others to come spend money at your park. And who cares if the lake ornaments need food?

DO BETTER!!!

Commented Kimberly Love:



TIFFANY MCKOY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Ducks swim in Sportsman Lake

They gave the name of their experts, I'm sure you can locate a phone number and contact or visit them if these concerns are not being addressed. We all know comments here are just a complaining session and probably are ignored. JS

The Tribune reached out to Cullman County Parks and Recreation Director Doug Davenport, who declined to comment and referred us to Cullman County Attorney Emily Niezer Johnston, who stated, "I just want to make it clear that we have consulted every expert that we know to consult and they have confirmed that the food the ducks are being given is safe. We have truly gone the extra mile and we truly care."

Johnston continued, "We listened to the concerns, and we called the people who could best advise.

"We want to make sure the food is safe and they're telling us that it's safe. Seth Maddox is the migratory bird expert, and in his statement he was commenting on the domestic ducks as well."

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.
• Saturday, May 20 - 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank
• Sunday, May 21 - Prayer groups - Join Kevin and Pastor Bobby 8 a.m. or 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 21 - 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. 11 a.m. Praise & Worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd "To Preserve Life."
• Sunday, May 21 - 5 p.m. Southern gospel singing and message by Barry Clevenger
• Nonperishable Food Bank drive-please donate canned goods, boxed goods, etc. to help our foodbank. Our foodbank supplier has not had these items for purchase for the last two months. Please leave your donations under the carport on the left side of the church by 6 p.m. this Thursday night. Thank you!

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

TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) Meetings
Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m., at Cullman Housing Authority Community Center (1545 Vine Circle SW, Cullman, AL 35055). The first meeting is free. TOPS, a national program, is a hands-on/pounds-off approach to weight loss and management through weekly meetings providing information, accountability, support and encouragement where you make the changes that make sense to you.

Cullman NAR-ANON Group Meetings
The NAR-ANON family group meetings are a worldwide fellowship for those affected by someone else's addiction. We offer Help by sharing our experiences, strength and hope. We carry the message of hope by letting others know that they are not alone by practicing the 12 Steps of NAR-ANON and changing our own attitudes. We Respect Your Anonymity. Our program is not a religious one, but a spiritual way of life. Meetings will be held at The Ruehl Building (Family Life Center of St. John's Church) Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. Contact Jamie Weathersby Smith 256-708-7122 or Don or Nancy McKenzie 256-736-3327 or 256-736-3470 for more information.

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

Holly Pond 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/ArleyWomensClub. 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.

Cullman County Cattlemen's, Cattlewomen's Association Ribeye Steak Sandwich Sale
Friday, May 26, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday, May 27, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the theater parking lot near Wal-Mart. Steaks are charcoal grilled using Kingsford charcoal. Sandwiches are $10 donation. Add chips and a drink for $1 each.

West Point Class of '59 Reunion
Saturday, May 27, at 11 a.m. at the Brandin' Iron in West Point. For information call Doyle or Carolyn Kilgo Jones at 256-734-3078 or 901-482-5500 or email doylebama@charter.net.

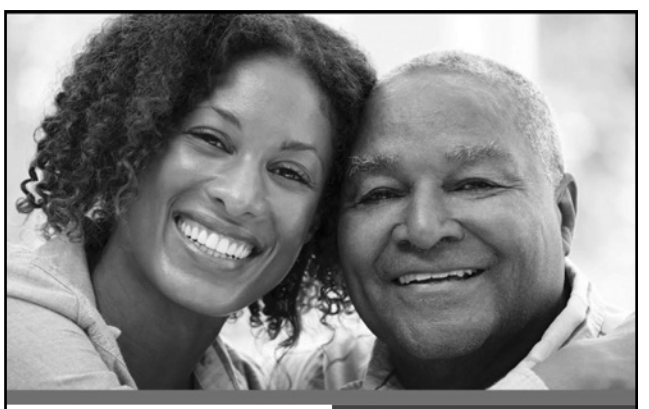
Fairview High School Class of 1963 60th Reunion
• Friday, June 16, at 1 p.m. at the Golden Corral in Cullman. For more information call Joyce Marie Williams Rodgers at 256-339-3451.
• 7th Annual Bernard Blues and BBQ Arts & Crafts Festival
• September 9-10, 2023
• Contact: Joyce Nix – 256-255-5860; jnix@stbernardprep.com

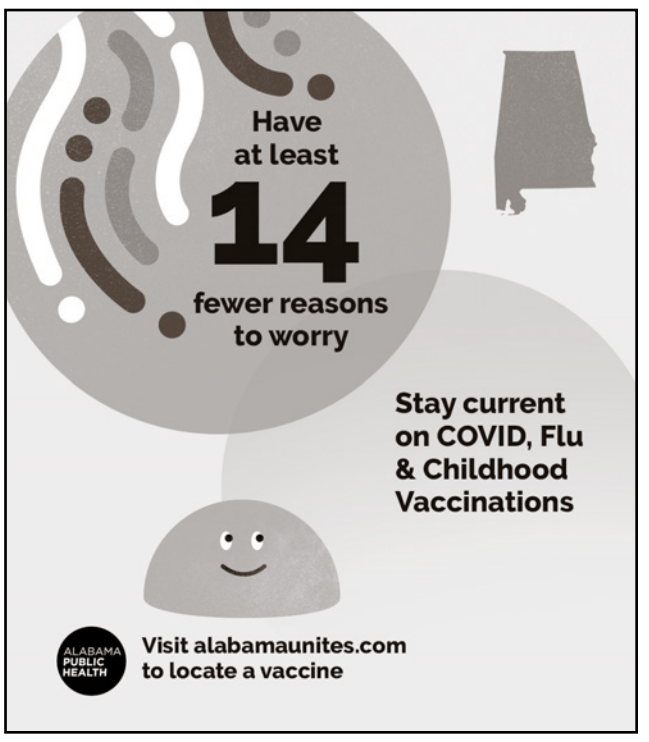
7th Annual Bernard Blues and BBQ
Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 9-10, at St. Bernard. Featuring pottery, quilts, brooms, leather art, cypress furniture, paintings, jewelry, plants and more. Visit Ave Maria Grotto for a reduced price admission of only $5. Admission donation to the festival is $10 per person; 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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10% Buyers Premium on the first $5000 of each lot and then a 3% buyers premium and the remaining balance of each lot.







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ADDISON HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2023

Graduation is Thursday, May 25, at 8 p.m. at AG Hicks Stadium

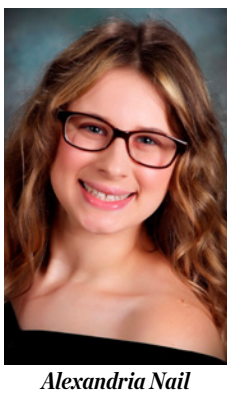
Valedictorian-Lydia Ergle,
Salutatorian-Gracie Manley

"I would like to congratulate the senior class of 2023 for reaching a milestone in their lives. This class has had to endure a lot of adversity throughout their academic careers as they battled through Covid-19, the unknown after effects, not to mention the obstacles that teenagers face from day to day. This is a resilient group of young men and women that I know will be productive citizens as they move into the next chapter of their lives. I would like to thank their parents, grandparents, and guardians for trusting and supporting us throughout the years with their most prized possessions. I wish them well and will continue to keep them in my prayers as they move on from Addison High School."

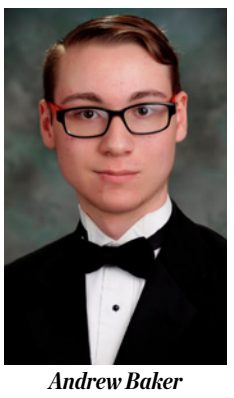
Micah Smothers, Principal, Addison High School

PHOTOS: BILL MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY

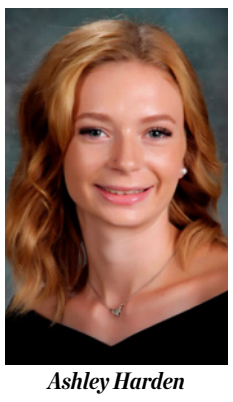

Abby Waldrep


Alexandria Nail

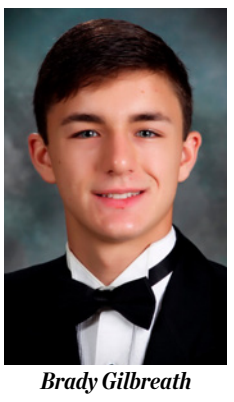

Alli Oliver


Andrew Baker


Anna Grace Atkins


Ashley Harden


Blake McCurley


Brady Gilbreath

Brian Berry

Briley Hayes

Briley Holt

Brilyn Dover

Cami Boyd

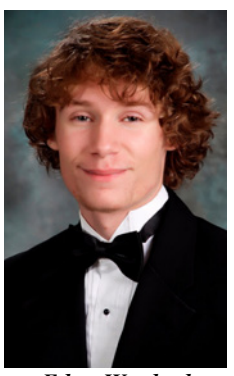
Chris Dennis

Chyla Cookenmaster

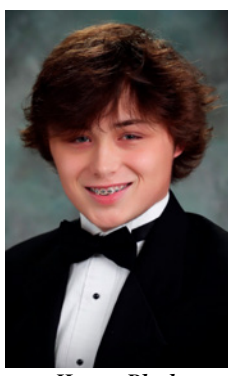
David Tuggle


Emory McDonald

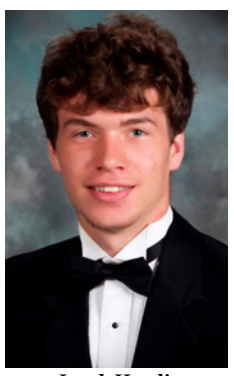

Ethan Barley

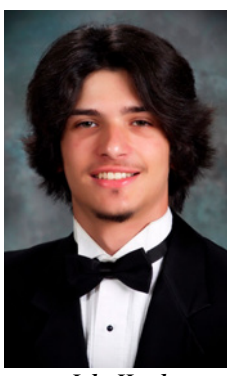

Ethan Woodard


Gracie Manley


Hunter Black

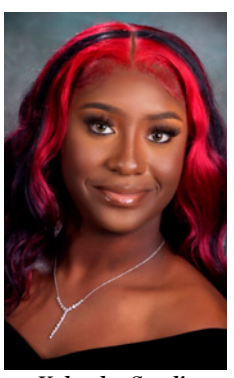

Hunter Jent

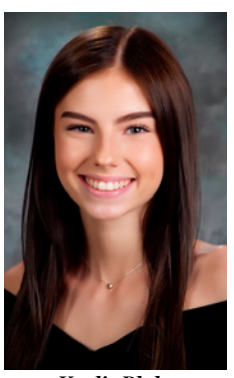

Jacob Hardin

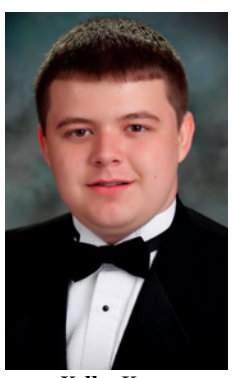

Jake Hood


Jasmine Daniel


Jessica Lewis Kilgo


Kalandra Sumlin

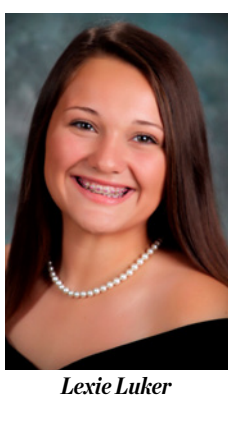

Kaylie Blake


Keller Kuntz

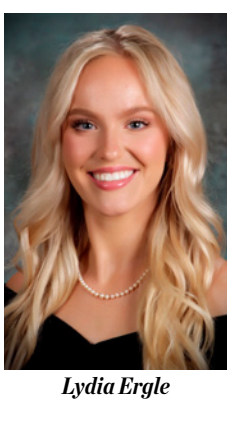

Kyria Walker

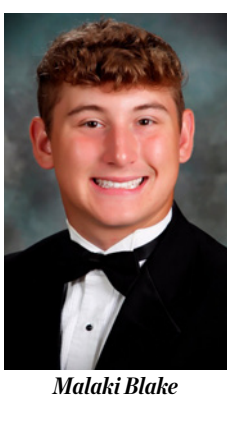

Lane Tubb

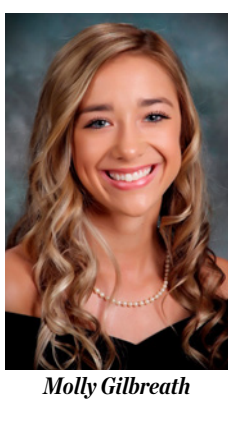

Laya Moreno


Lexie Luker


Lucas Crow

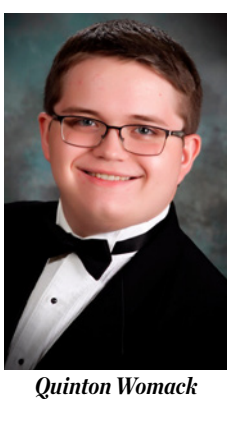

Lydia Ergle


Malaki Blake

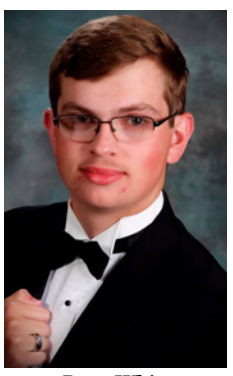

Molly Gilbreath

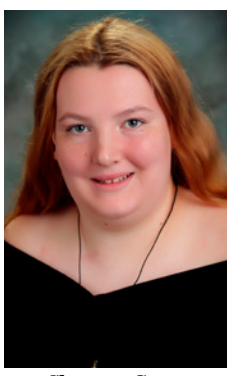

Olivia Gober


Peyton Holland


Quinton Womack

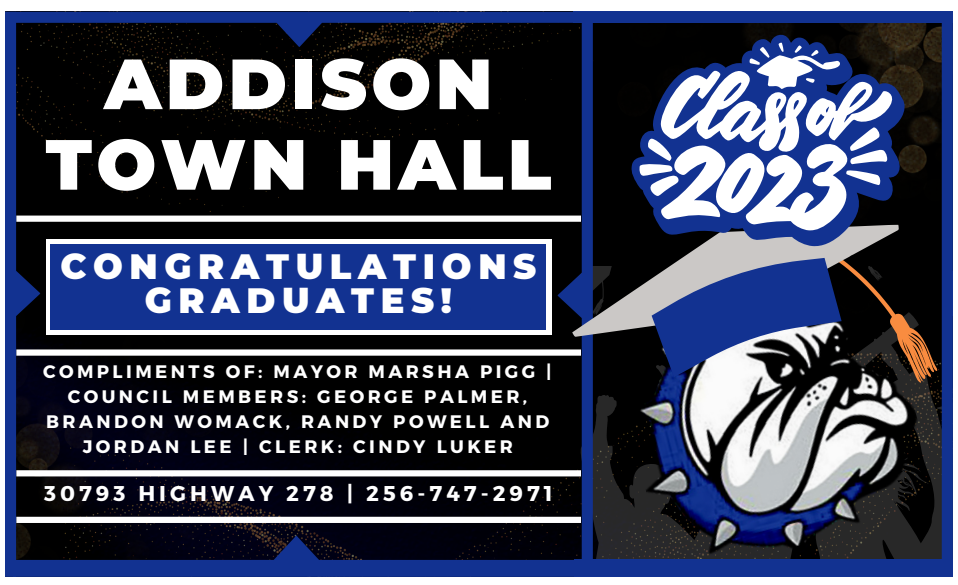

Riley Gilbreath


Ryan White


Shyanna Green


Trinity Ladd

2023





MEEK HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2023

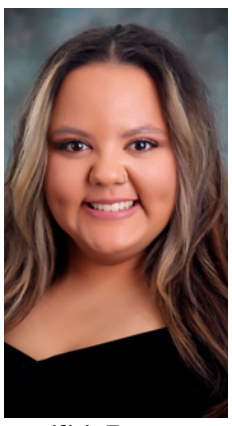
Meek graduation is Thursday, May 25, at 7 p.m. at the Meek High School gym

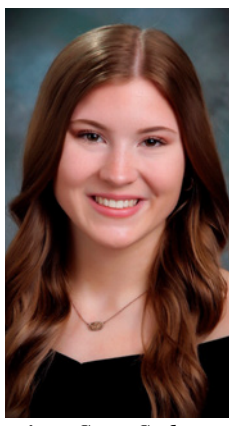
Not pictured: Evie Chitarroni

"It has been an honor to have been a part of your journey at Meek High School. I wish you all the best in all your endeavors throughout life."

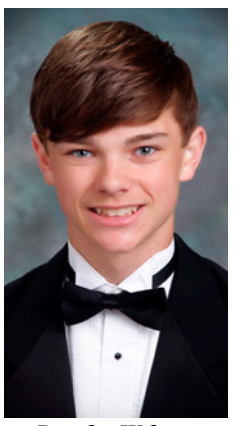
Allan Henderson, Principal, Meek High School

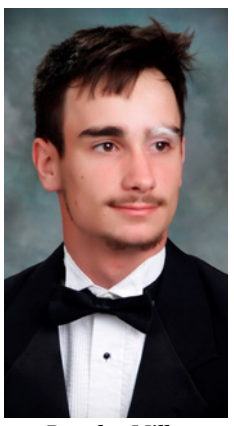
PHOTOS: BILL MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY

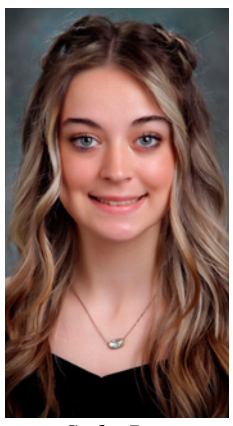

Alivia Freeman


Anna Grace Cochran

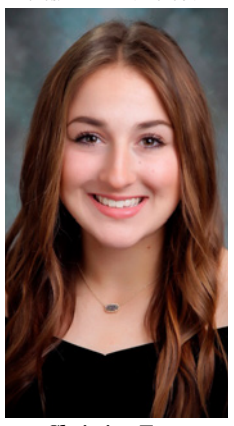

Blake Miller

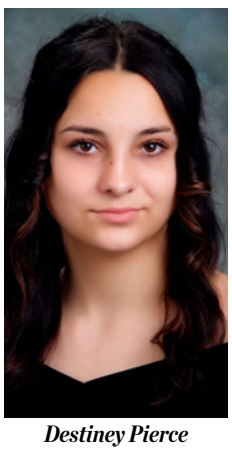

Brayden Webster

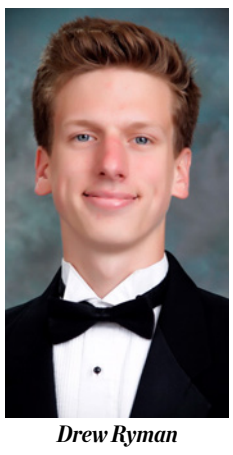

Brendan Miller


Carlee Bray

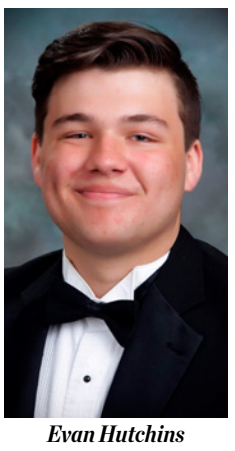

Chris Plaza

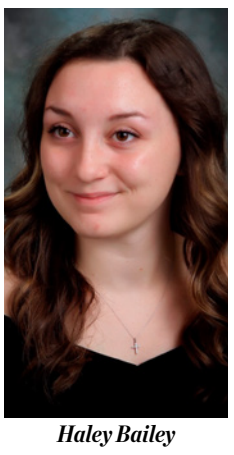

Christina Tyree


Destiney Pierce


Drew Ryman


Ethan Pounds

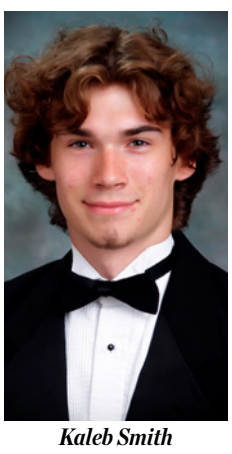

Evan Hutchins

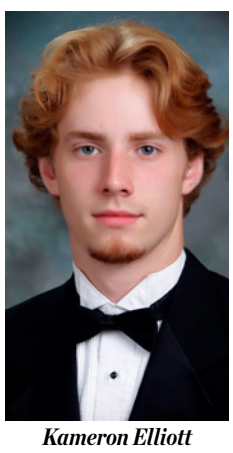

Haley Bailey

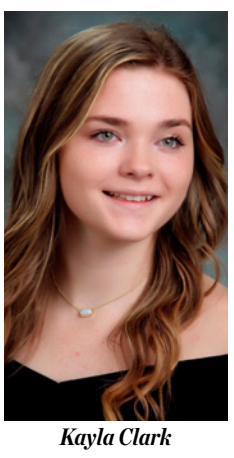

Jacolby Tyree

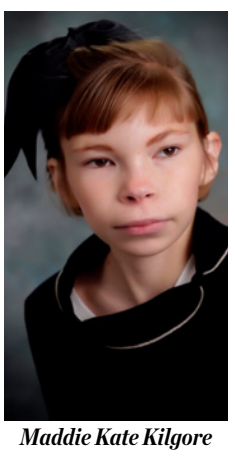

Jeremiah Baker

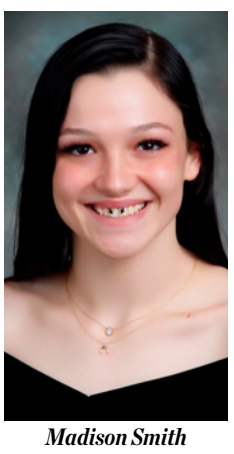

Judson Bradley


Kaleb Smith


Kameron Elliott

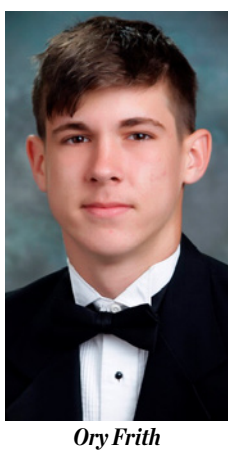

Kayla Clark

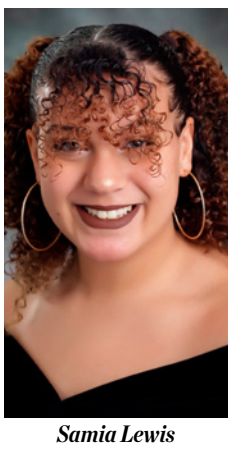

Maddie Kate Kilgore


Madison Smith


Mallory Taylor

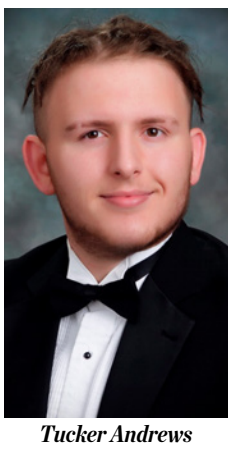

Mycah Davenport


Ory Frith

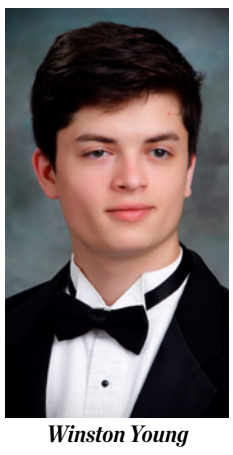

Samia Lewis

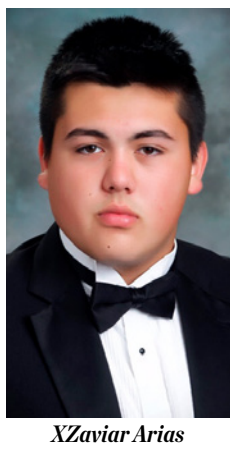

Shawn Earnest


Sydney O'Rear


Tucker Andrews


Tyler Cooper

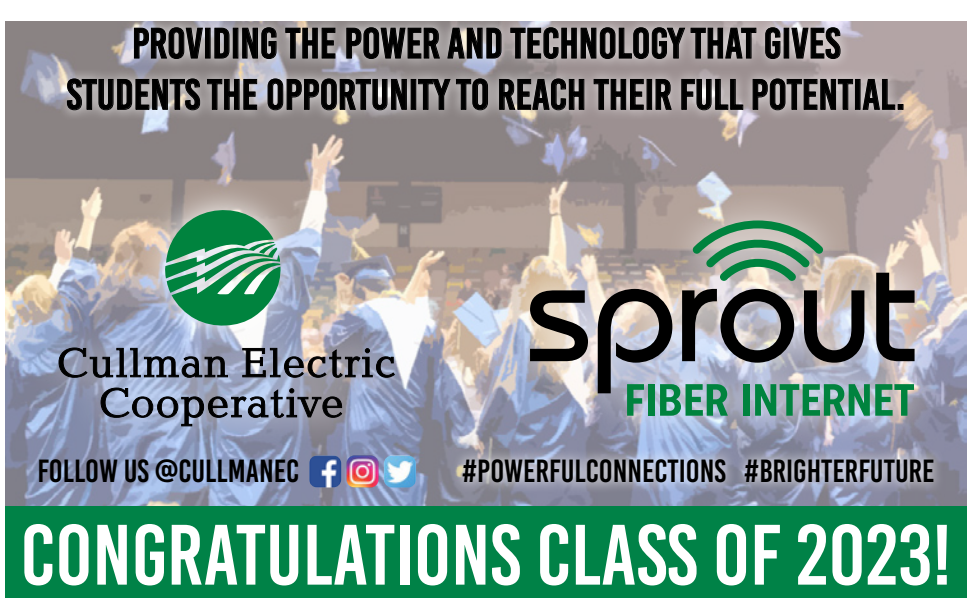

Winston Young

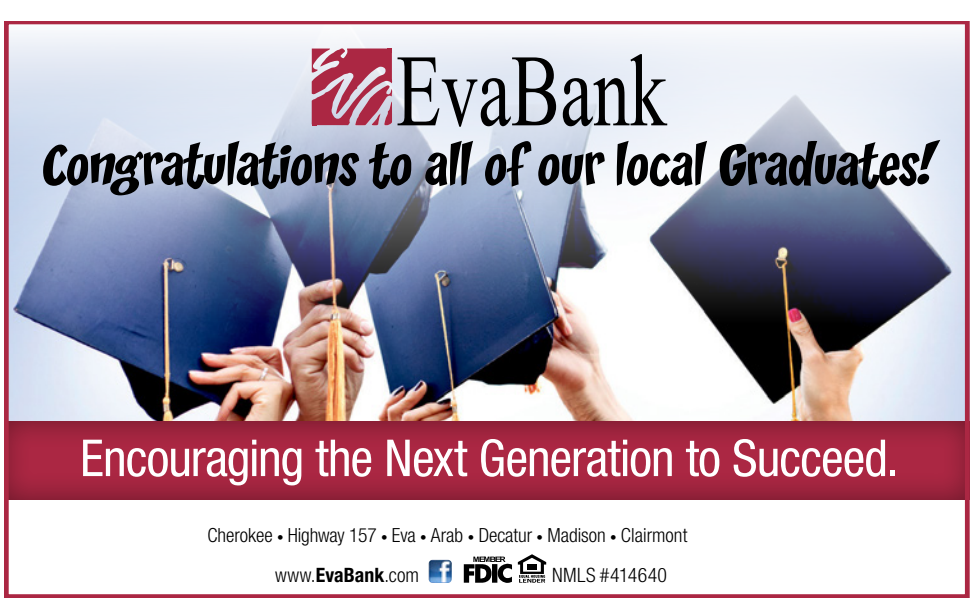

XZaviar Arias

CLASS OF 2023









WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2023

Graduation is Sunday, May 21, at 4 p.m. at Wallace State Coliseum

Not pictured: Rena Becerra, Kendra Case, Angel Dominguez, Timothy Gartside, Joel Guzman-Salazar, Anastasia Harris, Landyn Haygood, Kyler Knighten, Emily Leigeber and Weston Montgomery

Class of 2023 -

"Congratulations! Be proud of this moment, and know you deserve all the successes you work toward. Going forward, understand that all paths are different. Always remember that you are exactly where you are supposed to be. Find comfort in being uncomfortable. Take the opportunities presented to you even if they're scary; you have to leave your comfort zone to grow as an individual. Go into the world and do well, but more importantly, go into the world and do good. You've worked hard to achieve your goals and now you're on your way to seek new adventures, dream new dreams, embark on who you are, and embrace life with passion. Always keep reaching for your star!"

Dr. Wes Black, Principal, West Point High School

PHOTOS: PRESTIGE PORTRAITS

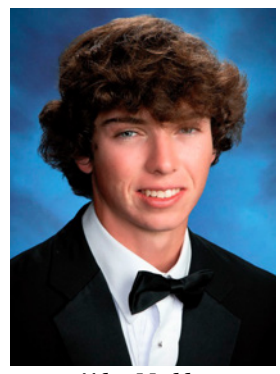

Abigail Roy


Acacia Sweatmon

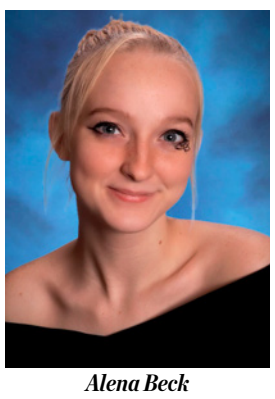

Adan Calvo


Aden Wylie


Aedan Dubenezic


Aidan Maddox

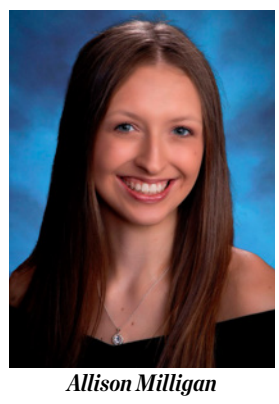

Aiden Dujoud


Alena Beck

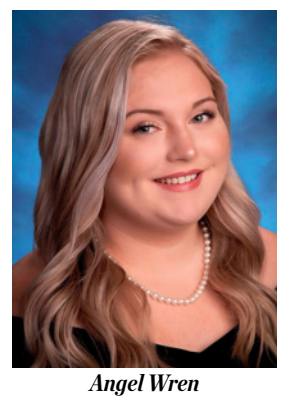

Alexia Buckmaster


Alexis Kampis

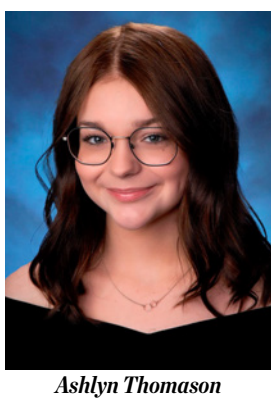

Alexis Kimbril


Allison Milligan


Andrew Putman


Angel Wren

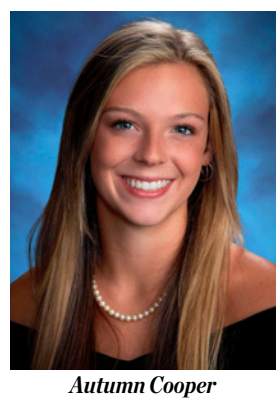

Annalee Thornton


Ashlyn Thomason


Ashton Rodgers


Aubry Carden


Audra Williams


Autumn Cooper


Bethany Minck


Braxton Jareth Nix


Brent Langley


Brody Freeman


Brylie Pearce


Bryson Phillips


Caden Rusk


Caleb Bowers

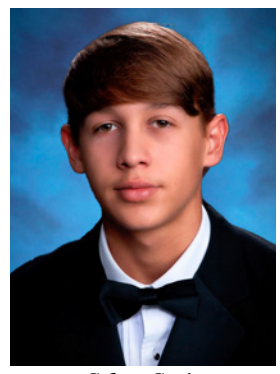

Caleb Vest


Carry Shedd

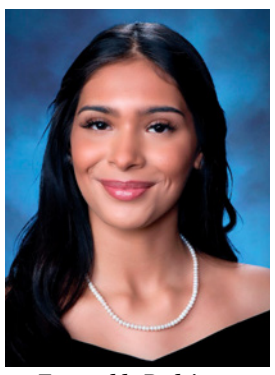

Christian Barber


Clay Creel

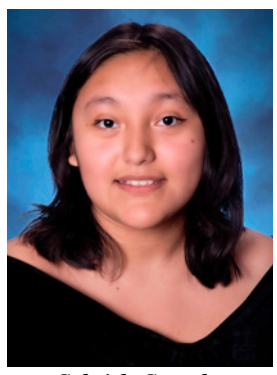

Cody Smith


Colton Craig


Daniel Dean


Esmarelda Rodriguez


Gabriel Laney


Gabriela Gonzalez


Garrett Smith


Hannah Shedd

Harley Crow

Haylee Whitehead

Heidi Armstrong

Isabella Hernandez

Jack Lee

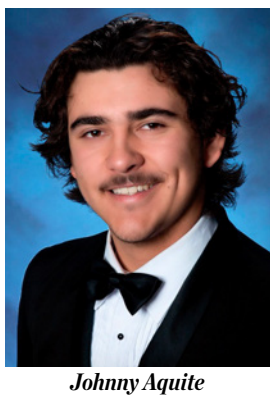
Jacob Hogland

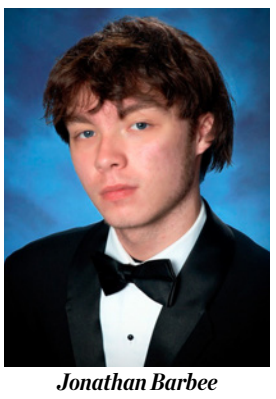
Jared Smith

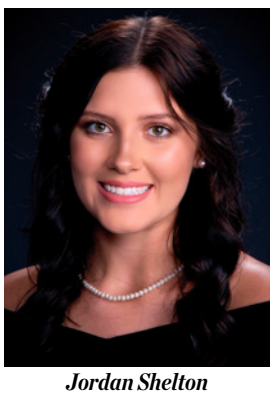
Jasmine Quick

Jazlynn Tudor

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023! 7


Johnny Aquite


Jonathan Barbee


Jordan Shelton


Judd Douglas


K.C. Morton

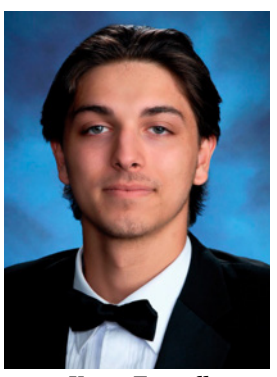

Kaci Minck

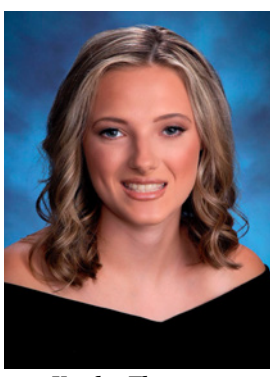

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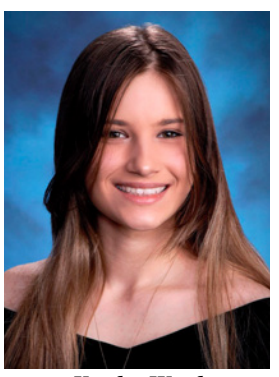

Kaitlynn Richmond


Kaleb Perry


Kanaan Sutter


Kanen Trussell


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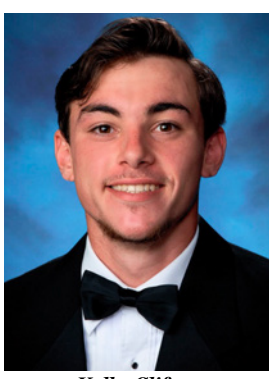

Kaylee Faulkner


Keirston Christy

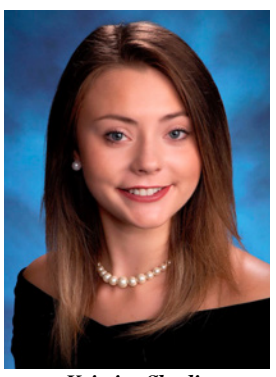

Kelsey Speegle


Kimberly Moore

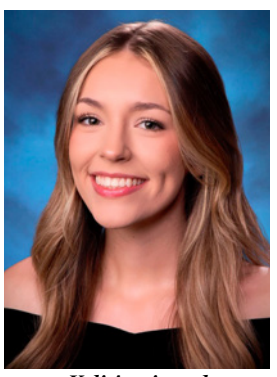

Kobe Pitts


Kolby Clifton


Kollin McClure


Kristine Shadix


Kyle Norris

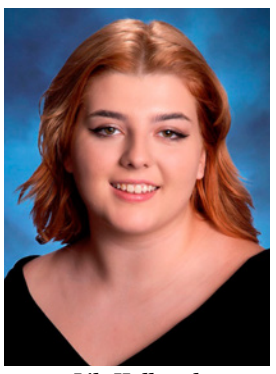

Kyli Armistead


Kylie Wells


Lee Osborne


Leluia Shannon


Lika Buzaladze

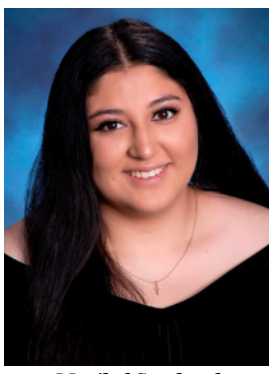

Lily Hallmark


Lily Lee


Mackenzie Garmon


Madisyn Shedd


Marian Braswell


Maribel Sandoval


Matthew McCoy


MeShae Carpentier


Morgan Nail


Nancy Davis


Nathaniel Dotson

Nayeli Arroyo

Nereyda Arroyo

Nicole Defosse

Noemi Ortiz

Nolan Kelley

Olivia Haff

Olivia Roberts

Patrick Pollock

Peyton Kusel

Pierce Lynn

Reno Aguero

Richard Thomas

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– COLUMN –

Celebrating in the Wundergarten – 'Alabama is an Arboretum'

Ben Johnson South
Tribune Columnist

Dear Alabama Arboretum Ambassador, yes, that means YOU and all of us from Governor Ivey to the youngest child in our state who just discovered the joy of trees, forests, birds and wildlife which divinely endow "Alabama the Beautiful."

This week, a decades-long dream for nature-blessed Cullman County to create an accredited arboretum, or "living tree museum," took a great step forward. The Cullman County Commissioners approved a memorandum of understanding between Cullman County Parks and Recreation and the Cullman County Master Gardeners. The arboretum will be at Sportsman Lake Park.

Recognizing progress, The Cullman Tribune is sharing this salute to the natural beauty of our woodlands and encouraging all in our state to become active Alabama Arboretum Ambassadors, see right.

CELEBRATING IN THE WUNDERGARTEN

This culinary storytelling series imagines tasty foods from the recipe box of fictional Frau Ruehl, the German American heroine of the folktale, "WUNDERGARTEN."

The opening sentence of the tale reads, "Once upon a time, about a hundred and fifty years ago, this happened up in the pine-forested hills of Alabama." Since we are saluting the state's woodlands and trees, this recipe is one Frau Ruehl would have loved serving her guests in 1870s Cullman County.

ALABAMA ARBORETUM NUTS APPETIZER

(Source: allrecipes.com)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup walnuts
- 1 cup pecans
- 1/4 cup local honey
- 1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350F. Line baking sheet with parchment paper.

2. Add nuts to heat-resistant bowl.

3. Melt butter in non-stick skillet over medium heat. Mix in honey and cayenne pepper and pour mixture over nuts in bowl. Mix well.

4. Spread coated nuts onto prepared baking sheet and quickly separate nuts using spatula or fork.

5. Bake in the preheated oven for 10 minutes. Stir and continue baking until golden brown, 5-10 minutes more.

THANKS TO ALL ALABAMA ARBORETUM AMBASSADORS!
AUF WIEDERSEHEN Y'ALL!

Find all columns in this series at www.cullmantribune.com/tag/celebrating-in-the-wundergarten.

ALABAMA IS AN ARBORETUM



An arboretum, a "living museum" of trees,
Of hardwoods, ornamentals and willows in the breeze,
Woody jasmine vines zigging and zagging up to God,
Alabama, an arboretum rising from the forest sod.

Our ancestors planted shade so that we may rest a bit.
Planted trees, planted hope, vowed to never quit.
Each new generation carries the cheerful toil,
That one and all may rest beneath fertile soil.

A fellowship of foresters, stewards of the earth.
Deep roots ground our family trees, long before our birth.
Branches reach toward the skies, welcome nesting birds.
Alabama, an arboretum, an art far lovelier than words.

Ask how you can help our trees in country and town.
Some never master gardening, some thumbs are quite brown.
Magical forests don't grow from wishing nor nature's quirk.
An Alabama arboretum welcomes your awe and your work.

Alabama, an arboretum, more tulip poplar than tulips,
Keep the trees and honeybees, and time for minty juleps.
Hush! Clear the brush! Help Smokey prevent fire.
Shelter bunnies, beneficial bugs, don't let them expire.

Few are too old or young to help, and far fewer too precious.
Orchards? Folks with pluck grasp something delicious.
Some give it their all, but all can give some,
An arboretum has opportunity for every Alabamian.

Forests are for owls, eagles, butterflies, flocks of soaring things.
Trees stand tall, help us think up, and make our souls sing.
Loblolly Pine, Magnolia grandiflora, Witch hazel, whatever-the-heck you call 'em,
Please help your Alabama arboretum.

The earth began in a garden, lush greenness for humankind,
A sanctuary haven for the soul and mind.
Our gardening hands rarely rest, though we fold them to pray,
Alabama, an arboretum from beginning 'til today!

WRITTEN BY BEN JOHNSON SOUTH, AN ARBORETUM AMBASSADOR (CULLMAN COUNTY, AL)

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MAY 20, 2023

PREP CHEER

‘Always have faith in yourself and your team’: Good Hope’s Jessalyn Nichols talks sophomore season

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — In this interview, I talked to Good Hope sophomore cheerleader Jessalyn Nichols. This was her first season on the varsity cheer team, and she had an amazing experience, along with some help from her fellow cheerleaders. She learned a lot from them, especially the lone senior on last year’s team, Ashlin Hamm.

“It was definitely a fun experience, and the girls were so sweet and welcoming. We all pushed each other and uplifted each other on bad days. We were a really good team and worked so good together. No one was problematic and we are like sisters to one another,” Nichols said.

“I learned that though this was a rebuild year, it was also a super good year for Good Hope. I also learned leadership, trust, and what it really means to work hard. Ashlin was such a good leader and she always wanted to get better every day.

“She was so nice and encouraging and always had her hand out to help us. She was also a good role model to the younger girls. She helped me with mental blocks, cheers we had to learn for game days, and competition cheers and stunts.”

Nichols also tried to learn as much as she could from the other upperclassmen on the cheer squad and from her coaches as well.

“I learned to be a good leader and try my best, even when no one is watching. Always smile, be confident, and be a good role model to the youth cheerleaders because they are always looking up to us. Always help one another, and be patient and respectful to one another,” Nichols said. “Coach Brandy Lowe is very hard on us and has very high expectations at the beginning of the season just because she already knows we are capable of anything. She is such a good coach, sometimes, I forget she is my coach. I’m just so close to her and know I can go to her with anything. Mrs. Sydney Chappell is also very helpful. She helps critique the little things we need help with. Coaches Lacy and Josh Stancil are amazing. They are such good people and would sacrifice anything for their teams.”

She added, “I’m so thankful for them. They are able to have a good time while being serious, and they are so creative with routines. They always have some of the best ideas. It was a blessing being coached by all of these people this year. Every one of them have helped all of us cheerleaders build our relationships with God, them, and each other.”



JESSALYN NICHOLS
Good Hope’s Jessalyn Nichols

Good Hope made yet another appearance at state and Nichols had an amazing experience, plus she learned so much during that time as well.

“It was so fun. This would be my second year going to state with varsity gameday, first in traditional. It was such a fun experience. We finished runners-up in class 4A in traditional. We were shocked and didn’t even realize our name was called for it. We were so excited because we had worked extra hard for it and I think we deserved it,” she said.

“I learned that hard work pays off and always have faith in yourself and your team. No one thought we would make it that far, but we proved every one of them wrong.”

Nichols’s overall performance improved a lot this past season. She will take the year off to work on some things before coming back to cheer her senior year.

“I have definitely improved a ton. I walked in this past season with no confidence, lower tumble skills, and a few stunting skills. Within months, I got my standing tuck, running tuck/layout and standing series to a tuck and stunting. We have gotten low-to-high full-around to lib, basket round-off up to extension, and tics in extension,” she said. “I will not be doing Good Hope cheer next year due to working on tumble skills, such as standing series to a layout/fulls, and running fulls for a better chance of making a college team one day.”

Nichols already has her goals and team goals ready for when she becomes a senior, plus she talked about what will make that cheer team special to watch.

“I plan on us winning state and maybe even a few other titles. I’m excited to be a leader and be a role model for the younger girls and their shoulder to lean on. I hope to be positive and a help to all the younger girls.

“Show them that if you want to accomplish anything, you have to work for it and show how bad you want it. I hope our team will be just as willing to work to get better. Never lose sight of what is most important, which is the bond our team has,” she said.

“What will make this team special to watch that year is watching and knowing that each and every one of the girls have a determination to get better as a cheerleader and a person. They know that they have worked so hard for that two minutes and 30 seconds on the mat, and watching everyone’s faces light up when we hit everything; they will know that all the sacrifices were definitely worth it in the end.”

Nichols had a couple of role models that she looked up to when she was younger and shared some of the best advice she was ever given.

“I looked up to Destiny Powe and Callie Shelton when I was younger,” she said.

“The best advice I’ve ever received was to rely on your team and just do your job on the mat to your best ability. Lift each other up on the mat to give each other more energy.”

PREP SPORTS

‘We should always be kind to those around us’: Holly Pond’s Samantha Giles recaps Bronco career

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. — In this interview, I talked to Holly Pond senior basketball and softball player, Samantha Giles. Giles had so many great sports memories during her time as a Bronco and she feels blessed that she got to do all of that alongside a special group of teammates.

“I have a lot of favorite memories from my time at Holly Pond. My most favorite memory from basketball was definitely going to the sweet 16 and getting to experience that for the first time my senior year. I have multiple memories from my years of playing softball. My favorite ones were from all the times at Regionals. We were able to go to Regionals each year I was in varsity and our time together there is something I’ll never forget,” Giles said. “I got injured right before the sweet 16 game. However, having the chance to watch my best friends play in a game that we worked so hard to get to for many years made my heart so incredibly happy and proud. Knowing that all of the hours we spent in the gym finally paid off after so many years.”

She added, “For softball, the Regional tournament is something that I always loved being a part of. Being able to travel and spend time with my teammates was something I will never forget. It made me extra proud my senior year because we had been through a lot this past season, but my teammates and I never let that affect our goal and we continued to work as hard as we could.”

Giles got to play for some great coaches during her playing career and was so blessed to play alongside some great seniors.

“Coach Mary Lauren Hartline was a blessing sent to me. I loved getting the chance to play for her my senior year. I was unsure if I wanted to play my senior year after I took my junior year off, but I’m forever thankful that I decided to play one last time. Coach Hartline helped me find my love and passion for basketball again. Although it took some time for me to get used to playing the sport again, she never gave up on me, no matter what. The love she has for the game of basketball has always amazed me and I have no doubt that she will continue to help change the Holly Pond basketball program for the better,” she said.

“Coach Jason Widner has been my softball coach for my entire life. Jason never failed to help us be the best players we could be. He pushed us to always work hard and to never give up, no matter what was being thrown at us. I loved having coach Jason as my softball coach throughout the years.”

She added, “The class of 2023 senior athletes have all been my best friends for as long as I can remember, and getting to play with them all one last season was something I will always remember. My senior year was my first year getting to play with my best friend, Maddi Ham, since youth league. Being able to share the court with her again was bittersweet. Her love for the game of basketball reflected on everyone around her. She was able to teach me so much about the game. Something I will never forget is being able to step out on the court with her one last time during the sweet 16 game. The 2023 softball season included six seniors. All six of us grew up playing the game of softball together and eventually, it was like we all became sisters. I loved each and every moment I spent on the field with them, and I will never forget the time we spent together.”

Giles will always remember playing with some great teams and with some amazing teammates. She talked about some of her favorite high school memories, plus what made Holly Pond a special school to go to, what she’ll miss the most, and what she learned the most about going to Holly Pond.

“I will remember the time we spent together during school, games, and practices. I will forever remember the love that we each had and continue to have for one another,” she said.

“I have to say my favorite high school memories happened during all the homecoming weeks. I loved being able to dress up and participate in all the different activities with my friends. During my senior homecoming, we were finally able to hold a powderpuff football game and that is something I will never forget. We had a senior/freshman team and sophomore/junior team. It was so fun getting together with our team for ‘practice’ and just hang out with all of our friends.

She added, “Holly Pond was such a special place for me, because the staff always made sure we were doing the best we could do, and they all work so hard to make sure that everyone had a great time while learning. I will definitely miss being able to be with my friends and participate in high school sports. At Holly Pond, I learned that we should always be kind to those around us and to treat others the way you wished to be treated.”



MARTHA NEEDHAM/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Holly Pond’s Samantha Giles

Giles gave some advice to the students that will be starting high school in August, plus she talked about what she learned the most about playing with an amazing group of girls.

“I would love to tell them that high school will have its ups and downs, but in reality, the time will fly by fast, so enjoy it while you can,” she said. “I learned that you do not need to take the time you get with one another for granted, because that could be your last time being with them.”

Early offense helps Alabama to 4-1 win over Ole Miss on Thursday

Alex Thompson
UA Athletics



UA ATHLETICS

Alabama defeated Ole Miss 4-1 Thursday night to take a 1-0 series lead over the Rebels.

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. – Alabama baseball used early offense to claim a 4-1 win over Ole Miss on Thursday evening at Sewell-Thomas Stadium. The Crimson Tide is now 36-17 on the season and 14-14 in Southeastern Conference play.

Alabama loaded the bases in the first and came away with two runs before adding a single tally in the third on an Andrew Pinckney solo homer. The Tide then added one more in the fourth on an RBI-single from Jim Jarvis to put the game out of reach. Ole Miss got on the board in the seventh with one run but would get no closer for the 4-1 final.

The early offense allowed Alabama starter Luke Holman (7-3) to settle in for the win. Holman tossed 6.2 innings and allowed just one run on four hits and four walks with five strikeouts. He then turned the ball over to his bullpen with Kade Woods and Alton Davis II combining to hold the Rebels scoreless over the final 2.1 frames. Davis II picked up his seventh save of the season with a scoreless ninth.

From Interim Head Coach Jason Jackson

"Luke Holman was fantastic tonight. He did a really good job on short rest. Pitchers are big on their routines, and not only was it a short week for Luke but we had some lightning delays, and it was raining so those kind of things can sometimes get a guy out of whack.

"But Luke came out like a champ and did a great job of pitching deep into the ballgame for us. That's a really good offensive team Ole Miss has over there, and he did a good job of slowing them down tonight."

How it happened

- B1 | The Tide loaded the bases to start the first before a one-out single from Dominic Tamez scored the game's first run. Then, with two down and the bases still loaded, Ed Johnson drew a four-pitch walk to push across one more tally. (2-0, Alabama)

- B3 | Andrew Pinckney added one with a solo homer. (3-0, Alabama)

- B4 | Caden Rose got aboard with a two-out hit-by-pitch and stole second. He then came home on an RBI-single from Jim Jarvis. (4-0, Alabama)

- T7 | A two-out double to right got the Rebels on the board. (4-1, Alabama)

Postgame notes

- Tonight's first pitch was moved back 1:50 from the rescheduled start time of 4 p.m.

- The Crimson Tide is now a season-best 19 games above .500.

- Alabama has hit a home run in 44 of 53 games in 2023.

- Andrew Pinckney has homered in three straight games with tonight's home run. He also had two on Saturday at Texas A&M followed by a Sunday bomb.

- Pinckney has hit 11 home runs in his last 16 games dating back to April 18 at UAB.

- The redshirt junior has now recorded a hit in each of his last five games dating back to May 9 against Troy in Montgomery.

- Pinckney has also reached base safely in 25 of the Tide's 28 SEC games this season.

- Colby Shelton has gotten aboard in his last 18 games dating back to April 11.

- Ed Johnson has reached base in his last 13 games dating back to April 21.

- Attendance: 2,904

Alabama and Ole Miss will return to the diamond tomorrow at 6 p.m. for game two of the series. The Crimson Tide will send right-hander Garrett McMillan to the mound while the Rebels counter with righty JT Quinn. Friday's contest will air on SEC Network+.

Get all the latest information on the team by following @AlabmaBSB on Twitter and Instagram and on Facebook at Alabama Baseball. General athletic news can be found at UA_Athletics on Twitter and Instagram and AlabamaAthletics on Facebook.

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LOCATION: CULLMAN, ALABAMA

REPORTS TO: DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MAY 20, 2023

Dinner on First (from Front)

greeted guests as they took their place at the table for a culinary experience brought in by the All Steak team.

Servers weaved gracefully between mingling guests to place unique courses like chilled peach soup and jalapeño leek potato gratin on the tablescape, while the back-of-house team, under Executive Chef Anthony Barnes's watchful eye, garnished and checked each dish before it was served.

Kelsey Alonso, general manager of All Steak, shared her excitement about being entrusted with yet another Dinner on First experience.

"It's always a privilege for us to participate in Dinner on First," she smiled.

"Although the weather altered our plans this year, each working crew beautifully orchestrated the event to serve our community, and we are thrilled with the outcome!"

CPRST Executive Director Nathan Anderson made sure to note his gratitude for his team and those in attendance of the packed-out event.

"I'm thankful for all the creativity and endless hours of hard work from everyone involved," he said.

"We are blessed to have such a generous community that is willing to support projects like the resurfacing of Miracle Field."

The CPRST team had high hopes for the end of the evening, with a lofty fundraising goal of at least $100,000 to fund the resurfacing project.

A final total raised was not available as of press time.



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMANTRIBUNE


CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMANTRIBUNE


CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMANTRIBUNE


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SMITH LAKE PARK/FACEBOOK

Smith Lake Park is one of Cullman County's most popular summertime attractions.

Events (from Front)

Tiffany McKoy
tsmckoy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County Parks and Recreation and the Cullman County Commission have many fun events planned for the public this summer. Cullman County Parks and Recreation Director Doug Davenport and Cullman County Commission Chairman Jeff Clemons shared some details.

The Smith Lake Park Memorial Day Festival will take place Saturday, May 27, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The festival is free. Camping will be allowed, but normal rates will still apply (www.cullmancountyparks.com/assets/smith/PDFs/prices.pdf). Avenue G will be performing. Davenport said the popular golf cart parade will return this year. Anyone can enter and decorate their golf cart for the parade and a trophy will be given to the winner.

The Smith Lake Park Fourth of July Festival will be held Tuesday, July 4, from 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

According to Davenport there will be four bands who will be playing throughout the festival. Entertainment will begin at 9 and go all day. The annual fireworks show will cap off the night.

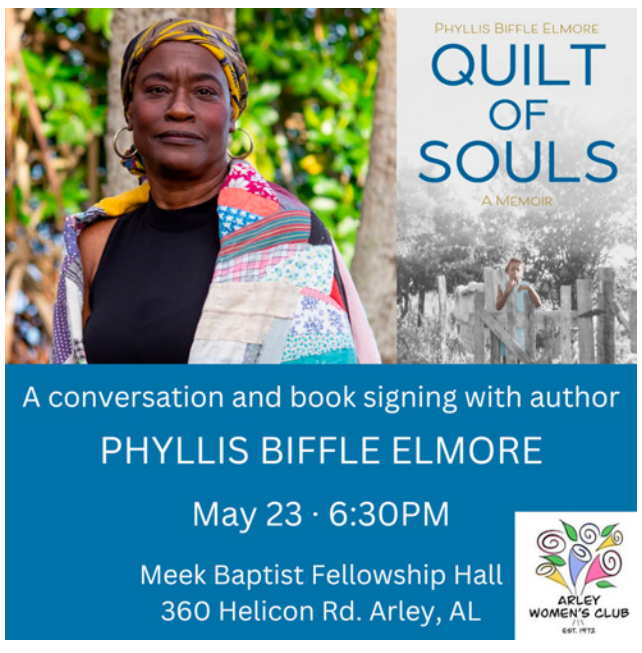
Stony Lonesome OHV Park will host multiple night rides this summer. Dates are May 27, June 10, June 24, July 8, Aug. 19, Sept. 2, Sept. 16 and Sept. 30. The park will be open from 7:30 a.m.-midnight on these days. On July 29, the park will be open for 24 hours and will also be hosting its Barbie Jeep ride. For more information visit www.stonylonesomeohv.us.

The Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center will host various events this summer as well. The Kiko Goat Association Show will take place June 22-24. There will also be several barrel racing events throughout the summer.

On July 8 and 22, it will host XMC motocross events. For the full schedule of the summertime events visit www.cullmancountyparks.com/atc.html.

Both Davenport and Clemons said they are happy with how much Cullman County has grown over recent years and said they are excited about all the annual and new events taking place. Clemons said he is looking to improve the parks and is in talks with Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman to secure funding.

"Cullman County is blessed with a lot of gold mines," said Clemons. "We need to make sure that we get what people want in these parks."



LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

LINDA GAIL MARLOW, DECEASED CASE NO. PC 2023-136

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF LINDA GAIL MARLOW, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to James Marlow on the 11th day of May, 2023, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

James Marlow, Personal Representative (Administrator),
and
Steven C. Smith, Attorney for the Estate

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

PB WIL BK 116 PG 587 - 05/18/2023 10:09 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE THE ESTATE OF:)
PAULA RENEE WALTHER,) CASE NO.: PC-~~2022~~ 2021-414
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters of Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to John Michael Walther, Personal Representative on the 18th day of May, 2023 by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be forever barred.

Kimberly H. Drake ASB-0108
419 Second Ave SW Suite A
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-739-9445 (phone)
256-734-7121 (fax)
tomdrake@bellsouth.net

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

DONE this the 18 day of May, 2023.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
Probate Judge

PB MIN BK 216 PG 495 - 05/19/2023 09:26 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO.: PC 2023-152

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF DEBRA KAY HAMILTON, DECEASED

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Notice is hereby given that a verified Petition for Summary Distribution has been filed by Anthony James Hamilton on MAY 12, 2023.

Thirty (30) days after the notice of publication hereof and pursuant to the law of the Alabama, the Court shall be requested to enter an order directing summary distribution of the estate of said decedent.

Dated this the 19 day of May, 2023.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Probate Judge

TO: PUBLISHER OF *The Cullman Tribune*:

Please publish the above notice **one time** in said newspaper, and thereafter file with the Court a copy of the notice so published and an affidavit of publication.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

PB MIN BK 216 PG 128 - 05/05/2023 09:15 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
GREGORY LEVON SANDLIN, * CASE NO.: PC2023-021
*
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to PAMELA BURDESHAW SANDLIN, as Personal Representative of the Estate of GREGORY LEVON SANDLIN, deceased, on the 5th 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.

PAMELA BURDESHAW SANDLIN
Personal Representative

Thomas E. Drake, II
Attorney for Personal Representative
419 Second Ave. SW, Suite BA
Cullman, AL 35055
256-739-9445

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

GERARDO TELLO-GONZALEZ and WILLEVALDO TELLO,
Plaintiffs,
v.
DOROTHY BUNT aka DOROTHY CHRISTENSON;
FICTIONAL DEFENDANTS Nos. 1-10, intending hereby to designate any heirs, assigns, personal representatives, executors, and administrators of Dorothy Bunt or her estate;
A PARCEL OF LAND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: Commence at the Northerly right of way line for County Road #91 where the East line for the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 33, Township 12 South, Range 3 West intersect for the Point of Beginning; thence run North on the East Quarter-Quarter line for 830.0 feet; thence turn left 48 degrees 38 minutes 27 seconds for 252.20 feet; thence turn left 41 degrees 21 minutes 33 seconds for 70.12 feet; thence turn left 88 degrees 33 minutes 33 seconds for 1041.18 feet to the said Northerly right of way line; thence turn left 100 degrees 14 minutes 17 seconds and along said right of way line for 289.00 feet to the Point of Beginning. Contains 6.00 acres. **Parcel ID: 26-08-33-0-000-010.000**;
FICTIONAL DEFENDANTS Nos. 11-20, intending hereby to designate any other persons, entities, organizations or otherwise claiming any present, future, contingent, remainder, reversion or other interest in the above-described property as Defendant Dorothy Bunt.
Defendants.

CASE NO: 25-CV-2021-900262

ORDER OF PUBLICATION AND NOTICE OF PENDENCY SUIT

Notice is hereby given that in the Circuit Court of Cullman County, Alabama there is pending a Verified Bill of Complaint filed by the Plaintiffs, Gerardo Tello-Gonzalez and Willevaldo Tello on October 6, 2021 and amended on April 25, 2023, against the above-described lands lying in Cullman County, Alabama, and against Dorothy Bunt, aka Dorothy Christenson, and any and all persons claiming any title to, interest in, lien or encumbrance on said land, or any part thereof, said bill being filed to establish the right or title to said lands and to clear up all doubts or disputes concerning the same. Plaintiffs in their own right, claim to own all of said land in fee simple absolute, free of all liens and encumbrances.

You are hereby directed to plead, answer or demur to the Complaint within the time required by law, but not later than thirty (30) days from the last date of publication.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk

To the Editor of The Cullman Tribune:

Please publish for four -(4) consecutive weeks.

FILED IN OFFICE
APR 25 2023
CIRCUIT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY

Graduates (from Front)

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. — There was hardly a dry eye in the house Friday, May 19, at the commencement ceremony for the Cullman County Child Development Center's graduating class of 2023. The crowd was packed with families, friends, faculty and staff and studded throughout with royal blue caps and gowns donned by the graduates.

Six students made up the graduating class of 2023: Auston Trent Bailey, Alivia Ann Bencze, Nicole Brooke Bussey, Jaiden Michael Colwell, Nathan Thomas McBrayer and Christian Anthony Woodard.

According to Principal Chris "Coach" Chambers, graduation is bittersweet, signaling the end of one journey and the beginning of a new one.

"I guess time reveals true character. Change is hard and it takes a village to truly help people to change.

"The CDC, these graduates and all their supporters have been a part of that journey together," he shared, wiping a tear from his eye.

Chambers said the paths ahead of his graduates are as diverse as the graduates themselves.

"Some will go on to CCCDD (Cullman County Center for the Developmentally Disabled), some will get jobs with their families, some will get jobs in the community," he said.

Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette shared his hope of continued support for this graduating class, and what a privilege it was to celebrate this monumental occasion.

"We are so excited to be able to celebrate with these families.

"Many of the families and students that we're celebrating today have struggles that many wouldn't understand," he said.

"Many of these young people will go on to do more big things, and we just want to continue to support them."

Congratulations graduates!



Obituary Announcements: May 18-19

Mary Stansell Lovvorn, 84
Mary Stansell Lovvorn, 84, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on May 17, 2023. She was born on Dec. 11, 1938, in Cullman, Alabama to the late parents of Hughdon and Pauline Bowen. Mary was a child of God, and loving mother and grandmother who understood the power of simple things in life like a bowl of Cheetos and a smile to her grandchildren and a loving smile to all others. Mary graduated with an Associate's Degree in Nursing from Wallace State Community College in 1977. She worked her entire career at Cullman Regional Medical Center, where she served as the Charge Nurse for the nursery. In 1983, Mary was recognized for her expertise in well baby nursery care in an article published in the Cullman Times. As a registered nurse she was known for being well prepared and an advocate for her babies. Mary's caring nature extended beyond the nursery and into her community, where she was quick to assist family and neighbors in need. Mary was a member of Seventh Street Baptist Church, where she worshiped with family and friends. Outside of work and church, Mary enjoyed reading, and gardening. She had a green thumb and loved spending time planting flowers and caring for her lawn. She is survived by Daughter: Marisa Stansell (Jerry) Sellers of Cullman, Sons: David Keith Stansell of Cullman, Ron (Terry) Stansell of Cullman, Step Daughters: Pamela Lovvorn (Chris) Pruitt of Gardendale, Kathy Lovvorn (Danny) Pritchard of Bessemer, Grandchildren: Jamie Watts (Jonathan) Graves of Hanceville, Karla Watts (Josh) Wynn of Cullman, Leah Stansell (Jonathan) LaShomb of Falkville, Ashley Stansell Monroe of Huntsville, Lee (Amy) Stansell of Guntersville, Tyler (Amber) Stansell of Madison, Derek Stansell of Huntsville, Peyton (Katlyn) Sanders of Blountsville, and a host of great-grandchildren, step-grandchildren, and step-great-grandchildren A funeral service for Mary will be on Monday May 22, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Kerry Cleghorn and Pastor Brandon Stripling officiating. Interment will follow services at Bethsadia Cemetery. The family will receive friends for visitation at Moss Service Funeral Home on Monday May 22, 2023, from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Please share memories and condolences with the family at www.mossservicefh.com.

Debbie Kay Herron, 65
Memorial service for Debbie Kay Herron, 65, of Cullman, will be at 1 p.m., Sunday, May 21, 2023, at Mission Grove Baptist Church. Debbie passed away May 17, 2023, at Brookwood Hospital. She was born April 18, 1958, to Ollis Hobert and Jonell Russell Anders. She was preceded in death by her father. Survivors include her mother; husband, Michael Herron; sons, Ray (Amanda) Brown, Justin (Nicole) Brown; daughter, Brandi (Josh) Early; sister, Rhonda (Jay) Merrill; grandchildren, Michael Myers, Katelyn Early, James Paul Brown, Riley Brown, Allyssa (Gage) Renfro, Thomas Williams; four great-grandchildren; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullman-funeralhome.com.

Rachel Hannah Yates, 75
Memorial service is incomplete at this time and will be announced at a later date for Rachel Hannah Yates, 75, of Cullman. Rachel passed away May 18, 2023. She was born July 5, 1947, to Joseph Marcus and Cordia Leona Pepper Yates. Rachel was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Marvin Yates, and a sister, Helen Yates. She is survived by daughters, Amelia (Dustin) Wisener, Janette (Scotty) Hipp, Jayla Chambers; brother, Vandall Yates; sisters, Jackie Yates, Sharon Beasley, Jo Nelson, Alyne Sibenaler; sister-in-law, Carolyn Yates; grandchildren, Cody Wisener, Louis Hipp, Crimson Hipp, Dominique Hipp, Veronica (Justin) Taylor, Anthony Faronea; great-grandchildren, Pepper Taylor, Adrian Taylor; family and friends. Rachel was a loving mother and grandmother. She lived her life for the Lord and was a member of Decatur SDA Church. She had a beautiful voice, loved music and taught piano. She was a great cook and enjoyed cooking for others. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullman-funeralhome.com.

Barbara Ann Alexander, 73
Barbara Ann Alexander, age 73, of Arley, passed away Thursday, May 18, 2023, at her residence. She was born July 5, 1949, in Gadsden, Alabama. Barbara is survived by her daughter, Michelle (Gerald) Lyons; son, Carl Dewayne Alexander; granddaughter, Destiny (Austin) Griffith; grandson, Tyler Manley; great granddaughter, Sienna Griffith; sisters, Gail (Don) Tinsley and Joyce (Wallace) Garrard; and a host of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Carl Alexander; father, J.B. Brown; mother, Naomi Brown; brothers, Lee Brown and Johnny Brown; and sister, Martha Joe Brothers. The Alexander family will hold a memorial service at a later date.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Is Buc-ees really a convenience store?

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Buck-ees in Auburn has opened! We now have 4 of them in Alabama, and the newest one is only 15 miles from my house. Jean and I have been there, but not on opening day. About half of the residents of Opelika and Auburn did go, so we waited a few days. We decided the let the initial rush pass and the crowd die down a little before we went to see the beaver. Locals were not the only ones who came. People came from everywhere...even from other states! I'm not only talking about vacationers who happened to be passing through our area, but some shoppers who traveled hundreds of miles. They probably passed other Buc-ees, just to come to our Buc-ees! Some came early and camped out in the parking lot the night before the grand opening. There are several things in this world that I don't understand, and now I have added one more. I don't think there was any danger of them selling out on opening day!

I must admit that place is a site to behold. Someone said it is like the Disney World of convenience stores. When I hear the words "convenience store," I think of small stores that sell snacks and drinks, have a couple of restrooms, and maybe even a few gas pumps. I think of a place to make a quick-pit stop and be in and out in a few minutes. That is not Buc-ees! Buc-ee's is not quick stop. For many, it is not a place they just happened upon...it is a destination. First of all, they are about the size of Rhode Island. They originated in Texas, and everything seems to be bigger in Texas. If you go, plan on spending half a day! They have more bathrooms than the Biltmore Mansion! The full-time restroom attendant keeps them sparking too. They sell almost everything, except cars, although there is an old-antique truck parked inside the store.

They have enough fresh-cooked food in there to fully supply an annual church homecoming! The large-brisket sandwich is more than enough to fill up a hungry man, and possibly even a small family. They also have all kinds of baked goodies and those addictive Beaver Nuggets. You can get gas there too, unless your truck has 18 wheels. No, not gas from the brisket, but from one of the 13,985 gasoline pumps. I pumped gas at Bernard Smith's Citgo in Rainsville for a short time during my college days. I thought we were uptown, because we had 2 islands and 4 pumps. Buc-ees has almost as many islands as the Pacific Ocean; however, don't think you won't have to wait in line, because amazingly they are usually all full. That probably is because the gas is cheaper than most places.

We knew it was coming for over a year. We waited with eager anticipation. We said as soon as it opens, we are going, and we did...well, almost. I've never seen so much excitement over the opening of a convenience store, but then Buck-ees really isn't a convenience store. That's kind of like saying that a Super Wal-Mart is a 5-and-10 store. You don't have to camp out there the night before, but if you've never been, go!

For well over 50 years now, I've been waiting for another place to let me come see it. One day, although I'm not sure when, I'll get to go there too. It is bigger than Buc-ee's or Texas, and much better than both. It is, in fact, out of this world!

Bill King can be reached at bkpreach@yahoo.com or 334-745-0588 (office).

HISTORY

Files from yesteryear: 1937

From the files of 1937

County Board of Education: R.E. Moore, Superintendent; Doctor J.G. Daves, President; T.F. Gladney, Vice- President; Judge Tankersley; A. Pinkerton and Charles Gorham.

City Board of Education: R.P. Johnston, Superintendent; M.L. Robertson, President; Doctor E.D. McAdory; G.W. Ponder; D.C. Fuller and S.H. Green.

Child Welfare Board: R.P. Johnston, Chairman; Mrs. J.I. Armstrong; Jack Tucker; Doctor J.C. Martin; Reverend J.E. Marion; Mrs. G.W. Ponder and Judge Homer F. Mitchell.

Circuit Judge: A.A. Griffith.

County Officials: Homer F. Mitchell, J.E. Pierce, Ellis Burns, J.W. Bryant, Grady Gorham, Horace Kinney, Doctor M.S. Whiteside, C.T. Bailey and Mrs. Annie Paul Rounds.

Board of Finance and Control: J.R. Alldredge, C.A. Cruce, W.H. Keaton, Daniel Kinney and J.W. Shoemaker.

Teachers

New Canaan – J.L. Hipp, Principal and Mrs. Margaret R. Morris.

Joppa – John King, Principal, Mrs. Wanda B. Smith, Howard Corbin, Mrs. J.W. Gober, Mrs. Imogene Mitchell, Mrs. Myrtle Guthrie and Mrs. Monnie K. Stephens.

Hulaco – H.L. Tipton, Principal, Arnold McDaniel, Mrs. Ida W. White and Mrs. Carmen S. Hipp.

Baileyton – H.L. Haney, Principal, Mrs. W.L. Davis, Curtis Reid, Jennie Biggers and Icie Mae Lambert.

Brooklyn – Robert Roper, Principal and Wilma Hipp.

Antioch – D.W. Tipton, Principal and Mrs. Thelma S. South.

Union Grove – Mrs. Laura L. Plunkett, Principal and Clara Hyatt.

Holly Pond – E.L. Buckner, Principal, F.K. Agee, Mabel Yates, Allen Hyatt and Mrs. Allen Hyatt.

Fairview – P.T. Orr, Principal, Felston Mullins, Effie Lou Gaines, F.L. Temple, Lilla Larmore, Anabel Cox, Sarah E. Bowling, W.L. Davis, Melvin Hyatt, Larkin W. Yates, Eleanor Faye Smith, Mattaline Matthews – Assistant Principal, Una Hamic, Pearl Lena Heck, Violet Coburn, Margaret Sturgess, Ruby Hulsey and Ida Alford.

Berlin – Julous Carnell, Principal and Mrs. Bessie G. Carnell.

Welti – T.B. Hare, Principal, Mrs. Della S. Johnson, Marvin Glasscock, Olene Johnston and Mrs. Marvin Glasscock.

Simcoe – Forrest Patrick, Principal, C.O. Bone, Willie Butler, Mrs. Kate W. Oaks and Corene Lovvorn.

Gold Ridge – W.S. Walker, Principal, Irene Winn, Mrs. Cleoh Murphree and Mrs. Verdie P. Duke.

Enon – Herbert Allredge, Principal and Mrs. Ethel B. Harris.

Providence – Jesse Duke, Principal, Mrs. E.R. Lawrence and Vivian Hendrix.

Pleasant Ridge – Floy Kilgore, Principal.

Kelley – Herman Pruett, Principal, Opal J. Pruitt and Mrs. T.A. Mitchell.

Vinemont – L.C. Camp, Principal, Walter Smith, Gladys Parker, Mrs. M.W. Holmes, Jeanette Graham, J.D. Taylor, Miss Thelma C. Drake, Gertrude Dickinson, Mrs. Orene C. Copeland and Myrtle Rainwater.

Brickyard – Mrs. Reathel W. McGriff, Principal.

Bolte – W.F. Key, Principal, Margie Burdick and Mrs. W.F. Key.

White City – Earl York, Principal, W.R. Davis, Cora Duke, Margaret Evers, Frances Winn and Lela Bailey.

Pleasant Hill – J.C. Hartung, Principal and Mrs. Eunice Davis.

POET'S CORNER

Wishing the Devil Wore Red | By: Randy C. Hale

Thank you Cullman Tribune for 10 years and 300 published poems

I wish the devil wore a bright red suit,
and we could see him walking upon hoofs.
He wouldn't be so secret in his wild and wicked ways, and we could avoid him every night and every day.
He could even carry a pitchfork and have a pointed tail, and we would see him and know him mighty well.

But the devil, he's not like that,
all dressed up in finer things.
He is crafty and deceiving,
in his masquerading blings.

Telling lies through others, and whispering in your mind. He will plant seeds of doubting in your very weakened times.

So, when you're out there watching for the devil, don't you be, thinking you will see him in his bright red dungarees. You will never spot a pitchfork or step upon his tail, for the devil he is handsome and he never visits hell.

He walks the earth seeking to destroy, planting destruction,
God's word we can't ignore.
Yes, I warn you, my dear friend of the magician and his tools.
That the devil is all around us, and he looks not like a fool.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour." **I Peter 5:8**

"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." **2 Corinthians 11:14**



CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

MAY 20

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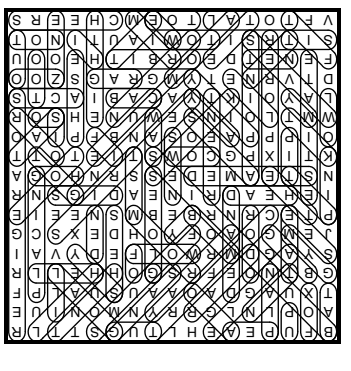
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

MAY 20

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ANSWERS:



8	4	6	5	2	9	3	7	1
7	5	3	4	8	1	9	2	6
1	9	2	6	7	3	8	4	5
4	7	5	2	6	8	1	9	3
3	6	9	7	1	4	5	8	2
2	1	8	3	9	5	7	6	4
5	3	7	9	4	2	6	1	8
9	2	1	8	5	6	4	3	7
6	8	4	1	3	7	2	5	9

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80 YEARS ANNIVERSARY
1943-2023
Thank you, Cullman, for the best 80 years of our lives.
80
In 1943, when the Paul R. Knight Insurance Company opened its doors in downtown Cullman, there was no way of knowing what the future would bring. Paul Knight was a 30-something father of of three, registered for the World War II draft, with no idea that his new venture would not only succeed but would ultimately pass down through three generations of his family. Then his son-in-law Elliot Free joined the business in 1970, the agency was re-named Knight-Free, and the rest is history.
But it's a history that wouldn't have happened without you, Cullman. We never forget that. For 80 years, you've trusted us to insure your homes, your cars, your businesses, your lives. You've become our friends, our neighbors, and our reason to turn up at the office every day. You're also the reason that, after all these years, Elliot's son Wescoat Free is still running the independent insurance agency that bears his family name. And, for that, we can't thank you enough.
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