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The Cullman Tribune

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MOSTLY SUNNY

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MADDIE MCKENNEY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

'Have character when nobody's looking': Good Hope's Kaleb Jones looks back on Raider career
» PAGE 4

ATM theft causes damage; thieves leave empty handed

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — An ATM was stolen from the main branch of Merchants Bank in Cullman just after midnight, Monday, May 29, according to the Cullman Police Department (CPD), but the thieves were not able to successfully open it.

CPD Public Information Officer Adam Clark said the ATM was located a short time later at the intersection of First Avenue Southwest and Birmingham Street Southwest.

"Both the suspect vehicle and ATM have been recovered," said Clark. "Suspects (are) still at large."

According to Clark, the thieves used a white and black Dodge pickup. When asked if the vehicle was stolen, he replied, "It is stolen."

Clark said due to the ongoing investiga- » PAGE 5



ADAM CLARK/CPD

An ATM was stolen from the main branch of Merchants Bank in Cullman just after midnight, Monday, May 29.

'We're not a typical VFW!'

Nonprofit spotlight: VFW Post 2214



CONTRIBUTED

VFW Post 2214 Commander Brian Monk places an American flag on the grave of a veteran on Thursday, May 25. This outreach happens annually in the days leading up to Memorial Day.

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — When you hear "VFW," you might think of older gentlemen with caps bearing the seals of their military branches, bingo and boxed lunches. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is so much more than that. The Tribune sat down with Cullman VFW Post 2214 Commander Brian Monk to gain more insight into how this nonprofit veterans service organization benefits one of the community's most vulnerable populations.

The post serves as a dedicated gathering place for combat veterans, and is open to any combat veteran, male or female, from any tour of duty or branch of service. For those who are not combat veterans themselves, but immediate family members or spouses of combat veterans, Post 2214 also boasts a very active auxiliary group.

Monk said his biggest priority concerning the post is making sure immediate needs are met and that the combat veterans in the community feel supported and empowered.

He said that in addition to fellowship lunches every Tuesday and bingo every Friday, the post now acts as a central hub for many veterans to get vital information concerning » PAGE 7

Cullman honors fallen, unveils new monument



TIFFANY MCKOY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Dr. Michael Schendel, chair of the Veterans Memorial Park Board, speaks at the Cullman VFW's Memorial Day program at Veterans Memorial Park at Sportsman Lake Saturday, May 27. » PAGE 3

Agriplex gives community hub capital campaign update » PAGE 8

Crispy, ooey-gooey grilled cheese goodness



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Patrons line up at Mom & M's food truck, waiting to sample creative grilled cheese combinations like jalapeno popper and pineapple honey walnut. » PAGE 5

'This is the greatest group of people you'll ever meet in your life': Cullman Disc Golf Club continues to grow » PAGE 2

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MAY 30, 2023

Apply for Alligator Harvest Permit starting June 6

Ala. Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — At 8 a.m. on June 6, 2023, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) will begin accepting online applications for Alligator Harvest Permits. The permits allow for the harvest of an alligator in one of Alabama's five designated Alligator Management Areas (AMA) during the dates listed below. There is no fee to apply for a permit.

A total of 260 Alligator Harvest Permits will be distributed among the five AMAs. Individuals may submit one application per management area. The online application must be submitted by 8 a.m. on July 11. For complete season information or to apply for a permit starting June 6, visit www.outdooralabama.com/seasons-and-bag-limits/alligator-season.

Only Alabama residents and Alabama lifetime license holders ages 16 years or older holding any valid all game or small game Alabama Hunting License may apply for permits. Alabama lifetime license holders may apply for an Alligator Harvest Permit even if they have moved out of the state.

Hunters will be randomly selected by computer to receive one harvest permit each. There is a $250 fee for the Alligator Harvest Permit. If selected for two or more locations, hunters must choose which location they would like to hunt. The slot for locations not chosen will be filled from a list of randomly selected alternates.

The random selection process utilizes a preference point system. The system increases the likelihood of repeat applicants being selected for a hunt as long as they continue to apply each year.

If an applicant does not apply for a permit in a given year or is selected and accepts a permit for a hunt, the preference point status is forfeited.

Applicants can check their selection status at the link listed above after 8 a.m. on July 12. Those selected to receive a harvest permit must confirm their acceptance online by 8 a.m. on July 19. After that date, alternates will be notified to fill any vacancies. Applicants drawn for the hunt are required to complete an online Alligator Training Course prior to accepting their hunter/alternate status. The course will be available on the applicant's status page upon login.

The AMAs, total tags issued per AMA, and hunt dates are listed below.

SOUTHWEST MANAGEMENT AREA – 100 Harvest Permits
Locations: Private and public waters in Baldwin and Mobile counties north of interstate 10, and private and public waters in Washington, Clarke and Monroe counties east of U.S. Highway 43 and south of U.S. Highway 84. 2023 Dates: Sunset on Aug. 10, until sunrise on Aug. 13. Sunset on Aug. 17, until sunrise on Aug. 20.

COASTAL MANAGEMENT AREA – 50 Harvest Permits
Locations: Private and public waters in Baldwin and Mobile counties south of Interstate 10. 2023 Dates: Sunset on Aug. 10, until sunrise on Aug. 13. Sunset on Aug. 17, until sunrise on Aug. 20.

SOUTHEAST MANAGEMENT AREA – 40 Harvest Permits
Locations: Private and public waters in Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston and Russell counties (excluding public Alabama state waters in Walter F. George Reservoir/Lake Eufaula and its navigable tributaries). 2023 Dates: Sunset on Aug. 12, until sunrise on Sept. 4.

WEST CENTRAL MANAGEMENT AREA – 50 Harvest Permits
Locations: Private and public waters in Monroe (north of U.S. Highway 84), Wilcox and Dallas counties. 2023 Dates: Sunset on Aug. 10, until sunrise on Aug. 13. Sunset on Aug. 17, until sunrise on Aug. 20.

LAKE EUFAULA MANAGEMENT AREA – 20 Harvest Permits
Locations: Public state waters only in the Walter F. George Reservoir/Lake Eufaula and its navigable tributaries, south of Alabama Highway 208 at Omaha Bridge (excludes Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge). 2023 Dates: Sunset on Aug. 18, until sunrise on Oct. 2.

Each person receiving an Alligator Harvest Permit will be allowed to harvest one alligator during the season. An 8-foot minimum length requirement is in effect for alligators harvested in the Lake Eufaula AMA. There is no minimum length for hunts in the other management areas. The use of bait is prohibited. All alligator harvests must be immediately tagged with the temporary Alligator Possession Tag and reported as directed for each AMA. The permanent Alligator Possession Tag will be distributed after the hunt by ADCNR Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division personnel.



BILLY POPE/ADCNR

American alligator

Hunting hours are official sunset to official sunrise in the Southwest, Coastal, Southeast and West Central AMAs. For the Lake Eufaula AMA, hunting is allowed both daytime and nighttime hours. All Alabama hunting and boating regulations must be followed.

The American alligator (Alligator mississippiensis) is the largest reptile in North America and can exceed 14 feet in length and 1,000 pounds. Known for its prized meat and leather, the species was threatened with extinction due to unregulated harvest during the 1920s, 30s and 40s. No regulations existed in those days to limit the number of alligators harvested. In 1938, it is believed that Alabama was the first state to protect alligators by outlawing these unlimited harvests. Other states soon followed and, in 1967, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service placed the American alligator on the endangered species list. By 1987, the species was removed from the endangered species list and the alligator population has continued to expand. Its history illustrates an excellent conservation success story.

ADCNR promotes wise stewardship, management and enjoyment of Alabama's natural resources through four divisions: Marine Resources, State Lands, State Parks and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. Learn more at www.outdooralabama.com.

Club (from Front)

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman's Disc Golf Club has been going on for several years now and hosted another successful tournament this weekend. Heath Harden, the president of the Disc Golf Club, talked more about it, how much the attendance has grown over the years and how cool its been to get more women and kids involved.

"The club have been going on for several years now. The three years that I've been doing this, the sport has grown tremendously. It's pretty common to have 40 or 50 people in each one of our leagues on Sundays. When I first started playing, we were lucky to draw 20 people. The sport is growing. It's growing quickly," Harden said.

"We need to find a way to reach more women. We're starting to have kids join our league. We have three kids that show up pretty much every Sunday and three women. I love to slowly see women and kids join the league. One of our kids, Braxton Coggins, has beaten some of the men out here."

Harden is so happy to see this club get started and loves every minute of it. He also talked about the preparation that goes into running a league and its tournaments.

"I love it. I love every minute of it. We try to throw five, six tournaments a year at the local courses: Cullman, Wallace, Fairview, and Vinemont. We try to have a tournament at each one of those courses. We'll try to do three tournaments at Heritage Park," Harden said.

"There is a lot of coordination that goes into running leagues. Tyler Stephens does a great job running our leagues, him and Tim Baxter. Playing in a tournament, it takes a lot of time to order player packs and get U-Discs set up.

"The day of the tournament or the day before, we spend our time cleaning up the park and moving baskets. The day of the tournament it's from 6 a.m. until dark, so there's a lot of preparation that goes into running a tournament and a league. It's never ending when you're maintenance, always picking up sticks and trying to keep the forest clean."

Harden talked about the attendance that came to play disc golf when it first got started. He's hopeful that this club will continue to grow in the years to come.

"Disc golf wasn't really well-known until three, four years ago. There were people that played it, but the tournament and competitiveness aspect of it really didn't start taking off until three or four years ago," he said.

"It wouldn't surprise me. If it keeps growing like it has, it wouldn't surprise me in the next two years that we have 75 people at league days every Sunday. I'm very hopeful. This is the greatest group of people you'll ever meet in your life.

"We're all like family and that's what makes disc golf so fun. You meet people every time you go to a new town or somewhere to play in a tournament, you meet tons of new people and make friendships that last forever.

"That's the best part of the game. You always want to win but being able to come out here on Sunday evenings and spend time with all of these people, that's what it's all about. It's friendships that will never go away. I can see myself playing disc golf until the day I die. As long as these people continue to play, they'll always be a huge part of my life."

Braxton Coggins, a fourth grader, talks about his experience playing in the club so far, what he's learned so far, and gave a little bit of advice to those kids that would like to join this club.

"I started playing disc golf at around four, five years old. I'm really happy that I started doing that at a young age. I like it. It's fun. I've learned how to putt good and throw a forehand. I'm really good at forehand because it's kind of like hitting in baseball. I also try to practice my backhand. I saw someone trying to turbo-putt and I've started doing that. I've gotten really good at it now," Coggins said.

"I'm really happy to see them start this league. I like when people try to join and help spread it around. It makes people have more fun. I get to meet more kids my age and play with them, and also have fun playing disc golf. I'm happy and thankful. My advice to them is if they're not good at something, like putting, I would teach them how to putt. Be loud and just have fun."

Sarah Grace Jordan has had an amazing experience playing in the club so far and is also happy to see her family get to enjoy this experience as well.



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Disc Golf Club President Heath Harden tees off at this weekend's tournament at Heritage Park.

"I've been playing disc golf for about eight years ago. I love Cullman Disc Club. They were very accepting when I first started. I had a bag of about five or six discs and every time I'd come, one of them would have another disc for me to try out. They were very accepting, and they are very friendship oriented. I bring my kid and the one that's due in October. For me and my husband, this was an awesome bonding place for us, like a good little family outing to be able to do," Jordan said.

"I absolutely love it. My daughter is almost two and everyone out here is super nice to her. They all play with her and entertain her when I'm up to shoot. It's just great. It really is. It's a great family outing and a great capability to do this as a family."

Jordan talks a little bit about how it first got started and is happy to get to play alongside some great people. She can't wait to see this club continue to grow more and more and is proud to even see more kids and women join the club as well.

"It first got started as a singles league and they came out here and fixed up the course to get this league started. It's always been a really close-knit family with them. It started as a group community and it's grown since then," Jordan said. "It makes the experience so much better. It makes it so fun to come out here and goof around and having a good time. Even when you're having a terrible round, you can still laugh and have a great time."

She added, "I know it will. I am hopeful, yes, but as much improvement and growth as it's accrued over the past few years, the women showing up, different levels of difficulty within the course, and all the courses in Cullman are just growing exponentially. I believe that it's just going to continue to grow. I love it.

"One of our buddies, Chris Coggins, his son comes out and plays, and he is awesome. He's an awesome little disc golfer and he has really picked up the sport. I know for a fact that my daughter, when she gets to be his age, will get to play. There are a few kids that come out here quite often and play with us. It's always so much fun to help them, see their improvement, and it's awesome. I think more and more women will become interested to play."

Jordan has learned so much since joining the club and gave some advice to those people that are wanting to join as well.

"I've learned different putting stances, different drives and different techniques. The community really helped me when I first got started. They just continue to help me and watch my shot. They'll tell me if my step's wrong or something along those lines," she said.

"You can join the Cullman Disc Club Facebook page. We always post random rounds that we're playing at. The league information's on there. There's the Vinemont Disc Golf Club as well."

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

Baileyton Bargain Days
First and third Saturday of each month from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the old Baileyton fire station next to the town's park. Beauty and health products, toys, home goods, pet items, food and many everyday items. A donation of $20 will allow a shopper to fill up a bag, and for $40 a shopper can fill a large box. Some of the items of greater value will require a larger donation. There will be some restrictions and product limits on the items. Cash and checks accepted. Proceeds will be used for park improvements and capital improvements for the town.

Alcoholics Anonymous
The Grace of God group of Alcoholics Anonymous has open AA meetings (all are welcome) Mondays and Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. at the Carriage House, located next to Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St. NE Cullman. Contact phone numbers: 256-347-1097, 256-841-2209 or 256-708-1340

Church Services- Spirit Life Church of GOD
• Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Mondays-Fridays- Free hot meals for children Mondays 11 a.m.- noon, Tuesdays 1-2 p.m. and Wednesdays-Fridays 11 a.m.-noon. Cullman Housing Authority Community Center 1545 Vine Circle SW. Please call Kristie 256-636-5362 for more information. Eat in or take out. Sponsored by Kids Loving Kids, Raising Arrows Ministry and Spirit Life Church.
• Kids Loving Kids Birthday Blessings serves children ages 1-18 in need of assistance to celebrate their birthdays. Register your child and pick up a birthday box with cake mix, icing, sprinkles, decorations and toys! Pickup is the last weekend of the month. Saturday (5100 Curry Highway Suite 100-B Jasper, AL 35504) from 3-5 p.m. or the last Sunday of the month at Spirit Life Church Cullman from 12:30-1 p.m. Birth certificate is required at the time of box pickup. Register at https://form.jotform.com/203435614640045. For more information, text or call 205-717-7478.
• Wednesday, May 31 - 7 p.m. Children, adult & youth classes. Free pizza for children at 6:30 p.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area at 6 p.m. Call 256-841-2060 for pickup.
• Friday, June 2 - 7 p.m. Recovery Ministry. Fellowship & Testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! 6:30 p.m. bring a dish, dessert or drink for a potluck meal. Nursery provided!
• Friday and Saturday, June 2-3 - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Yard Sale to benefit our children's ministry. Outdoors under the pavilion. Rain or shine. Dishes, furniture, clothes and more!
• Saturday, June 3 - 10 a.m. Men meet for Church Brunch at Foundry Farm.
• Sunday, June 4 - Prayer Groups - Join Kevin and Pastor Bobby at 8 a.m. or join Teresa at 9 a.m. in the prayer room to pray for our church, nation and those who need healing, salvation or deliverance.
• Sunday, June 4 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area. Call 256-841-2060 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11. Leadership meeting following morning service.`
• 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.

Yard Sale
Friday, June 2, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. and Saturday, June 3, 8 a.m.-noon, Mt. Zion Church, U.S. Highway 31 North, (next to the Cullman County Technology Academy in Vinemont). For more information, please call 256-338-1959.

Baileyton Masonic Lodge Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, June 3, from 6:30-9:30 a.m. Donations only, to benefit local charities

"Red Book" Hymnal Singing
Saturday, June 3, at 6 p.m. at Baldwin Heights Baptist Church, 2489 U.S. Highway 278 W, Cullman, AL 35057, about 2.6 miles west of Interstate 65. Special guest song leader will be Dylan Feezell. Bro. Steve Rodgers is the pastor. Everyone is invited! www.facebook.com/dylan.feezell

Heartland Quilt Guild Meeting
Thursday, June 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Christ Covenant Church, 1310 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman. Special program will be "Scrapology" by the Franklin Quilt Co. Guests (non-members) are welcome to attend; cost will be $5. Hope to see you there.

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

Rock the South
Thursday-Saturday, July 21-23, at York Farms, 1872 County Road 469, Cullman. This year's headliner is Chris Stapleton. To buy tickets and to get more information, go to www.rockthesouth.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.

Monument (from Front)

Tiffany McKoy
tsmckoy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman's annual Memorial Day program was held Saturday, May 27, at Veterans Memorial Park at Sportsman Lake. It was a somber affair honoring the area's fallen service members, with a special focus on Vietnam and aviation.

Fairview native and retired U.S. Army Col. Don Fallin served as the event's master of ceremonies. He paid tribute to Cullman County's Vietnam War fallen who made the ultimate sacrifice while onboard helicopters: Major Wayne Hyatt, CW2 Orman Phillips, Specialist Neil Jones, Major William Schmale and Lt. Col. William Phillips. Members of their families were in attendance and were presented with American flags.

A special part of Saturday's event was the unveiling of the newest monument at the park.

The Veterans Memorial Park Board raised funds and worked with the Cullman County Commission to purchase a Bell UH-1 Iroquois (nicknamed Huey), an iconic symbol of the Vietnam War.

It was purchased from the Friends of Army Aviation.

"Today is our one day each year we pay tribute to those that gave their lives for our freedom," Fallin said.

"Today we dedicate the Vietnam Huey.

"It symbolizes the bond between the air crew member and the soldiers on the ground – that bond that the air crew members would be there in any capacity that the soldiers needed."

Fallin explained that the Vietnam War is also known as America's "Helicopter War," which is why the Huey was chosen to be a part of the memorial.

The ceremony drew a large crowd.

Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman; Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs; Cullman County Commission Chairman Jeff Clemons; and Cullman County Commissioner Garry Marchman were among those in attendance.

"This is a humbling thing to see," Cullman's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2214 Commander Brian Monk said.

"We are honoring not just the veterans that are here, but also the ones who pay with their health for the price."

LEGALS

Paper COPY

STATE OF ALABAMA)
) NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
COUNTY OF CULLMAN)

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN-DESCRIBED REAL PROPERTY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Date & Time of Sale: Monday, June 12 2023 at 11:00 a.m./p.m.
Sale Location: 500 2nd Ave SW
Cullman, AL 35055

Writ of Execution Parties: Jerry M. Blevins
vs.
Keith Edward Myers
4454 County Road 310
Crane Hill, AL 35053

By virtue of an Execution issued to me by Elmore County Circuit Clerk Michael Dozier, pursuant to the Code of Alabama, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Execution issued on a judgment, with interest and cost. Upon the expiration of proper notice and advertisement, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder at the date, time, and location listed above, all rights, title, and interest of Keith Edward Myers in the real property, described as follows:

A tract or parcel of land containing 5.00 acres, more or less, and being situated in the NW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Sec. 19, T11S, R4W, Cullman County, Alabama, and being more particularly described as follows: Begin at a set rebar marking the SE corner of the above-described quarter-quarter and run N2°20'27"W, and run along the East line of said quarter-quarter, a distance of 1156.70 feet to a set rebar in the center of County Road No. 310; thence run S81°51'25"W, a distance of 105.54 feet to a set rebar in said center; thence run S2°20'27"E, departing said right-of-way line, a distance of 701.45 feet to a set rebar; thence run S89°54'35"W, a distance of 220.38 feet to a set rebar; thence run S2°20'27"E, a distance of 440.45 feet to a set rebar marking the South line of said NW ¼ of the NE ¼; thence run N89°54'35"E, a distance of 325.46 feet to the point of beginning.
ALSO, an Easement for Ingress and Egress being 15 feet in width adjacent to a portion of the West line of the herein conveyed premises being more particularly described as follows: Begin at a set rebar marking the SE corner of the NW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Sec. 19, T11S, R4W, and run N2°20'27"W, and run along the East line of quarter-quarter a distance of 1156.7 feet to a set rebar in the center of County Road 310; thence run S81°51'25"W, a distance of 105.54 feet to a set rebar in said center being the P.O.B. of the easement; thence run S2°20'27"E, departing said right-of-way line, a distance of 701.45 feet to set rebar; thence run S89°54'35"W, a distance of 15 feet; thence run N2°20'27"W, 701.45 feet, more or less, to the center of said road; thence East 15 feet to the P.O.B.

SUBJECT TO a 15 ft. Easement for ingress-egress lying along the West line of the herein conveyed premises, being more particularly described as follows: Commence at a set rebar marking the SE corner of the NW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Sec. 19, T11S, R4W, and run N2°20'27"W, and run along the East line of said quarter-quarter a distance of 1156.7 feet to a set rebar in the center of County Road 310; thence run S81°51'25"W, a distance of 105.54 feet to a set rebar in said center being the P.O.B. of the Easement; thence run S2°20'27"E, departing said right of way a distance of 701.45 feet to a set rebar; thence run N89°54'35"E, a distance of 15 feet; thence run N2°20'27"W, a distance of 701.45 feet, more or less, to the center of said road; thence West 15 feet to the point of beginning.
LESS AND EXCEPT all that part of the above-described property that lies in the right-of-way of Cullman County 310.

SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING COVENANTS AND RESTRICTIONS THAT SHALL RUN WITH THE LAND BEING AS FOLLOWS:

1. USES PERMITTED. No lot shall be used except for residential purposes. No building shall be erected, altered, placed or permitted to remain on any lot other than one (1) detached single-family dwelling, and one detached garage building. No mobile homes or travel trailers shall be permitted to be used as a permanent residence except that grantees herein shall be able to have one mobile home situated on the premises until five years from May 1, 1996.
2. No building shall be located nearer than 15 feet from the North line along the County Road; along the West 701.45 feet; the North 220.38 feet or the West 440.45 feet. For the purpose of this covenant, eaves, steps, and open porches shall be considered as part of the building.
3. NUISANCE. No noxious or offensive activity shall be carried on or upon any lot, nor shall anything be done thereon which may be or become an annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood. In particular, there shall be no commercial activity whatsoever conducted upon any lot.
4. TEMPORARY STRUCTURES. No structures of a temporary character, trailer, mobile homes or structures of similar nature, basement, tent, shack, garage, barn or other out building shall be used on any lot at any time as a residence, except as provided in number 1 above.
5. SIGNS. No signs displaying commercial uses shall be displayed to the public view on the premises.
6. OIL AND MINING OPERATIONS. No oil drilling, oil development operations, oil refining, quarrying or mining operations of any kink shall be permitted upon or in any lot nor shall oil wells, tanks, tunnels, mineral excavation or shafts be permitted upon or in any lot. No derricks or other structures designated for the use in boring for oil or natural gas shall be erected, maintained or permitted upon any lot.
7. LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY. No hog parlors or chicken houses of any kind shall be permitted on any lot, except that dogs, cats or other household pets may be kept provided that they are not kept, bred or maintained for any commercial purposes. No more that one horse and one cow per acre.
8. GARBAGE AND REFUSE DISPOSAL. No lot shall be used or maintained as a dumping ground for rubbish, trash, garbage or waste and same shall not be kept except in sanitary containers. All incinerators or other equipment for the storage or disposal of such material shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition. At such time as a dwelling is constructed on said lot and at all times thereafter, owner must subscribe to and pay the resulting fees for removal of garbage from premises by county sanitation service.
9. WASTE. Sanitary arrangements must comply with local and state health laws and regulations. Septic tanks will be required until such time public sewage may become available.
10. No junk or inoperable vehicles shall be placed or allowed to remain on any lot.
11. AREA. No single story residence of less than 1,400 square feet of heated area, excluding the porch, carport, garage, open loge, walk way and dog trot shall be erected or constructed on such lots; no two story or two and one-half story residence of less than 1,600 square feet of heated area, excluding porch, carport, garage, open loge, walk way, and dog trot, shall be erected or constructed on such residential lot, and in addition, the first floor of said multi-story dwelling must have a minimum of 1,400 square feet of heated area, excluding the porch, carport, garage, open loge, walk way and dog trot. A house with basement does not count as square footage.
12. All outside buildings must match the dwelling or be otherwise aesthetically suitable to the neighborhood.
13. These restrictions may be amended if the parties, their successors and assigns agree in writing.

FOR SOURCE OF TITLE, SEE DEED BOOK 507, PAGE 614, RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE JUDGE OF PROBATE OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA.

THEREFORE, according to said command, I shall expose for sale at public auction, all the right, title, and interest of the above-named David W. Hulsey, in and to the above-described property on the date listed above, subject to all prior encumbrances of record.

Dated this the 11th day of April, 2023.

BY: Matt Gentry, Sheriff
Sheriff Matt Gentry

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PREP FOOTBALL

‘Have character when nobody’s looking’: Good Hope’s Kaleb Jones looks back on Raider career

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — In this interview, I talked to Good Hope senior football player, Kaleb Jones. Kaleb made so many great football memories during his time as a Raider and feels blessed to have played alongside a group of teammates during his career.

“Some of my favorite memories were the summers and the playoff atmosphere we experienced. The summers were hard with workouts and coach Alan Scott made sure we were disciplined, but we had fun doing team challenges and just being around each other. Playoffs were always exciting, seeing everyone come together, win as a team, and pick each other up. You could see how determined everyone was. Some more of my favorite memories were the three years we made it to the second and third round of the playoffs, seeing Colton Bagwell run over everyone, and Cole and Drew Maddox steal catches from defenders. The locker room after winning games were the best: blasting music and everyone dancing and celebrating as a team.” Jones said. “You develop a bond while playing together. You go from not knowing much about these guys to doing anything you can to help them out, on and off the field. You make a bond with your teammates that you’ll have the rest of your life. You learn from each other, and you help each other out.”

He added, “For me personally, I remember being a freshman and the seniors taking me under their wing and showing me the standards that have been set at Good Hope. As a senior, I tried to do the same for the younger guys to show them what Good Hope football means.”

Jones was blessed to get a chance to play for coach Scott and a great coaching staff. He learned so much from them and he talked about his football career.

“Playing for coach Scott definitely had its high and low moments, but every Friday night, we prepared to go to war against the other teams and we had faith in his coaching skills, just as he had faith in our playing abilities. Every Thursday, we did morning walkthroughs of exactly how the game was going to go. If he didn’t like how walkthroughs went, we were back at the field at three, doing them again, until we got it right. He believed that you reap what you sow, and he made it known that this wasn’t just his team; it was our team too and it was up to us on how far we wanted to go. He taught us the values of not just football, but how to be young men and how a young man should carry myself.”

He added, “After practice, he was adamant that if we didn’t know Christ, we should talk to him. It wasn’t just coach Scott, but the entire coaching staff was always full of great examples of men and how men should be. I’m grateful to have been able to play for them.”

“Growing up, playing football is something everyone has done in my family. I think I would best describe it as a miracle. Before my eighth-grade year, I tore my left ACL, fractured my femur, and tore my lateral meniscus. I came back freshman year ready to play, but not knowing if I was going to be better than I was before. It turned out I did just fine. Then the week before our first playoff game this past season, I tore my right ACL, my MCL, and partially tore my meniscus. I’m about a week away from being cleared. I think that without football, I wouldn’t be who I am today. It taught me discipline, toughness, to have character when nobody’s looking, and most of all, that no matter how big or small you are, if you are willing to work harder than those around you and you truly believe you deserve something, you can achieve a lot more than you think is possible.”

Jones got to play alongside some great seniors and learned a very important lesson from them. He talked about some of his favorite high school memories, plus what made Good Hope a special school to go to.

“It set the stage for how I needed to train and the mentality I needed to have if I wanted to be like them or better. It was great seeing them accomplish so much and I’m thankful that I was able to be a part of those teams and play with such great guys. I learned to be tough and in a locker room with older guys, you have to be,” he said. “My favorite high school memories were the pep rallies. The blackout pep rallies were always my favorite ones and also, sitting in class, goofing off with my friends. What made it a special place to go to was how well-connected everyone is. Everyone knows everyone and the teachers were great.”

Jones will deeply miss being a Raider next year and talked about what will he remember the most about going there, plus some advice that he would give the upcoming students that will be starting high school in August.

“I’ll definitely miss the welcoming atmosphere the teachers and administrators made you feel when you went to school. You could tell they were there to help you succeed,” he said. “I will definitely remember the people I’ve met. I made some of my greatest friends while I was in high school. Some of them, I may not talk to after school, but the moment I see them, it’ll be just like it was yesterday when we were talking. Some advice that I would give them is to have a plan, stay on top of your grades, and have someone to look up to.”

Jones looked up to another former Good Hope running back when he was younger, plus he talked about the best advice that he was ever given.



MADDIE MCKENNEY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Good Hope’s Kaleb Jones

“My biggest role model was Ethan Anderson. He was a grade above me, and I felt like our styles of running were similar. He was very humble and never talked about how good he was, but everyone knew it because it showed on the field,” he said. “The best advice that I was ever given was to get in the weight room. That’s the fastest way to get an edge over your opponent.”

PREP SOFTBALL

‘Stay strong for your team’: West Point’s Kara Jones recaps freshman season

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

WEST POINT, Ala. — The West Point Lady Warriors are coming off another solid season in which they finished with an 18-16 record and added yet another county title to their trophy case. Freshman Kara Jones talked about that season, plus what she learned, and what it was like playing alongside a great group of teammates.

“I feel like we did good as a whole. Even though we struggled at times, I thought we finished out the season playing better as a team. Overall, I feel that this was a building year for us and we will come together and do much better next season,” Jones said.

“This season taught me that you aren’t always going to have good days. Sometimes you can have bad days or the team as a whole can have bad days, but you always have to stay strong for your team, because it isn’t about you; it’s about your team.

“I love every single one of these girls and despite some drama that was going on, nobody let that keep them from playing as a team and loving each other on and off the field.

“I learned so much from them about how to trust my team, no matter what, to how to work as a team. All of these girls have something special about them that I have learned from this season.”

She added, “I have also learned that we are going to have drama, but we always have to love and respect each other on and off the field. A lot of them have also shown me that I also have to believe in myself to be the player I want to be.

“This played a big part in this season because with me pushing through my foot injury, I didn’t believe in myself, but they believed in me.

“No matter what, they always showed me love and lifted me up on and off the field. I am now using what they taught me to help out other people.”

Jones got to play with some first-time coaches this season and learned some things from them. She definitely improved her performance this season and had to push through a nagging foot injury.

“Even with coach Justin Cornelius being new to softball, he had many good talks with us that weren’t always about softball.

“He always picked us up and reminded us why we play this game. He taught me that no matter what happens, we always have to remember why we love the game.

“I have known Coach Madisen Adams longer than the rest of my teammates because she helped coach my travel ball team. She is like family to us and she will make a great coach someday,” Jones said.

“I feel like due to my injury, my mental game has improved more drastically than my physical game.

“I had to learn how to dig deep even when I couldn’t perform at my very best because of my foot. Although I was injured, this season pitching varsity gave me better knowledge of the game.”

Jones got to play alongside three great seniors this season and soaked up as much as she could from them, along with the other upperclassmen.

“They were amazing teammates and they were always encouraging to everyone. They all stepped up and did what they needed to do for the team. I learned that no matter if you want to or not, you have to step up for your team and do things that you have never done before. I love all three of them and they will truly be missed,” she said.

“The other upperclassmen were also very uplifting, amazing teammates. All of the upperclassmen are great players and they always showed so much love to everyone on the team.”

Jones had surgery on her foot last Monday and won’t be cleared to get back on the field until August.

Once she gets the green light to get back on the field, she will continue to work hard to get ready for next season and has also set some goals for herself and for the team.

“I’m on the Kraze Premier 2026 Walls travel team and I am very excited to be able to play with them in the fall. Once I am released to play again, I am going to work on not only bettering myself as a pitcher and a hitter, but also a teammate,” she said.

“My individual goals are to be a better leader for my team. I also want to better my movement pitches and get more timely hits. My team goals are to continue our Cullman County Championship streak and to make another state run.”

Jones talked about what will make next year’s team special to watch, one of her role models growing up, and the best advice that someone ever gave her.

“I feel like everything that we have gone through this year has made us stronger as a team and brought us together. It has definitely gave us all a desire to work harder. I think that our connection as a team will be special to watch next year,” she said.

“Although she graduated last year, I looked up to Carlie Wilkins because of how she led her team from such a young age. I also looked up to her because of how hard she worked and because of her drive to be the best.

“Many people have given me great advice over the years, but I will always remember the times that my parents have told me to play for God and give all the glory to Him and also, to always do the best and be the best teammate I can for Him and for my teammates.”



KARA JONES

West Point’s Kara Jones

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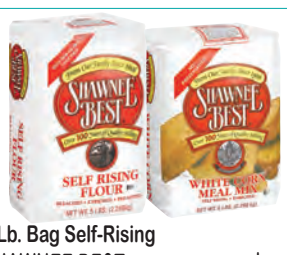
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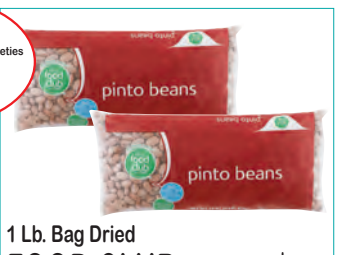


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INGREDIENTS
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- 1 (14.5-OUNCE) CAN DICED TOMATOES AND GREEN CHILES, UNDRAINED
- 4 SLICES HORMEL® BLACK LABEL® MICROWAVE READY BACON, COOKED ACCORDING TO PACKAGE DIRECTIONS, CHOPPED
- CHIPS FOR SERVING

DIRECTIONS
1. CUT PROCESSED CHEESE FOOD INTO CUBES. PLACE CHEESE AND TOMATOES IN MICROWAVE SAFE BOWL AND HEAT ON HIGH 5 MINUTES, STIRRING EVERY 60 SECONDS UNTIL MELTED. TOP WITH BACON. SERVE WITH CHIPS.

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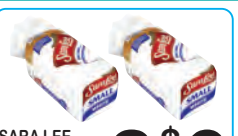
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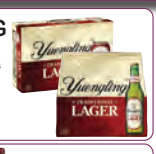




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Theft (from Front)

tion no suspects have been named.

He said one positive outcome is the recovery of both the vehicle and stolen goods.

"The ATM and money were both recovered," he said.

This is a developing story.

Goodness (from Front)

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The morning sun was bright, live jam band tunes were pumping and the air held a distinct aroma of crispy, ooey-gooey grilled cheese in Hanceville on Saturday, May 27 when hordes of grilled cheese connoisseurs gathered downtown for the third annual Grilled Cheese Festival.

Many of the food trucks present took the event as a challenge to showcase their wildest grilled cheese combinations, from savory crabmeat and shrimp to tangy fried green tomato paired with thick bacon, and even dessert-style sandwiches like sweet strawberry and cream cheese making an appearance.

For the grilled cheese purists, classic white bread and American cheese varieties were also available.

The event was packed with patrons weaving between booths peddling handmade wares ranging from wreaths, crocheted goods, thrown pottery and more.

Festival organizers Valerie Hitt, Nolan Bradford and Mike Macon shared a clear and unifying sentiment: this year was the biggest and best.

Bradford said events like Saturday's help drive traffic into Hanceville.

"Events like this will help grow Hanceville and attract new businesses and families to our area," he said.

Macon echoed the idea that the event made the "perfect family fun day."

Strollers dotted the downtown streets, with families stopping to get their faces painted, their favorite animal in twisted balloon form or to bounce off some extra energy in the inflatables.

Hitt said she was very pleased with the turnout and is already formulating next year's event, saying, "What another great year this turned out to be! We hope everyone had a great time and we look forward to next year."







Hanceville's Carl Quist graduates from College of the Holy Cross

Nicoleta Jordan
Contributor

WORCESTER, Mass. — Carl Quist, of Hanceville, received a bachelor of arts degree Magna Cum Laude from College of the Holy Cross.

Quist is among 762 bachelor of arts degree recipients Holy Cross celebrated at its 177th Commencement held in person on Friday, May 26, at the DCU Center in Worcester. U.S. Senator Peter Welch '69 of Vermont, a Class of 1969 alumnus, delivered this year's address to the Class of 2023 and received an honorary degree.

Vincent D. Rougeau, president of the College, presided over the celebratory event, bestowing the honorary degrees and greeting each graduate as they crossed the stage.

In his remarks, Welch said the social mission of Holy Cross - that achievements should be shared and used for the betterment of others - left an indelible mark on him.

Welch also assured graduates that they are capable of facing the great odds of today to accomplish great things for the future.

"You are strong and ready. Your shared experience at Holy Cross has made you so," said Welch. "The Holy Cross commitment to intellectual and open inquiry and using our talents for good is something this institution has preserved and passed on to one generation after another since 1843. This experience and commitment will make you the builders of tomorrow."

In addition to Welch, Holy Cross also awarded an honorary degree to Rosanne Haggerty, an internationally recognized social entrepreneur and leader in developing innovative strategies to end homelessness. Haggerty is the president and chief executive officer of Community Solutions, a non-profit organization dedicated to ending homelessness she founded in 2011.

About Holy Cross
The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

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4 local students named to Mississippi College President's List

Hannah Wallace
Contributor

CLINTON, Miss. — The Mississippi College Office of Academic Affairs releases the President's List after the close of fall and spring semesters each academic year. To be eligible for the President's List, a student must maintain a 4.0 grade point average, based on a 4.0 system. The student must take a full course load of at least 12 semester hours of undergraduate credit with all academic courses impacting their grade point average.

Local students named to the President's List include:

• Camilla Chambers of Cullman

• Joshua Plunkett of Arab

• Jordan Moore of Crane Hill

• Laura Lane of Cullman

Mississippi College, affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, is a private, co-educational, Christian university of liberal arts and sciences serving more than 4,100 students from approximately 35 states and more than three dozen countries. Founded in 1826, MC is the oldest institution of higher learning in Mississippi, one of the largest private universities in the state, and America's second-oldest Baptist college. MC offers 84 areas of undergraduate study, 45 degree programs in graduate studies, more than 10 certificate programs, two educational doctoral degrees, a doctor of jurisprudence, and a doctor of professional counseling. MC seeks to be a university recognized for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ.

Cullman's Walker Johnson named to South Plains College Dean's List

Myrna Whitehead
Contributor

LEVELLAND, Texas - Walker Johnson of Cullman was named to the South Plains College Spring 2023 Dean's List.

Johnson was among the nearly 700 students named to the Spring 2023 Dean's List.

To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.25 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 credit hours.

About South Plains College
South Plains College is a comprehensive, two-year community college that serves the greater South Plains area of Texas with innovative educational programs that span the arts and sciences, technical education, continuing education and workforce development.

Serving a 13-county area that comprises the southern portion of the Texas High Plains, the college's main campus is located in Levelland.

SPC also offers educational programs at three locations in Lubbock - the SPC Lubbock Downtown Center, SPC Lubbock Career and Technical Center, and the SPC Reese Center - as well as an extension center in Plainview.

Local students named to Harding University Dean's List

Haley Reilly
Contributor

SEARCY, Ark. — The following students are among more than 1,100 Harding University students included on the Dean's List for grades achieved during the spring 2023 semester.

• Gracie Hamlett of Falkville, a senior, studying elementary education

• Addie Echols of Cullman, a sophomore, studying public relations

About Harding University
Harding University is a private Christian, liberal arts university located in Searcy, Arkansas. Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, it is the largest private university in the state.

Harding's student body represents students from across the U.S. and more than 50 nations and territories. The University offers more than 110 undergraduate majors; 14 preprofessional programs; more than 40 graduate and professional programs; as well as numerous study abroad opportunities including locations in Australasia, Peru, England, Greece, Italy and Zambia. For more information, visit Harding.edu.

Local students named to Troy University Chancellor's List

Matt Clower
Contributor

TROY, Ala. — Troy University is pleased to announce students who have been named to the Chancellor's List for the spring semester and Term 4 of the 2022-2023 academic year. Full-time undergraduate students who are registered for at least 12 semester hours and who earn a grade point average of 4.0 qualify for the Chancellor's List.

The spring semester includes students at the Troy, Alabama, campus. Term 4 includes students at TROY's campuses in Dothan, Phenix City and Montgomery, along with locations outside of Alabama and online.

Local students who made the list include:

• Sarah Laney of Cullman

• Cady Martin of Cullman

• Brooks Stephenson of Bremen

About Troy University
Troy University is a public, historic, international university with 22,500 students and 154,000 alumni. Students on the Troy, Ala. campus enjoy a traditional college experience, while adult students are the centers of attention at campuses in Dothan, Montgomery and Phenix City, Ala., as well as at locations around the world and online.

JSU announces spring 2023 graduates, releases President's, Dean's Lists

Buffy Lockette
Contributor

JACKSONVILLE, Ala. — More than 900 students were awarded degrees as part of Jacksonville State University's Spring 2023 commencement on April 29.

Local students who earned degrees include:

• Jordan R. Allbright of Cullman

• Jessica Arriaga-Aguilar of Cullman

• Haley N. Bennefield of Joppa

• Matthew I. Blair of Bremen

• Cenzley Burgett of Arab

• Emily P. Hancock of Cullman

• Makenzie L. Hill of Falkville

• Zachary McClain of Cullman

• Kayla A. Melton of Cullman

• Hayden W. Ray of Cullman

• Lauren A. Watson of Arab

• Sarah L. Weaver of Arab

• Mattie E. Womack of Addison

Nancy Grace, famed victims' rights advocate and television legal analyst, was awarded an honorary doctorate and served as keynote speaker. The ceremony is archived on YouTube (www.youtube.com/live/ljrGAZSmFT0?feature=share) and the digital commencement program is available at www.jsu.edu/registrar/docs/JSU-Spring-23-Grad-Program.pdf.

More than 1,000 students were named to the President's List at Jacksonville State University for their outstanding academic performance in spring 2023. To be named to the President's List, students must earn a perfect 4.0 GPA for the semester while completing at least 12 hours of GPA course credit.

Local students include:

• Ryan Keith Fannell of Arab

• Katherine E. Robles of Arab

• Cenzley Burgett of Arab

• Lauren A. Watson of Arab

• Paulina Landers Dingler of Baileyton

• Chloe Ann Thompson of Cullman

• Zachary McClain of Cullman

• Lilly G. Hudson of Cullman

• Kolton L. Guthrie of Cullman

• Abigail Kristin Curtis of Cullman

• Ashley Warren Turner of Cullman

• Emileigh Grace Crouch of Remlap

• Edmund-Joseph Kochan Lovett of Vinemont

• Kinley G. Coots of Falkville

More than 1,100 students were named to the Dean's List for their outstanding academic performance at Jacksonville State University in spring 2023. To be named to the Dean's List, students must earn a 3.5-3.99 GPA for the semester while completing at least 12 GPA hours of course credit.

Local students include:

• Emma B. Stewart of Arab

• Destinee Taylor Seals of Arab

• Hannah E. Zajaczkowski of Arab

• Mary A. Whitlow of Arab

• Billy Atchley of Arab

• Tyler Donald Boyd of Arab

• Chase Landon McCain of Arab

• James Tyler Thompson of Bremen

• Brennen Elliott Norton of Cullman

• Raven A. Picard of Cullman

• Jessica Arriaga-Aguilar of Cullman

• Elijah B. Loyd of Cullman

• Kayla Ann Melton of Cullman

• Cassandra Jo Peterson of Holly Pond

• Cayla E. Allen of Joppa

• Paige E. Holcomb of Vinemont

• Della M. Hand of Vinemont

• Riley Nathaniel Black of Addison

• Jessie Lane Woodard of Arley

• Hannah Faith Phillips of Arley

• Amber Lashae Greer of Falkville

VFW (from Front)

United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, get connected with the Disables American Veterans (DAV) of Cullman and realize a broader and sometimes more impactful feeling of being in a community that "gets it."

"The biggest thing for me as commander is making sure everyone is taken care of," he said, referencing the higher rates of food insecurity, PTSD, addiction and suicide among combat veterans, and the general support they may need.

The post also helps with more hands-on projects, like building wheelchair ramps for those combat veterans with mobility issues so they can enter and exit their homes comfortably.

The VFW runs solely on donations and sponsorships, and Monk admitted it is sometimes hard to help everyone, but that doesn't stop him and other post officers from trying.

"We run off donations, so when the donations run dry it's very hard to say no. But we'll help anyone, in any way we can," he said.

"There's some that we can't help all the way, but we can make a dent and then point them in the right direction."

Monk said outreach to veterans like himself is a round-the-clock job, and it doesn't stop when the post locks up for the day. "I talked to a veteran at 2 a.m. for maybe an hour and a half the other day," he said. "And that's what he needed."

When asked why a combat veteran should join the post, especially if he or she doesn't fit into the "typical" VFW crowd, Monk laughed, "Well, we're not a typical VFW! Whether you're 25 or you're 80, come join. There's something for all of us.

"Look at our calendar; there's always something you can get involved in. We want our veterans to feel like they have a purpose, still."

VFW Post 2214 is located at 112 Veterans Dr. SW in Cullman. For more information, call 256-739-6611 or visit www.facebook.com/cullmanVFWPost.


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ADCNR: Deepwater Horizon settlement projects surpass $1B

David Rainer
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – With the conflict among deer hunting factions at an all-time low, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) Commissioner Chris Blankenship used last weekend's Conservation Advisory Board meeting in Huntsville to update the Board on the numerous projects in the state under ADCNR oversight.

A milestone was surpassed this year when projects funded through the Deepwater Horizon oil spill settlement exceeded $1 billion, Commissioner Blankenship said. ADCNR's Deepwater Horizon Restoration Coordinator, Amy Hunter, and her staff oversee the projects funded by the settlement.

"The big takeaway is we have $1 billion, $29 million in projects underway in Mobile and Baldwin counties that we are managing through our Deepwater Horizon Section," Commissioner Blankenship said. "That is 176 individual projects. That's a lot of money and a lot of work going on. We have six people in that section, and they're doing a very good job of managing projects that will make generational changes on the Gulf Coast.

"We never want to go through another Deepwater Horizon event, where 11 lives were lost. It was a terrible, terrible event for our coast. However, we're trying to do good work with the money that came from that settlement."

Among those projects are ones to replenish and protect Alabama's living coastal and marine resources.

"That includes restoration of oysters and oyster reefs," Commissioner Blankenship said. "We're building about $30 million in artificial reefs. We're increasing funding for research for stranding response for marine mammals and sea turtles, conservation of bird nesting and foraging habitat as well as construction of a wildlife rehabilitation center and sea turtle triage facility in Orange Beach."

Another goal of the funding is to support and enhance community resilience during environmental or economic crises.

The $65 million in projects includes the construction of the Auburn University Gulf Coast Engineering and Research Center in Orange Beach to improve engineering in the coastal environment. Also, a new Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) office is under construction on the coast. The Alabama Seafood Commission is funded as well as Fairhope's Working Waterfront and Green Space initiative.

"Resilience is important for all of our state but particularly our coastal areas," Commissioner Blankenship said. "We're working to make us more resilient during storms or drought or economic downturns, things that make our communities stronger when we have negative impacts in our state.

"As an aside, Governor (Kay) Ivey, by executive order, created a resilience council just a few weeks ago, and the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation is one of the members."

Funding will also be used to provide and enhance economic development and infrastructure. The 11 projects, totaling $197.5 million, include the construction of Africatown Welcome Center, which will house a portion of the Clotilda.

The Clotilda, discovered in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, was the last slave ship to transport slaves from Africa to the United States. In another key project, the Port of Mobile has constructed a roll-on, roll-off facility that will facilitate the export of cars and trucks that are built in Alabama. Road improvements in Baldwin County are also included in this funding.

About $401 million is being used to restore, conserve and enhance habitat in coastal Alabama.

"This is primarily land acquisition," Commissioner Blankenship said. "So far, we have acquired more than 13,000 acres of land in coastal Alabama to protect and provide recreational access. That includes the west end of Dauphin Island, Grand Bay Savanna, Pilot Town on Fort Morgan, Gulf Highlands property on Fort Morgan, which is one of the last undeveloped areas of the beach that was not part of Fort Morgan or the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge.

"It also includes multiple parcels in Weeks Bay, parcels at Dauphin Island, Oyster Bay, and we have purchased three parcels in the Three Rivers area that we have transferred to the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge."

Land acquisition also includes tracts along the Perdido River watershed to provide a wildlife corridor from the Perdido River Wildlife Management Area to the Lillian Swamp Forever Wild property.

"We have been working for the past six years to connect those wildlife management areas," Commissioner Blankenship said. "It will be a distinct wildlife corridor with about 50 miles of river frontage.

"When that work is done, we will have well over 30,000 acres along the Perdido River for public access, hunting, hiking, canoe trails and river frontage from near the headwaters all the way to Perdido Bay in public ownership. We have used more than eight different funding sources to acquire this property. This shows how working together with our divisions and the Deepwater Horizon Section has been really successful at putting all this together for the people of Alabama for perpetuity."

Another $159 million is committed to improving water quality in coastal Alabama through sewer and septic tank mitigation.

"We are working with the utilities to avoid sanitary sewer overflows to improve water quality," Commissioner Blankenship said. "Using Deepwater Horizon and GOMESA (Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act) funding, we have done several septic to sewer conversions in the coastal areas, like Fowl River, Grand Bay and Bayou La Batre, that are really close to the water."

The effort to provide and enhance recreation and public access will receive $147 million in funding.

"During the oil spill, it wasn't just the environment that was impacted, it was also the people," Commissioner Blankenship said.

"We lost recreational access to the beaches, fishing and a lot of other activities. As part of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA), a large portion is dedicated to recreational use to include projects at our State Parks.

"Gulf State Park and its 28 miles of trails is probably the most obvious example of that. But we are also expanding the campground at Meaher State Park on Mobile Bay, a trail on Fort Morgan, and blueway and greenway development in the City of Mobile.

"That also included improvements to Gulf State Park Pier, which was finished just as Hurricane Sally hit. And the Fort Morgan Pier was rebuilt. Scott Bannon and Marine Resources oversaw that construction."

Commissioner Blankenship said the $39 million in GOMESA funding was received this year and projects will be announced by the Governor this summer. Previously, more than $120 million in GOMESA funding has been used for multiple boating access improvements, land acquisition, other public access for parks on the water in Mobile, Spanish Fort and Daphne, water quality improvements, environmental research and economic development. Additionally, beach nourishment projects will begin in late summer for Dauphin Island, Gulf Shores, Orange Beach and Gulf State Park.

Several years ago, Governor Ivey created Innovate Alabama, an entity with the goal of attracting people, businesses and manufacturing to the state. Commissioner Blankenship is the chair on that entity's Council on Outdoor Recreation.

"Innovate Alabama was set up to differentiate us from other states, to attract or retain workers and improve the quality of life in Alabama," he said. "One of the things that came out of that was outdoor recreation and the beauty of our state.

"We have a lot of woods and water in our state, and that gives us great opportunities for recreational access. It is a way to differentiate us from other states."

Commissioner Blankenship said the council decided to expand its reach by creating the 19-member Outdoor Recreation Advisory Roundtable to include a variety of recreational activities and geographical areas. Tim Wood of Selma, a Conservation Advisory Board member, also serves on the roundtable.

"We have a list of 13 recommendations that we will take to Innovate Alabama at its June meeting on things that can be done to take advantage of our assets in Alabama," Commissioner Blankenship said.

Commissioner Blankenship said construction is underway at many Alabama State Parks across the state, using the funds provided by the bond issue that was overwhelmingly approved by voters last year. He said some areas of the parks may be closed during the construction.

"I tell people, 'Pardon our progress. Once we get this done, you're going to be really pleased with the finished project,'" he said. "As part of the renovations of the parks, we hosted a public meeting at Northport for Lake Lurleen State Park to get input from the public about what they wanted to see when we do the renovations at that park.

"It is going to be pretty much a rebuild at that park. I thought we might have 20 or 30 people show up, but we had more than 100 people show up at the community center to voice their opinions on what they want to see at the park. In fact, they canceled the church service on Wednesday night at the Baptist church so everybody could attend the meeting. We were happy to see so much interest in Lake Lurleen State Park."

The Board was also updated on Alabama's red snapper season with the announcement of the 85-day season for for-hire (charter) vessels from June 1 through August 25.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council will meet June 5-8 in Mobile, where the council will consider a proposal to increase the quota for the private recreational fishermen. The private recreational snapper season will consist of four-day weekends, Friday through Monday, opening on May 26 and continuing until the quota is projected to be met.

"If approved, that would be about a 110,000-pound increase before the end of the year, which would be about a 20% increase in our quota," Commissioner Blankenship said. "Our quota was reduced by about half this year from recent years, and this increase would help us get some of that back, which should give us a long, successful season for red snapper this year."

Obituary Announcements: May 26–29

Cynthia Whitaker-Hogland, 62
A graveside service for Cynthia Whitaker-Hogland of Hanceville was noon Monday, May 29, 2023, at Shelton Grove Cemetery in Hanceville. Reverend Ray Ponder officiated. Visitation for the public began at 11 a.m. on Monday at Shelton Grove Church. Mrs. Hogland was born on April 29, 1961, to Byron and Jean Whitaker in Chicago, Illinois. She passed away at the age of 62 on May 26, 2023, at her residence in Hanceville, Alabama. Survivors include her husband, Joel Hogland; sister, Susan (Carey) Casey; brothers, Jimmy Whitaker and Bobby (Michelle) Whitaker; mother, Jean Whitaker; brother-in-law, Greg (Jennifer) Hogland; sisters-in-law, Deanna Hogland and Julie Malcom; parents-in-law, Ray and Mary Hogland; and a host of nieces and nephews. Mrs. Hogland was preceded in death by her father, Byron Whitaker; and niece, Alicia "A.J." Harris.

Carl Edward Skelton, 39
Carl Edward Skelton, age 39, of Bremen, Alabama passed away on Friday, May 26, 2023. Carl was born in Orlando, Florida on July 20, 1983, to Edward and Sandra Morris Skelton. He is preceded in death by his father and father-in-law: Cecil Trussell. A Celebration of Life Memorial Service will be announced at a later date by his family. Survivors are: wife: Charlene Dill Skelton, daughter: Elora Skelton, mother: Sandra (Charles) Baker, sisters: Tasha Atkins, Jordan (Michael) Burdette, Darla Skelton, mother-in-law: Angela Trussell and a host of nieces, nephews and other family. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.mossservicefh.com for the Skelton family.

James Terry Monroe, 64
James Terry Monroe, 64, of Bremen, Alabama, passed away from this life on May 27, 2023, at Cullman Regional Medical Center. Mr. Monroe was born Jan. 22, 1959, to James Kenneth and Jeanette McCormick Monroe. A memorial service will be planned and announced by the family. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the Monroe family. Mr. Monroe was preceded in death by his parents, James Kenneth & Jeanette McCormick Monroe; brother, Kenneth Michael Monroe; and a daughter, Christina Diane Monroe. He is survived by two sons, Jason Monroe, and Eric (Chelsea) Monroe; his daughter, Megan (Ryan) Monroe; one sister, Debra Underwood; ten grandchildren, Logan, Riley, Taylan, Cayden, Bailey, Chole, Brooklyn, Autumn, David, and Dalton; two great-grandchildren, Cash and Lilly. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy can be posted to www.cullmanfuneralhome.com for the Monroe family.

Doris Brown Smothers, 82
Doris Brown Smothers, 82, of Hanceville, Alabama, passed away May 28, 2023, at her residence surrounded by family. She was born May 27, 1941, to Clyde and Willie Louise Maddox Brown. A memorial service will be planned and announced by the family. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the Smothers family. Mrs. Smothers was preceded in death by her parents, Clyde and Willie Louise Brown; son, Tony Smothers; brothers, Bill, Ricky, and Joe Brown, Mickey Bryan. She is survived by two sons, David (Tabatha) Smothers, Norman Ray Smothers; daughter-in-law, Kay Smothers Bailey; two brothers, Wendell (Sherry) Brown, Kenneth Brown; four sisters, Beatrice Bainbridge, Geraldine Scott, Joy (Charlie) Patterson, Mary Lou Rickman; grandchildren, Misty Partain, James Messersmith, Christy Smothers Campbell, Brent Smothers, Kayla Smothers, James Calvin Messersmith; and a host of family and friends. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to Cullman County Hospice in memory of Mrs. Smothers. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy can be posted to www.cullmanfuneralhome.com for the Smothers family.

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Agriplex (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The North Alabama Agriplex recently raised more than $3,500 with its online spring auction benefiting the community hub capital campaign, "A New Home for the Harvest." The leadership of the Agriplex is also celebrating several large donations from corporate, government and community partners.

"We appreciate the support our community has given us to date and hope more will contribute toward our efforts to expand," noted Agriplex Executive Director Rachel Dawsey.

Donations given toward the project so far include:

- Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, $100,000
- Cullman Savings Bank, $75,000
- Big Doc and Judy Williamson, $60,000
- Alabama Farm Credit, $25,000
- Robert Werner, $2,000
- Cullman Farm-City Committee, $1,200
- Mike Roden, $1,200
- Linda Cicero, $1,000
- Kira and Blake Sims, $1,000
- Lora Raley, $1,000
- Jeb and Lanie Williamson, $500

The Agriplex will continue fundraising efforts on Saturday, June 17, at its "Grub for the Hub" event at Goat Island Brewing. From 4-8 p.m., the award-winning Alabama Farm Credit Grill Team will offer local beef burgers and sides, for a donation, to pair with the Goat Island's craft beers. All are invited for a fun, tasty afternoon. If you or your business would like to contribute toward the capital campaign for the new Agriplex community hub, visit www.Agriplex.org or call 256-297-1044. To better serve north Alabama and continue the work of Food for Life, the Agriplex is raising $2.3 million to construct a community hub. Located on its current property in Cullman just off U.S. Highway 278 and Interstate 65, the 8,525-square-foot facility will feature a fully equipped demonstration and teaching kitchen and workspace shared with the Cullman County Extension Office. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has a county office in all 67 counties across the state. The Extension System relies on cooperation from local county commissions to provide office spaces from which Extension agents can serve counties. The support of the Cullman County Commission for the expansion at the Agriplex is also a commitment to provide a home for the Cullman County Extension Office. The Agriplex plans to break ground in 2024.

Founded in 2000, the North Alabama Agriplex works to preserve agricultural heritage, educate and feed its neighbors and grow a sustainable future.



