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NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

'The good Lord put this opportunity and this phenomenal group of girls in my life': Morgan Hammock named Hanceville head volleyball coach
» PAGE 4

'Sound of Freedom' sparks conversations about human trafficking

Task force chair talks about perceptions and realities of trafficking in north Alabama

W.C. Mann
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Just a few weeks into its release, independent film "Sound of Freedom" has grossed almost $150 million, 10 times more than its budget, presenting what filmmakers say is an insider's view of efforts to combat human trafficking. The film's focus is specific – Latin American child sex trafficking – but it is bringing new attention to the list of crimes under the umbrella of human trafficking, which takes far more forms.

• Sex trafficking: According to former Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force Chairperson Kathy Wilson, "Sex trafficking occurs when someone uses force, fraud or coercion to » PAGE 6

Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force Chairperson Ashley Dover »


ASHLEY DOVER

'We're just a tiny nerd shop'

Gamer Geeks opens in Cullman


TIFFANY MCKOY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Gamer Geeks Owner Michael Jensen poses for a photo in the store's new Cullman location.

Tiffany McKoy
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Gamer Geeks is now open in Cullman. Owner Michael Jensen's flagship store is in Warrior. He said he realized that nearly 40% of his customers were coming from the Cullman area, so he decided it was time to open another location.

"I was so blown away by the way that Cullman reacted to us versus the city that I'm from," Jensen said. "(sic) They're just so loving and excited to have a new business. We're just a tiny nerd shop."

The store is not just another gamer shop. Jensen said he works very hard to create a community for people with shared interests to come and feel welcomed. People come into his store to play games together and establish a sense of community. It's important to Jensen to create an environment that showcases the positive side of the gaming community.

"That's why we have relaxing music playing in here. Some people do have social anxiety and that gives a level of relaxation," he said. "We have candles that we light, and we try to make it as bright and happy welcoming as possible and also premium as possible, so people are comfortable."

Jensen said he spent extra money to provide a comfortable environment, with black leather chairs and nice wooden tables for maximum comfort during game play.

"I just want » PAGE 8

2 north Alabama defendants sentenced on child exploitation charges

» PAGE 3

Cullman Oktoberfest opens T-shirt design contest to local students

» PAGE 3

2023 Distinguished Legislative Service awards


CONTRIBUTED
Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman, was recognized Monday, July 31, 2023, with the 2023 Distinguished Legislative Service in Economic Development award from the Economic Development Association of Alabama (EDAA) at the EDAA Summer Conference at the Grand Hotel Golf Resort & Spa in Point Clear, Alabama. Gudger was selected due to his role in passing and extending Alabama's state incentive program, called "The Game Plan." The winner from the Alabama House of Representatives was Danny Garrett, R-Trussville. Pictured left to right are Gudger, his wife Heather, Garrett's wife Carol and Garrett.

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported July 31

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported July 31, 2023. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

July 27
- harassment; CR 1379
- trespassing; CR 1807
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 715
- assault; CR 1566
- criminal mischief; William Rd.
- theft of property; CR 248
- theft of property; Hwy. 69 S

July 28
- theft of property; CR 1202
- trespassing; CR 1117
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; CR 734
- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 747

July 29
- domestic violence; CR 488
- possession of marijuana; possession of controlled substance; possession of prescription drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 278 E
- possession of marijuana; CR 1114
- criminal mischief; CR 216
- dog bite; Hwy. 278 E
- theft of property; Hwy. 278 E
- domestic violence; I-65 NB at MM 296
- possession of marijuana; possession of prescription drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 449
- reckless endangerment; CR 590

July 30
- harassment; CR 715
- burglary; CR 627
- burglary; CR 248
- theft of property; CR 378
- theft of property; Hwy. 69 S
- criminal mischief; CR 1492

ARRESTS

July 27 – 30

Boone, John T.; 39
- damaged property-criminal mischief
- theft of services $500 less than $1,500

Cavanaugh, Candice M.; 41
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs

Conrad, Raymond M.; 31
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- speed above 55mph on highway under 4 lanes

Crawford, Anthony A.; 49
- possession of prescription drugs
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia-2nd offense
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Dingler, Erica L.; 36
- Probation Violation- assault-domestic violence-3rd degree
- Probation Violation- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft

Dooley, Shannon J.; 53
- distribution of controlled substances

Eipp, Austin W.; 29
- FTA- attempting to elude police officer

Elliott, Jordan E.; 31
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Fanning Nathan D.; 39
- FTA- public intoxication

Farr, Jason E.; 36
- FTA- fraud-swindle/home repair

Fowler, Dawson C.; 23
- Probation Violation- larceny/theft-miscellaneous

Freeman, Richard B.; 33
- possession of prescription drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Gean Jr., Clifford W.; 27
- possession of drug paraphernalia-2nd offense

Holcomb, Matthew S.; 42
- possession of dangerous drugs

Kilpatrick, Justin K.; 35
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- driving while license suspended
- FTA- possession with intent to distribute controlled substance

Lawrence, Raymond D.; 34
- operating vehicle without insurance

Murphey, Aaron D.; 26
- FTA- criminal mischief
- FTA- resisting arrest
- FTA- public intoxication
- FTA- operating vehicle without insurance

Myers, Brandon W.; 33
- public intoxication

Myrick, Cynthia W.; 42
- FTA- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia-2nd offense

Oliver, Daniel Michael W.; 36
- assault-domestic-simple-assault-family

Owens Jr., Joseph M.; 42
- FTA- using false identity to avoid arrest/hinder prosecution

Pigg, Jordan A.; 30
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- possession of dangerous drugs

Riddle, Howard S.; 47
- FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Saint, Abby N.; 21
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Stewart, Kiana B.; 22
- burglary-residence-no force
- larceny/theft-pickpocket

Strong, James E.; 59
- FTA- possession of prescription drugs
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA- driving while license suspended
- FTA- improper light
- FTA- operating vehicle without insurance
- FTA- possession with intent to distribute controlled substance

Williams, Dale R.; 56
- non-support child

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

July 24
- theft by deception; person; cash; $52,000

July 26
- domestic violence-3rd degree-harassment; person; Main Ave. SW

July 27
- harassment; person; Fantasia Dr. NW
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person

July 28
- assault-3rd degree; person; Field of Miracles Dr. SW
- theft of services; person; cash; $279
- theft of property-1st degree; person; Wisteria St. SE; 2020 Yamaha; $3,800
- harassment; person; Denson Ave. SW

July 29
- domestic violence-3rd degree-harassment; person; 4th St. SW
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; theft of property-1st degree; person; 3rd St. SE; miscellaneous; damage to 2007 Dodge R1500
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $263
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $274
- theft of property-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $512

July 30
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW
- menacing; person; Dialsdale Ln. SW
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW

July 31
- assault-2nd degree; person; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

July 28 – 30

McDowell, Tearrai W.; 35
- domestic violence-3rd degree-harassment

Sterling, Christopher W.; 45
- FTA- theft of property-4th degree
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- driving while revoked (3 counts)
- FTA- run red light
- FTA- insurance violation

Jackson, Clark A.; 35
- harassment

Speegle, Jonathan S.; 52
- burglary-3rd degree
- theft of property-3rd degree
- criminal mischief-3rd degree

Church, Julia R.; 31
- FTA- domestic violence-3rd degree
- FTA- public intoxication

Clemons II, James T.; 20
- DUI

Thompson, Barry S.; 59
- theft by deception-4th degree (2 counts)

Riddle, Howard S.; 47
- FTA- insurance violation

McBride, Suzanne A.; 56
- public intoxication

Richter, Michael S.; 20
- burglary-3rd degree
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Sheffield, Travis B.; 39
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Owens Jr.; Joseph M.; 42
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

All about mushrooms

Tiffany McKoy
tsmckoy@cullmantribune.com



LARAMIE AKOZBEK

Mushroom nature journaling event participants pose for a photo at Sportsman Lake Park on Saturday, July 29.

CULLMAN, Ala. – Alabama Mushroom Society President Alisha Millican and Alabama Nature Journal Club President Laramie Akozbek came together Saturday, July 29, to host a mushroom nature journaling event at Sportsman Lake Park. In total, 19 participants spent the morning hiking and foraging for mushrooms, then documenting their findings.

"Alisha was our fungi expert and laid out all of the mushrooms found on the foray, grouped them and briefly explained their characteristics and identified them for everyone," Akozbek said.

Millican took her time hiking with participants and shared her expertise.

"I was so excited to hear that it rained here yesterday," she said. According to Millican, rain creates the perfect conditions for mushrooms to grow. Everyone was able to find several types.

After the hike, everyone found a place under the pavilion to set up their journaling stations. Akozbek briefly explained tips and tricks for drawing and journaling mushrooms, and handed out a number of resources.

For two hours, participants socialized and worked on documenting the specimens they found. They had a range of styles and mediums, from watercolors to colored pencils to pure graphite to ink-only depictions using a technique called stippling. Millican and Akozbek rotated between tables offering assistance as needed.

"Our joint event with the Alabama Mushroom Society was a huge success, filled with energy, creativity, a love for learning and of course wild mushrooms!" Akozbek said. "We couldn't have asked for a better turnout – our pavilion was bustling with activity. This partnership allowed attendees to fuse their passion for nature journaling with the expertise of Alisha and the AMS, creating a truly enriching experience that underscores the power of shared interests.

Find out more about the Alabama Nature Journal Club at www.alabamanaturejournalclub.com.

There is also a Facebook page where members can share their artwork and discuss journaling at www.facebook.com/groups/alabamanaturejournalclub.

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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.

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.

Cullman Serenity AlAnon Meetings
The Cullman Serenity AlAnon group meets each Monday at noon at 1519 St. Joseph Dr. NE. There is also a zoom meeting each Tuesday at noon. The AlAnon family groups are a fellowship of friends and family whose lives have been affected by alcoholism. For more information, call 256-708-6645, 850-323-0490 or 256-734-2231.

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

Heartland Quilt Guild Rummage Sale
Friday, Aug. 4, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday Aug. 5, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Christ Covenant Church, 1310 St. Joseph Dr. Big variety of items. Lots of quilting and sewing stuff.

87th Annual Sandlin Reunion
• Saturday, Aug. 12, from 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Cold Springs Community Center, 8821 County Road 109, Bremen, AL 35033. Bring a covered dish and drinks. Plates, cups, napkins, forks and ice provided. Invite your Sandlin relatives.
• Chairman: Dr. Randall Sandlin; Secretary: Patsy Sandlin Medlock; 1283 Highland Lakes Trail, Birmingham, AL 35242. patsymedlock@bellsouth.net. 205-915-1870 (cell). Anita Sandlin Glover (205-903-1756). Let's conserve postage! Please email me your EMAIL address. If you don't have email address, invitations will be sent via U.S. mail. Thanks!
• Directions: Interstate 65, Exit 299 toward Dodge City/Jasper, take AL-69 South (~14 miles). Turn RIGHT on CR-54. At first STOP sign, turn RIGHT on CR-109. At the STOP Sign at Cold Springs High School, turn RIGHT. Less than 1/4 mile, Cold Springs Community Center is on the RIGHT! Sandlin Chapel & Cemetery are off AL-69S.

Holly Pond Homemakers Club Meeting
Tuesday, Aug. 15, at 1 p.m. at the Holly Pond Event Center. Someone from Curt's Closet will be speaking. Refreshments will be served.

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.

Contest (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism (CPRST) is introducing a fresh twist to this year's Oktoberfest T-shirt designs. This year, local students will compete by age groups as the festival aims to foster a sense of community and encourage budding artists to partake in local events.

"We've always had a range of T-shirt designs available at Oktoberfest," said CPRST Director of Media and Marketing Sandra Slate. "But this year, we wanted to let kids design for kids. We're eager to see how our younger generation steps up to the challenge and showcases their talent."

The contest is open to students from grades six through 12. Slate said the decision to announce the contest before the school year begins is intended to give students ample time to create their designs.

Additionally, festival organizers are hopeful that local art teachers will rally their students to enter.

She said students are free to use any medium for their artwork, be it paint, markers, pen or digital, with the only stipulation that colors must be solid for printing purposes. Digital designs can be submitted via email to specialevents@cprst.org, while original artwork should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CPRST office at 703 Second Ave. NE, Cullman, AL 35055.

Questions have been raised about the use of AI in creating designs, and Slate said the Oktoberfest committee insists on original, locally inspired artwork. It believes that the use of AI-generated designs, although a potentially useful learning tool for digital art students, may lack the desired authentic Cullman touch.

Artwork submissions must be turned in by noon on Aug. 14, 2023. The Oktoberfest committee will judge entries based on originality, adherence to the solid color rule and how well they reflect the Cullman Oktoberfest spirit. Additionally, designs must include a reference to Cullman's 150th anniversary year, the words "Cullman, Alabama" and be at least 10" x 10" in size.

Two winners—one from grades 6-8 and another from grades 9-12—will be selected by the committee. The identities of the artists will remain undisclosed during the selection process. Each winner will receive a $100 prize and a free T-shirt featuring his or her design.

Members of the Oktoberfest committee said they are looking forward to seeing how the students rise to this challenge and produce artwork that captures the unique spirit of the Cullman Oktoberfest.


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Charges (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. – Two north Alabama defendants were sentenced last week on child sexual exploitation charges, announced U.S. Attorney Prim F. Escalona and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations Acting Special Agent in Charge Travis Picard.

U.S. District Court Judge Liles C. Burke sentenced two defendants in separate and unrelated cases.

"The sexual abuse and commercial exploitation of children is among the most serious crimes prosecuted by my office," Escalona said. "The creation and distribution of digital images of child sexual abuse perpetuates a criminal industry that is incredibly destructive to both the victims and consumers of this material. The prosecution of these defendants is part of the ongoing commitment of my office, and that of our federal, state and local partners, to identify and prosecute child predators. I am grateful for the work of all involved in bringing these two defendants to justice."

"Finding and arresting predators involved in victimizing and exploiting children is one of our highest priorities," said Pickard, who oversees Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) operations in Georgia and Alabama.

"These sentences are a testament to HSI's and its law enforcement partner's commitment to protecting our most vulnerable population from exploitation as well as holding those violators accountable."

Jeremy Michael Lee Powell, 25, of Athens, was sentenced to 600 months in prison followed by lifetime of supervised release. In April 2023, Powell pleaded guilty to two counts of production of child pornography.

According to court documents, Powell befriended the minor children's mother and engaged in sexual acts with her 7- and 8-year-old children.

Powell told the children to keep it a secret. Powell knew the mother needed childcare assistance, so he conveniently offered to assist with the children while the mother worked. Powell also took full advantage of the fact that the children's father was not in contact with them and swayed the children into calling him "da-da." Law enforcement discovered 47 sexually explicit images involving the children on Powell's cell phone.

Becky Lynn Burroughs, 46, of Decatur, was sentenced to 260 months in prison followed by lifetime of supervised release. Burroughs pleaded guilty to distribution of child pornography and possession of child pornography on April 27, 2023.

According to the plea agreement, Florida investigators identified an account distributing child pornography in an internet chatroom. Investigation revealed that the account belonged to Burroughs. Between March 2021 and September 2021, Burroughs uploaded at least 11 videos, as well as numerous images, of child pornography to the internet.

On Sept. 1, 2021, a search warrant was obtained for Burrough's residence in Decatur, Alabama, and agents seized Burrough's phone. A forensic review of the cell phone located 10 child sex abuse images and videos.

HSI - Birmingham investigated the Jeremy Powell case, along with the Limestone County Sheriff's Office. Assistant U.S. Attorneys R. Leann White, Daniel McBrayer and William McComb prosecuted Powell.

HSI – Birmingham investigated the Becky Burroughs case, along with HSI – Tallahassee, the Leon County, Florida Sheriff's Office and the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency. Assistant U.S. Attorney John M. Hundscheid prosecuted Burroughs.

These cases were brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched by the Department of Justice in May 2006 to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, and to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

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Martha Needham-Photojournalist
Bill Piper - Photojournalist
Robin Winton - Newsroom Manager
Janet Chandler - Marketing Specialist

PREP VOLLEYBALL

'The good Lord put this opportunity and this phenomenal group of girls in my life': Morgan Hammock named Hanceville head volleyball coach

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Hanceville has a new head coach taking the reins of the varsity volleyball program. Morgan Hammock is replacing Candice Grochowalski, who will be coaching the JV team and she shared her excitement about the job opening and what all she learned from coach Grochowalski.

"I met coach Grochowalski, who's the counselor here now, through travel ball and she's the one that helped me get started coaching here. Two of the biggest things I've learned from her is empathy and patience. She's so patient and empathetic with the girls. She's the best. I learned a lot from her," Hammock said. "It's still sinking in. We went and played a playdate at West Point the beginning of July. That was crazy, just being on the sidelines coaching. I guess it really sank in when we went to camp last weekend at Middle Tennessee State University. We spent the weekend there at team camp and I guess hearing them refer to me as Hanceville's coach Morgan; that just really sank in then."

She talked about the difference between being a player and being a coach as well as what she's learned since taking over the Lady Bulldogs.

"When I played, I could just let loose and just play, but coaching, I feel like if we lose, it's my fault. I just feel more pressure on me coaching because ultimately, at the end of the day, I play a huge role in it," Hammock said. "First off, I went to a different school and every school's got a different culture and a different feel. First off, learning that and how different it is from what I'm used to. I have learned how to coach these older girls; that's been a big jump, but I'm excited. They're doing awesome."

Hammock is so happy by how much the girls are progressing already, and they've soaked up so much from her so far.

"I think they're progressing really well. I've thrown a lot at them in a short amount of time. We've changed rotations. That's a lot on a player at one time, and they've handled it all like champs. They've worked hard. We were at camp last weekend. We left Saturday morning. We played Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. We came back and practiced Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday this week, so they haven't had an off day in about a week. They've handled it like champs. They work hard, they really pay attention, and they're like little sponges. They're soaking up everything I'm throwing at them. They are night and day different. The improvement has been insane and remarkable. It's amazing."

She added, "I come to this school where the program's fairly new and I've thrown so much at them. I've ran it like I would any other place exactly the way I've wanted to run it, and they've just taken it and run with it. They get it. Their volleyball IQ's pretty high up there. They really understand the game and it's more about sharpening their skills; they've done an excellent job at that. They really just take everything I throw at them, and they take it and run with it. They've done an excellent job with it."

She watched some of their games last year and took away a very important difference between last season and this season. She is now living her dream of being the head coach.

"Last year, the team was pretty young, and we have four juniors this season. Last season, they were all sophomores. The team was pretty young last year. The biggest jump that I see between last year and this year is experience. They're more experienced with the sport. They've had more games, more touches, more reps, so that goes a long way," Hammock said. "It has been my dream to become a head coach. I just feel like I was very apprehensive to take the job because I'm so young. This time three years ago, I was in their position playing. I really debated back and forth about whether I should take the job or not because I'm so close to their age, but I just feel like the good Lord put this opportunity and this phenomenal group of girls in my life. I really feel like He put this position and opportunity in front of me for right now with this group of girls. It's for a reason."

Hammock talked about what all she's been teaching the girls and the goals for this upcoming season.

"We went back to the basics, the basics of the basics. We just went back and revisited footwork and ball control. I feel like the biggest thing that we've really worked on has been playing as a team. Individually, their skill sets are great, but most of these girls play basketball, so with any sport, each girl brings a different set of skills into the game. How do we take this skill set and this skill set and make it work together? That's what we've done a lot of: How do I take your skills and your skills and put it together to get us a win?" she said. "My goal is to make it so fun to where they look back and be like, 'Oh yeah, man. In high school, I played volleyball with my friends and that was so fun'. My biggest goal for these girls is I want to teach them how to carry yourself and act like a young woman. I do want to teach them volleyball, absolutely, but most importantly, I want to teach character development. I want them to walk away and know how to hold their head high, how to rise to the challenge and how to face adversity like a young woman."



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Hanceville varsity volleyball head coach Morgan Hammock speaks at Cullman County's Fall Sports Media Day Monday.

She thinks this team will be very special to watch this upcoming season and she had so many role models during her playing days.

"What will make this team special to watch is our team chemistry. They have team chemistry like I've never seen. They're all best friends on and off the floor and they're funny. I think that is what's going to make it incredible to watch, and they've got grit. These girls have got some grit like I've never seen. They give me their all every practice, every game, and every touch. They give me their best," she said. "Good Hope's coach Natasha Holder was a great, positive influence in my life, Tiffany Ellis (JV coach) and Katie Clowdus (travel ball coach). I really feel like all three of them brought such different things to me. Coach Holder taught me how to be tough, how to rise to the challenge, and have the motto of, 'I'm not afraid. I'm not going to back down'. Katie was my travel ball coach and she taught me how to love the game. Her and Mrs. Ellis, they helped me fall in love with the game. They taught me why it's so fun and why I can't stay away from it. All three of my coaches were big influences in my life. Coach Holder was a huge one. I played for her for the longest, so she's been just a big, positive influence in my life, more than just my athletic career. Personally, she affected me positively."

She talked about what she's looking forward to the most in her first season as head coach. She has seen the younger players improve so much during the summer.

"The biggest thing is just seeing their improvement. They have improved so much already. We've won more games this summer than they won last season. We've played some tough competition. We went to Wallace's camp too and we played huge schools there too. I'm excited to see how much they improve from start to finish," she said. "It has grown so fast. Every girl brings something different, but the younger girls, they bring some enthusiasm and some spunk into it. They have these huge personalities and they've really brought more than just athleticism. They're very athletic and their skill level is up there, but they've brought a whole lot of spunk."

Hammock has already made a huge impact on her team in her short time as head coach and talked about how important that is.

"To me, that's everything. I want to teach those girls how to play volleyball and I want to see them improve, but to me, it's more important to teach them character development. I guess I have influenced them a lot, because we were at practice the other day, talking about social media, and how important it is that you act right on social media. Me and coach Grochowalski asked them who was their most positive influence in their life, and over half of them said it was me. I'm their example. When I heard them say that I teared up. It makes me emotional. It puts pressure on me, because I've got eyes on me, but at the same time, it makes me feel like, 'Okay, I'm doing what I said I was going to do'. I'm fulfilling that. It motivates me to be a better person. They motivate me to be a better person. They motivate me as much as I motivate them."

Hammock wouldn't be where she's at right now without an amazing support system behind her.

"I have a heck of a support system. My mom, dad, sister, and my whole family are amazing. They all pitch in and help out by being there in the stands cheering me/us on, helping me plan things, or carrying my ball cart and balls. Izayah has also been one of my biggest supporters since I got started, playing and coaching. He looked at me one day and said, 'You'll coach Hanceville's varsity team one day.' God has really blessed me with them, and without them, I wouldn't be where I am today, for sure.

Former Alabama standout Lee Hodges earns 1st career PGA Tour victory, claiming the 3M Open Championship

UA Athletics
Contributor

BLAINE, Minn. — Former Alabama men's golf standout Lee Hodges claimed his first career PGA Tour victory, capturing the 3M Open title Sunday at the TPC Twin Cities with a winning score of 260 (63-64-66-67). Hodges, who won the event by seven strokes, led wire-to-wire to become the first champion in the tournament's history to achieve the feat.

Lee Hodges Captures First PGA Tour Victory

• With his victory, Hodges became the second Crimson Tide golfer from the 2018 national runner-up team to claim a win on the PGA Tour in 2023, joining Davis Riley who won the Zurich Classic of New Orleans in April

• Hodges is the second former Crimson Tide golfer to win the event, joining Michael Thompson, who claimed the win in 2020, and the 10th different former UA golfer to win on the PGA Tour

• He vaulted up the FedEx Cup point standings with the victory, rising from 74th entering the event to a projected 33rd, making him eligible to compete alongside the top-70 players in the world at the season-ending Tour Championship

• His 54-hole score of 20-under 193 was a career-best total and set a tournament record

• Hodges previous best finish came last year when he finished T-3rd at the The American Express

• Head coach Jay Seawell flew to Minnesota Sunday morning and was on-hand at the TPC Twin Cities to witness Hodges' first career Tour win

• Another teammate from that 2017-18 team, Davis Shore, claimed his first professional win, capturing the PGA Tour Canada's Osprey Valley Open on Sunday


UA ATHLETICS
Former Alabama golfer Lee Hodges

For all the latest information on the team, follow Alabama-MGolf on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

General athletic news can be found @UA_Athletics on Twitter and Instagram and Alabama Athletics on Facebook.



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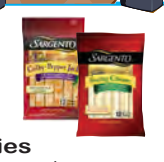
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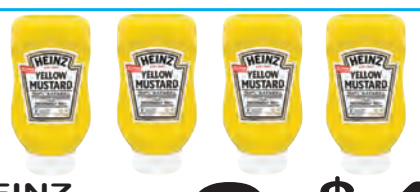
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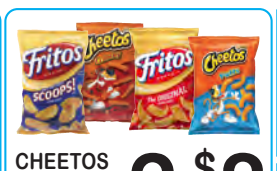
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‘We see them as God’s child’

The Link’s Master’s Hand food pantry partners with other nonprofits to serve neighbors with dignity

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Link of Cullman County is well known for its annual drive-through-style food giveaway held in conjunction with Rock the South. The drive-through style giveaway was started at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and has continued to give families in need a boost before school resumes.

The Link’s Courtney Ricketts, neighbor relations case manager and overseer of Master’s Hand food pantry, shared that from the $17,000 donated from Greater Good Music, Rock the South and Rock the South headliner Cody Johnson, just over 500 boxes of groceries were packed with over 400 of those boxes being distributed on Saturday alone.

However, this type of endeavor isn’t something the Link does just one day a year. The nonprofit’s in-house food pantry operates twice a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9 a.m.- 3:30 p.m., serving hundreds of families a month.

The pantry didn’t actually start with The Link, Ricketts said. It started out of a partnership with longtime Link supporter, Daystar Church, and has continued to bloom through partnerships with other local churches and nonprofits.

“It was actually started by Daystar years and years ago, and it grew to the point where they realized they couldn’t continue to facilitate it. They reached out and asked us to take it over, and it moved over here. It actually came with volunteers that were already established, a system that was already established, as well as all the freezers and shelving,” said Ricketts.

She said that demand has kicked up over the past year with the rising cost of, well, everything.

“It’s even grown past that now,” laughed Ricketts, sharing that in the month of June alone the Master’s Hand pantry served 480 families, or about 1,800 individuals. That’s a lot of hungry mouths to feed, and to try to feed in a nutritious manner, as food pantries are typically known for high-starch, high-sodium staples that can be hard to craft an entire meal with.

“We give those peanut butters, jellies, crackers and breads of course. It’s easy for parents to send those to school with their kids. But we do try to focus on ‘whole” meals,’” mentioned Ricketts. “If we’ve got ground beef, we’re going to throw in spaghetti sauce, noodles and a vegetable to go with it. Maybe even garlic bread if we have it!”

Ricketts noted that the work they do with Master’s Hand is a full-on collaborative effort between other food banks and local nonprofits, saying that many of their items are purchased at-cost from agreements with local grocers, from grants given by feeding societies, donated by other nonprofits and churches, and distributed by local volunteers. The willing participation of all these groups leads to a well-rounded, and healthier than most, food pantry.

“We have a grant from RC&D (Alabama Mountains, Rivers & Valleys Resource Conservation & Development Council) that gives us a certain amount of money each year to spend on fresh, local produce and meat from local farmers,” explained Ricketts, noting that The Link also partners with several local farmers, the North Alabama Agriplex and Society of Saint Andrew through the gleaning program. The gleaning program works in tandem with local ranchers and growers to “sow another row” to donate fresh, local produce to local food banks, getting it straight into the hands and pantries of those in need.

“We’ve done (J.) Calvert Farms, Bagwell (Blueberry) Farm, Haynes Farm... this little book from the Agriplex, I can call any of these farmers and they’re happy to help us out,” said Ricketts, waving thee 2023 program guide from North Alabama Agriplex.

Ricketts also mentioned the invaluable guidance given to the Link by Alabama Cooperative Extension System SNAP Educator Della Bramley. “She came over and we did a survey of how healthy our food pantry was,” said Ricketts. “We were two points away from being in that ‘healthiest’ category, and that’s my big goal now, I need to get us there!”

Overall, Ricketts shared, the goal for the pantry is to create a dignified, holistic experience to address the issue of food insecurity in our community in a respectful way, sharing that the neighbors it serves are so much more than case numbers.

“We see them as God’s child, that we’re supposed to take care of and love,” she nodded.

Master’s Hand food pantry is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. It is located at The Link, 708 Ninth St SE, Cullman Al, 35055.



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Courtney Ricketts, neighbor relations case manager and overseer of Master’s Hand food pantry sorts through a box of food at The Link.

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Trafficking (from Front)

cause a sex act with an adult or causes a minor to commit a commercial sex act. A commercial sex act includes prostitution, pornography and sexual acts done in exchange for any item of value, such as money, drugs, shelter, food or clothes." Victims are occasionally abducted, as portrayed in movies like "Sound of Freedom" and "Taken," but are more often recruited with tempting but false offers.

• Labor trafficking: Wilson told The Tribune, "Labor trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which individuals perform labor or services through the use of force, fraud or coercion. Labor trafficking includes debt bondage (requiring a person to work for the trafficker to pay off debts), forced labor and involuntary child labor." Victims are often made to work excessive hours with little or no pay, under unsafe or unhealthy conditions, subjected to unfair and illegal labor practices.

According to the 2012 Code of Alabama, a person commits first-degree human trafficking if:

• "He or she knowingly subjects another person to labor servitude or sexual servitude through use of coercion or deception."

• "He or she knowingly obtains, recruits, entices, solicits, induces, threatens, isolates, harbors, holds, restrains, transports, provides, or maintains any minor for the purpose of causing a minor to engage in sexual servitude."

A person commits second-degree human trafficking if:

• "A person knowingly benefits, financially or by receiving anything of value, from participation in a venture or engagement for the purpose of sexual servitude or labor servitude."

• "A person knowingly recruits, entices, solicits, induces, harbors, transports, holds, restrains, provides, maintains, subjects, or obtains by any means another person for the purpose of labor servitude or sexual servitude."

Human trafficking in north Alabama

The Tribune asked current task force chairperson Ashley Dover about the role Cullman County and north Alabama play in the underground trafficking industry.

The movies make a lot of kidnappings and international shipping of kids, but what does trafficking look like in north Alabama?

Dover said, "It looks a lot different than what we see on the movies; you'll see more of that type of human trafficking in places around border towns and bigger cities or 'hubs.' What we see a lot of here is child pornography and exploitation of that material, which falls under the umbrella of human trafficking. We also see children being sold to drug dealers so parents can get their 'fix.'"

In Cullman County, sex trafficking has been the issue in three cases.

• An already-registered male sex offender from rural Cullman County was arrested for first-degree human trafficking and solicitation of a minor, allegedly offering drugs in exchange for sex. Following a plea to one of his lesser charges, the trafficking charge was dropped and he was released following a lengthy pretrial incarceration.

• A Vinemont woman was arrested for first-degree human trafficking for bringing a runaway girl from Ohio to Alabama for sexual purposes. She pled guilty to the trafficking charge and was imprisoned for a short time. Following her release, she failed to update her sex offender registration and was returned to state prison.

• A Cullman man awaits trial in one first-degree and multiple second-degree trafficking charges. He is alleged to have demanded sex acts in lieu of rent from female tenants.

What role does north Alabama play in the trafficking industry?

"Alabama, as a whole, is statistically ranked on the lower end of human trafficking cases, but we can't get complacent or let our guards down because of that. The stretch of I-20 between Atlanta, Georgia, and Birmingham, Alabama, has the title of being the 'Sex Trafficking Highway.'"

What do task forces do to combat trafficking? What does Cullman's task force do?

"Different task forces have the ability to fight against human trafficking in different ways. For example, there is a task force through the United States Attorney's Office, Middle District of Alabama, that has the following goals:

• Prevent, identify, investigate, disrupt and prosecute human trafficking crimes

• Dismantle any criminal organization that promotes or participates in the commission of human trafficking crime

• Promote a coordinated approach to the provision of services for victims of human trafficking at the federal, state and local levels, and so on

"(The) Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force is here to provide the community information, education, resources and ways to prevent human trafficking not just in our community, but to spread the word throughout surrounding counties as well. We are solely a volunteer task force and we meet quarterly to discuss ways to further combat human trafficking in all forms and learn ways to better prevent these crimes from happening in our community and to our citizens. We can speak at local schools, businesses and really anywhere there is a need. We couldn't have the task force without the help of all the people that so graciously volunteer their time to these meetings and helping to spread the word.

"Judge Chad Floyd is a pillar to our task force , along with our local DHR, Victim Services, Cullman school board(s), city police and county police. Investigator Intae Suh with the Cullman Police Department and Deputy Brandi Suh with the Cullman (County) Sheriff's Office have also been pillars in the task force. Alex Hill from A21, a global human trafficking education, prevention and rescue effort, has come alongside us at the task force with resources, education material and just a general knowledge that has helped us tremendously."

How can folks support the task force's efforts? How can they get involved locally?

"We welcome everyone in the community to come to the quarterly meetings. They are usually held on a Wednesday at noon at the Cullman County Courthouse; you can join our Facebook page at Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force to keep up with the meeting dates, community information, arrests and general education surrounding human trafficking. I highly implore parents and teachers to get involved because our children are at the highest risk, certainly with their access to social media, online games, chats and so on."

What should a person do if they suspect they have encountered a trafficked person?

"This always depends on the situation. If it is a child or someone you know personally, immediately call local police but do not try to engage the suspect or victim because you will not only possibly put them in more danger but yourself as well. Make sure you get an address or tag number, if possible. If it's a suspected labor trafficking ring or situation, call the National Human Trafficking hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text at 233733, or federal law enforcement at 1-866-347-2423.

"If you're unsure the safest bet is always to call anyway because signs of human trafficking can vary from victim to victim. It will never look exactly the same."

Dover told The Tribune, "I believe it is of the utmost importance for every community, including ours, to be made aware and educate themselves on human trafficking as a whole.

"Thankfully we live in a community that is safer than most, but human trafficking still happens here, but it looks different than what you might see happening in bigger cities and overseas. Human trafficking is real and happening all over; it's the second most profitable criminal activity in the United States because people can be sold over and over again, unlike drugs and weapons."

Find out more about the Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force on Facebook at Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force.



LEGALS

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ADOPTION OF Z.H.B
A minor child.
D.O.B. 07/30/2010

CASE NO.: AD2023-039

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: CHRISTOPHER L. BYRD AND UNKNOWN FATHER OF A CHILD Z.H.B., BORN JULY 30, 2010 TO LACEY CHRISTINA CASON

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

DONE THIS 7th DAY OF July, 2023

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

Dan J. Willingham
Attorney for Petitioner
FULLER, WILLINGHAM & CARTER, LLC.
413 1st Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

EST. 1873
CULLMAN
ALABAMA

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

201 2nd Avenue NE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

256.775.7203
www.CullmanAl.gov

City of Cullman
Planning Commission

On Monday August 14, 2023, at Cullman City Hall Auditorium at 5:30 P.M, at the regular meeting of the City of Cullman Planning Commission, a public hearing will be held to allow affected parties to voice their concerns related to the following items:

1. Short-form subdivision – Lee Avenue SW – divide one lot into two lots
2. Rezoning request – Cherokee Avenue SW / Swafford Road SW / Main Avenue SW- B-1 to B-2
3. Rezoning request – Alabama Highway 157 NW & 2nd Avenue NW (Highway 31) – B-3/M-1 to R-4
4. Special Events and Arts District expansion

For further information contact Brian Landreth or Amber Duke at the City of Cullman Building Department at 256-775-7203.

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE:
S.G.T.
A Minor Child, 02/12/2021

CASE NO. JU 2021-072.03

NOTICE

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

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the father of S.G.T., born on or about 02/12/2021 to Kelly Thorbjornsen, respond to the Petition by the 22 day of August, 2023, or thereafter a judgment may be rendered in favor of the Petitioner.

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

DONE this the 27 day of July, 2023

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

STATE OF ALABAMA, CULLMAN COUNTY
I, Lisa McSwain, Clerk of Circuit Court in and for said County and State, hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy as the same appears of record in this office.
Witness my hand and official seal, this 27th day of July, 2023.
Lisa McSwain
Clerk of Circuit Court

FILED IN OFFICE
JUN 27 2023
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY

PB MIN BK 218 PG 107 - 07/28/2023 04:21 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE MATTER OF
JIMMIE TRUSSELL,
An alleged incapacitated person.

CASE NO.: PC-2023-106

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF LIMITED GUARDIAN AND/OR CONSERVATOR

TO: DONNIE DODGEN
ROGER TRUSSELL
ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT OF KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES

Please take notice that a *Petition for Appointment of Limited Guardian and/or Conservator* has been filed by Cullman County Department of Human Resources, Petitioner, by and through Attorney, Diane L. Dunning. A hearing on said *Petition for Appointment of Limited Guardian and/or Conservator* has been **SET FOR THE 20th day of OCTOBER, 2023, AT 9:30 A.M.**, Cullman County Courthouse, Probate Office Room 101, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, AL 35055.

DONE this 28th day of July, 2023.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

Diane L. Dunning
Assistant Attorney General
State of Alabama
Department of Human Resources
P.O. Box 13248
Birmingham, Alabama 35202-3248

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF
A.K.C

Case No.: JU-2023-000497.01

NOTICE

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

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

The Guardian ad Litem having made a Motion for Service by Publication in the above styled action, it is therefore:

ORDERED AND ADJUGED that RYAN CORLEY, the Father of A.K.C., born on or about 08/17/2007, respond to the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights filed in the Juvenile Court of Cullman County by the 5th day of September, 2023, or thereafter a judgement may be may be rendered in favor of the Petitioner.

Contact may be made: G. Rhys Battles, Guardian Ad Litem for the Minor Child, 200 2nd Avenue SE Cullman, AL 35055, (256) 620-0007 or Lisa McSwain, Circuit Clerk. 500 2nd Avenue SW Cullman, AL 35055

DONE this 27th day of July, 2023.

/s/ WELLS R. TURNER III
JUVENILE JUDGE

FILED IN OFFICE
JUL 27 2023
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY

STATE OF ALABAMA, CULLMAN COUNTY
I, Lisa McSwain, Clerk of Circuit Court in and for said County and State, hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy as the same appears of record in this office.
Witness my hand and official seal, this 27th day of July, 2023.
Lisa McSwain
Clerk of Circuit Court





Obituary Announcements: July 29-31

Wildred Elwanda Roberts, 95
Wildred Elwanda Roberts, age 95, of Cullman, passed away on Friday, July 28, 2023, at Cullman Health Care Center. She was born Feb. 11, 1928, to James Nix and Luva Mae Nix. She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her sister in law, Margaret Nix; nephew, Todd Nix; niece, Wendy Nix; son, Charles "Chip" Roberts; daughter, Tammy Roberts.

Jason Lynn Cloud, 44
Visitation for Jason Lynn Cloud, 44, was held Monday evening, July 31, 2023, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Jason passed away July 26, 2023. He was born Sep. 4, 1978, to Rickey Lynn Cloud and Glenda Swann Standridge. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Dewey and Dorothy Swann, Herbert and Lucille Cloud; father, Rickey Lynn Cloud. Survivors include his mother, Glenda Standridge; sons, Daniel (Alysa) Cloud, Brayden (Brooke) Cloud; brother, Tyler (Sabrina) Cloud; sister, Kristy Hooper; grandchildren, Elliott Cloud, Braxton Cloud; nephew, Flynn Cloud; niece, Madeline Hooper; aunts, uncles, family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullman-funeralhome.com.

Velma Eugene Driver, 96
Velma Eugene Driver, age 96, of Cullman, passed away on Saturday, July 29, 2023, at Cullman Long Term Care. She was born April 20, 1927, to Willis and Flonie Hollaway. She was preceded in death by her husband, Curtis Driver, and her parents, Survivors include her daughter, Pat (Jack) Hanes; son, Harold (Betty) Driver; granddaughter, Lisa Hanes; and grandson, David (Shannon) Driver. A family graveside will be held at later date at Cullman City Cemetery.

Randy Steve Skinner, 71
Randy Steve Skinner, 71, of Cullman, passed away on Sunday, July 30, 2023, at Cullman Regional Medical Center. He was born May 28, 1952, in Cullman, Alabama. He is survived by his wife, Josephine Skinner; daughters, Rena (Allen) Putman and Vaneesa (Tony) Mobley; sons, William Skinner and Julian Skinner; stepdaughter, Alexis Bautista; grandchildren, Tucker Putman, Doston Putman, Eason Putman, Devin Patterson, Ivan Mobley and Skyler Mobley; brother, Frank (Jeanenne) Skinner; best friend, Bruce Baggett and a host of nieces, nephews, other family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Julian Skinner and Dorthy Tucker Skinner and a sister, Vicki Reid. Funeral services will be Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home; burial will follow in Jones Chapel Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Roert Terry Vandiver, 63
Roert Terry Vandiver, 63, of Arley, entered into rest on Sunday, July 30, 2023, at Walker Baptist Medical Center. Terry was born on Nov. 21, 1959, in Moulton, Alabama to Robert and LV Vandiver. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023, from 4:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Addison, where services will be at 6 p.m. Reverend Robert Partridge will officiate. Terry is survived by his mother, LV Vandiver; son, Jeff Vandiver; daughter, Delinda Evans and her husband Garry; step-son, Michael Williams; step-daughter, Christie Nolen; and a host of grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father, Robert Vandiver; grandparents. Roy and Berma Spain, and U.H. and Amzona Vandiver; and nephew, Timmy Alen Burnett.

David James Tanner, 90
Funeral service for David James Tanner, age 90, of Eva, will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023, at Bethel United Methodist Church with Nicky James and Ray Lathem officiating; interment in Bethel United Methodist Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 4, 2023, at Bethel United Methodist Church. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Tanner passed away on Sunday, July 30, 2023, at Hanceville Nursing Home. He was born Aug. 8, 1932, to Elbert Tanner and Cora Tanner. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Blanche Tanner; daughter-in-law, Kathi Tanner; brother, Jack Graham. and sister, Lillian Haley. Survivors include his sons, Danny Tanner (Darleen Haddock) and Randy (Betty Jean) Tanner; grandsons, Mike (Becky) Tanner and Jamie Tanner; great-granddaughter, Jericca Bell; and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

Wayne Blackwood, 85
Funeral service for Wayne Blackwood, age 85, of Cullman, will be at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023, at Bethlehem West Baptist Church with Jerry Lake and Shane Wheeler officiating; interment in Bethlehem West Cemetery. Visitation will be from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. prior to the service. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Blackwood passed away on Monday, July 31, 2023, at his residence. He was born July 4, 1938, to Ister Blackwood and Itallie Blackwood. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Ferrell Blackwood and Howard Blackwood. Survivors include his wife, Betty "Jean" Blackwood; daughters, Leshia (Tim) Rich and Sandy (Sammy) Schaffer; sons, Kim (Karen) Blackwood and Eric Blackwood; grandchildren, Jesse (Lindsey) Rich, Tallie (Luke) Calvert, Jacob (Ashton) Schaffer, Kambell Blackwood; great-grandson, Davie Schaffer; and sisters, Frances (Jerry) Lake and Melba Aris.

Free Obituary Listings

Have your funeral home contact us

Email: robin@cullmantribune.com • Phone: 256-739-1351

Complete obituaries may be found free of charge at CullmanTribune.com/obituaries.

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Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri 8-5:30
Weds 8-12 | Sat 8-2

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25% OFF ALL 225/65/17

10% OFF ALL MICHELIN (NEW AND LIGHT TRUCKS EXCLUDED)

...In that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

REFRESHMENTS SERVED EVERY SATURDAY

Gamer Geeks (from Front)

for people to know that we exist and that we're here and they can if they're looking for a safe place to be able to play, that they can be able to come in here and have that good environment," he said.

Gamer Geeks also has a Discord server. Jensen said that whenever someone walks into his store asking about finding a group to play with, he hands them a card with the links to meet people on the Discord server.

Jensen said he is looking forward to hosting charity events this fall and winter. He has held them at the Jasper store and wants to give back to the Cullman community as well.

Gamer Geeks is located at 2046 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Ste. E. Find out more at www.facebook.com/GamerGeeksCullman.

SQUEEZE IN ALL THE SUMMER FUN AT

WildWater

AUGUST SPECIAL:
BUY A 2023 SEASON PASS* AND GET 2024 SEASON PASS FREE

*Buy a Season Pass in August and get all the remaining days of 2023, Splash In Movie Night on September 1, Special event days September 2-4, PLUS a whole summer to look forward to in 2024!

END OF SEASON HOURS

REGULAR HOURS THROUGH AUGUST 8, 2023
PARK IS CLOSED AUGUST 9-11
OPEN WEEKENDS IN AUGUST

Saturday, August 12 | 10 AM-6 PM
Sunday, August 13 | 1 PM - 6 PM
Saturday, August 19 | 10 AM-6 PM
Sunday, August 20 | 1 PM - 6 PM
Saturday, August 26 | 10 AM-6 PM
Sunday, August 27 | 1 PM - 6 PM

SEPTEMBER 1-4 SPLASH BASH

Friday, September 1 | 3 PM - 7 PM; Splash In Movie @ 7 PM and Fireworks at Dark!
Saturday, September 2 | 10 AM - 7 PM; Splash In Movie @ 7 PM
Sunday, September 3 | 12 PM - 6 PM
Monday, September 4 | 10 AM - 6 PM

CULLMAN
PARKS, RECREATION, & SPORTS TOURISM
cullmanrecreation.org

CULLMAN
PARKS, RECREATION, & SPORTS TOURISM

UPCOMING EVENTS

Storytime at Art Park-FREE
August 25, 4:00 PM

Splash In Movie-WildWater
September 1, 7:00 PM

Storytime at Art Park-FREE
September 22, 4:00 PM

Oktoberfest-Depot Park
September 28-30, 2023

Storytime at Art Park-FREE
October 20, 4:00 PM

Pups & Pints "Howloween"
Goat Island
October 28, 2023

Pyramid Lighting-Depot Park
November 24, 2023

Christkindlmarkt-Depot Park
November 24-26, 2023
November 30-December 3, 2023
December 7-10, 2023
December 14-17, 2023
December 21-24, 2023

Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting
December 1, 2023