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Good Hope's Avery Flynt crowned Miss Cullman County Fair



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Congratulations to Good Hope High School's Avery Flynt on being crowned this year's Miss Cullman County Fair!

Emersyn Pearl Wilson
Tiny Miss Cullman County Fair Princess



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Congratulations to Emersyn Pearl Wilson on being crowned this year's Tiny Miss Cullman County Fair Princess!

Kinsley Mae Brooks
Petite Miss Cullman County Fair Princess



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Congratulations to Kinsley Mae Brooks on being crowned this year's Petite Miss Cullman County Fair Princess!

Kennedi Gray Hancock
Little Miss Cullman County Fair Princess



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Congratulations to Kennedi Gray Hancock on being crowned this year's Little Miss Cullman County Fair Princess!

Brooklyn Grace Shaw
Junior Miss Cullman County Fair Princess



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Congratulations to Brooklyn Grace Shaw on being crowned this year's Junior Miss Cullman County Fair Princess!

Ella Pettus
Teen Miss Cullman County Fair Princess



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Congratulations to Ella Pettus on being crowned this year's Teen Miss Cullman County Fair Princess!

Scott Brown named principal of Good Hope High School



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS
Scott Brown
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'It's a crisis situation': Hanceville council discusses fire dues
» PAGE 12

Marshall: 2 indicted for 2015 murder of Eric Cates



JUSTICE FOR ERIC CATES/FACEBOOK
Eric Cates
» PAGE 10

Cullman City Schools cuts ribbon on new Primary School addition



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Cullman City Primary School second graders Jude Pugh and Lillian James cut the ribbon on the Primary School's new addition and renovations Thursday afternoon. Also pictured L-R: City School Board members Amy Carter and Jason Neal, City Schools Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff, School Board members Chris Branham and Cheryl Harrison, Cullman City Economic Development Agency Director Dale Greer and CCPS Principal Elizabeth Shaddix.
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Cullman County youth win big at Alabama National Fair
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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Oct. 13

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Oct. 13, 2023. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Oct. 10

- domestic violence-criminal mischief; Hwy. 69 N
- theft of property; CR 312
- theft of property; CR 387
- violation of protection order; Tally Ho St.
- dog bite; Hwy. 91
- violation of protection order; CR 1770
- domestic violence; CR 1242

Oct. 11

- assault; CR 1225
- domestic violence; CR 1318
- theft of property; Hwy. 69 S
- harassment; CR 1033
- theft of property; CR 734
- domestic violence; Friendship Rd.
- felon failure to register; Ashwander St. NE

ARRESTS

Oct. 9 – 11

Bartley, Sydney E.; 23
- FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Bates, Mary L.; 51
- FTA- negotiating worthless instrument
- family offense- non-support-child

Bentley, Jonah N.; 34
- FTA- driving while license suspended

Boatright, William S.; 33
- FTA- flight/escape
- FTA- public intoxication
- FTA- driving while suspended, revoked or cancelled

Carroll, Scottie A.; 37
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- ex-felon in possession of a firearm
- FTA- sale of stolen property less than $500
- FTA- forgery-passing forged instrument
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- criminal mischief
- FTA- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Conn, Jake A.; 26
- FTA- attempting to elude police officer
- FTA- possession of methamphetamine
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- possession of concealed weapon without a permit
- FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Crayton, Valenthius C.; 45
- DUI (alcohol)

Diveley, Heath L.; 40
- FTA- fishing without license

Goodno, Shannon J.; 45
- assault-domestic violence-3rd degree-criminal mischief-2nd degree

Hall, David R.; 68
- FTA- public intoxication

Haynes, Tiffany L.; 33
- Grand Jury- assault-child abuse-simple-family (5 counts)

Holmes, Randy A.; 43
- FTA- possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
- FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

King, Heath A.; 23
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- assault-domestic-menacing-intimidation only

Labrecque, Michelle L.; 52
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)

Lee, Johnny D.; 53
- Judges Oder- robbery-residence-other weapon

McNabb, Mesha E.; 35
- buying/receiving stolen property less than $500

Payne, Stewart D.; 43
- FTA- larceny/theft-shoplifting $500 less than $1,500

Pendergraft, Unique N.; 31
- FTA- resisting arrest
- FTA- assault-harassment
- FTA- public intoxication
- FTA- disorderly conduct/disturbing peace/affray
- FTA- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Parklet, Tabitha L.; 48
- FTA- negotiating worthless instrument

Sanford, Kristy Lynn G.; 48
- FTA- larceny/theft-shoplifting $500 less than $1,500

Smith, Jonathan K.; 49
- obstruction governmental operations
- resisting arrest
- possession of marijauan-2nd degree

Tolbert, Emma S.; 64
- public intoxication
- disorderly conduct/disturbing peace/affray

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Oct. 11
- theft of property-3rd degree; Dick's Sporting Goods; Cullman Shopping Center; miscellaneous; $800
- criminal mischief-3rd degree; person; CR 222; damage to 2019 Jeep Cherokee; $400
- forgery-3rd degree; theft of property-3rd degree; person; cash

Oct. 12
- burglary; person; Warnke Rd. NW; miscellaneous
- harassment; person; 4th St. SE
- domestic violence-3rd degree-harassment; person; Ave. B SE
- harassing communications; person
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $121
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $40

ARRESTS

Oct. 11 – 12

Pendergraft, Unique N.; 31
- FTA- false information to police officer

Carroll, Scottie A.; 37
- Grand Jury- robbery-1st degree
- Grand Jury- theft of property-3rd degree

Myers, David A.; 40
- possession/receiving controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Fowler, Adam K.; 33
- FTA- insurance violation
- FTA- fail to register vehicle

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

2 arrested for meth trafficking, another on outstanding warrants

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — On Oct. 6, 2023, deputies from the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 65 near Exit 310. According to Lt. Chad Whaley, CCSO director of communications, the driver was identified as Tyler Lee Gregory, 30, of Reform.

A subsequent search allegedly found Gregory in possession of a small amount of methamphetamine. Further investigation of his vehicle allegedly revealed an additional stash of meth, totaling approximately 87 grams, and associated paraphernalia.

Gregory was arrested and now faces charges of trafficking in methamphetamine and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia. He remains in custody at the Cullman County Detention Center with a bond, set at $500,000, according to Whaley.

A day earlier, on Oct. 5, deputies stopped a vehicle in the Berlin community. The driver, Jason Earl Shirley, 40, of Hanceville, was allegedly discovered with an even larger haul of methamphetamine—over 130 grams—along with prescription medications and drug paraphernalia.

Whaley said Shirley was arrested and is currently facing charges of trafficking in methamphetamine, unlawful possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia. Shirley is being held at the Cullman County Detention Center, with a bond also set at $500,000.

In a separate incident on Oct. 6, deputies arrested Scotty Joe Wright, 42, of Bremen, on several outstanding failure to appear warrants. The charges, originating from a 2021 incident, include unlawful possession of dangerous drugs, marijuana production and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Tyler Lee Gregory, Jason Earl Shirley and Scotty Joe Wright

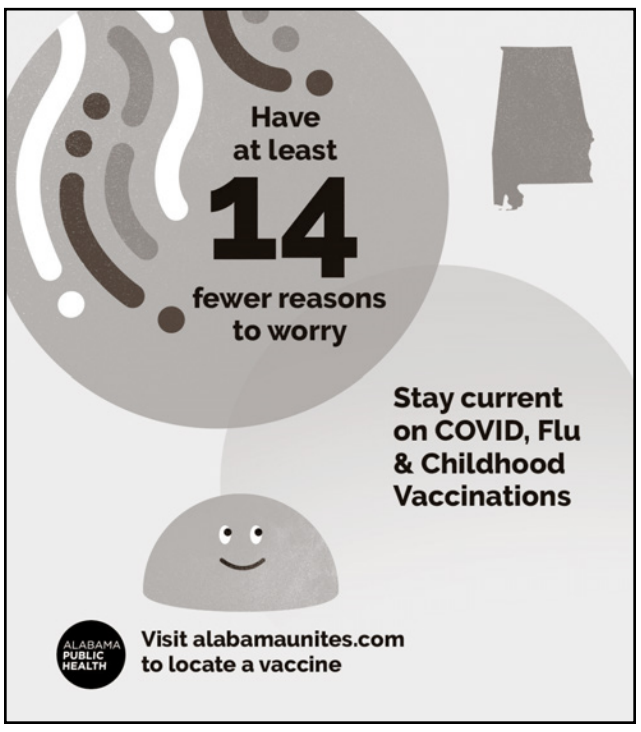
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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.
• Sunday, Oct. 15 - Prayer Groups - Join Teresa at 9:15 a.m. in the prayer room to pray for our church, nation and those who need healing, salvation or deliverance.
• Sunday, Oct. 15 - 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 & Worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11.
• Sunday, Oct. 15 - Soup and Chili Fundraiser, free drinks , desserts and entertainment following morning service.

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.

Cullman County Fair
Through Oct. 14 at the Cullman County Fairgrounds. The county fair is a classic rural sight to see, with exhibitions, livestock showings, pageants, classic carnie food and rides for even the most seasoned thrill seeker. People from all around have been coming to this fair since 1954, come see why for yourself!

Peinhardt Living History Farm Days
Saturday, Oct. 14, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sunday Oct. 15, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Peinhardt Living History Farm. Come experience the history and learn how some of the first settlers of Cullman made this land home. With a petting zoo, antique tractor show, mule and wagon rides and demonstrations of all kinds, it's a must-visit for any history buff.

Pleasant View Homecoming Service
Sunday, Oct. 15, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be served. We will start singing again about 1:30 that afternoon. We will have singing featuring 2nd Mile from DeKalb, Mississippi. Everyone is invited. All former pastors and members and their families have a special invitation to come. We will not have Sunday School or service that night. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278, approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. For more information call 256-796-5986 or 256-338-9202.

Cullman Educator Retirees Association Meeting
Thursday, Oct. 19 at 11 a.m. in the Cigar Room of Sophia's Restaurant at Stone Bridge Farms. All retirees from the field of education are invited. Our scheduled guest speaker has just canceled, so please be prepared to join in a "Member Share" program with a recent educational experience just in case we don't find a replacement. For more information: mjcjcera@gmail.com

Fairview High School 1963 Luncheon/Meeting
Friday, Oct. 20 at 1 p.m. at Golden Corral, 1720 Cherokee Ave. SW, in Cullman. Meetings are every third Friday, January through October. The next meeting will be on Jan. 19, 2024. For more information contact Joyce Williams Rodgers at 256-339-3451.

Hanceville Public Library Book Sale
Saturday, Oct. 21, beginning at 8:30 a.m. We have lots of children's books. All books are $.25 for paperbacks and $.50 for hardcovers.

Trinity Lutheran Church German Lunch
Saturday, Oct. 21, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at 505 Commercial St., Hanceville, in conjunction with the Mud Creek Arts and Crafts Festival taking place in downtown Hanceville that day. Adult plates will include bratwurst, German potato salad, choice of sauerkraut or red cabbage, German desserts and tea for $12. A child's plate of bratwurst, snicker doodle cookies and tea will be $5. All profits will go to Hanceville schools. Eat lunch in our historic 1885 church building and tour our present worship sanctuary.

Fairview Lions Club Movie at the Park
Free movie at the park on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Randall Shedd Community Park on Wesley Avenue in Fairview. We will be showing "Elemental" and will start around 6-6:30 p.m. We will have concessions and drinks. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets. Bring the kids out, enjoy the movie. All proceeds will go to the Lions Club project fund. For more information call Kita at 256-385-8805 or William at 256-385-5596.

Mt. Nebo Baptist Church 100th Homecoming Celebration
Sunday, Oct. 22, 10 a.m.-noon, at Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, 11 County Road 1273, Cullman, AL 35057. Praise and worship, including a historical presentation by Alabama Baptist. Fellowship meal at noon. Pastor is Gary Waddell.

7th Annual Caring for Cullman Concert Benefiting the Good Samaritan Health Clinic
Tuesday, Oct. 24, at 7 p.m. at Northbrook Baptist Church. Doors open at 6. A night of fun and great music with the Daystar Church Praise Team, and featuring the award-winning Triumphant Quartet. Tickets are $28 if bought in person at Yates-Chance Christian Bookstore, Borden Family Pharmacy, Good Samaritan Health Clinic or at the door. $28 if purchased online at www.goodsamaritancullman.com.

Mt. Zion Church Fall Festival
Saturday, Oct. 28, from 4-7 p.m. at Mt. Zion Church (U.S. Highway 31 North next to the Cullman Area Technology Academy in Vinemont). Free event for community with hot dogs, inflatables, hayride, cake walk, games and face painting. Come and enjoy the evening.

'Planted': The Link of Cullman County's 2nd Annual Gala
Thursday, Nov. 2, at 6 p.m. at The Venue at Cotton Creek. Tickets go on sale Friday, Aug. 11. For more information or to inquire about a sponsorship, contact Tiffany Wright at tiffanywright@linkingcullman.com.

Mt. Zion Church Food Bazaar
Friday, Nov. 3, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., at Mt. Zion Church (located on U.S. Highway 31 North, next to the Cullman Area Technology Academy in Vinemont). Baked goods for sale and lunch will be served from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Carry-outs are available. Call 205-908-8271 or 256-338-1959 for more information. Proceeds benefit the Mt. Zion UMW (Women's Group).

2023 Cullman County Veterans Day Celebration
Saturday, Nov. 4, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Cullman Regional Airport. Free admission and free parking. Huey rides, Chinook ground tours, sky dive demo, ground tours, Model-A car show, free lunch for veterans and music from the Armed Forces Radio Vietnam.

90th Annual Welti Elementary PTO Chicken Supper
Saturday, Nov. 4, from 3:30-6:30 p.m. Drive-through only. $10 per plate for chicken and dressing, gravy, green beans, cole slaw, potato salad and cookies. 8545 County Road 747, Cullman, AL 35057.

Horton woman dies after Cullman County crash

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Horton woman died after being involved in a two-vehicle crash that occurred at approximately 9:15 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11, in Cullman County.

Alabama State Troopers said Shelia F. Sisson, 74, was critically injured when the 2008 Chevrolet Cobalt she was driving was struck by a 2020 Ford Fusion driven by a 17 year old.

Sisson was injured and transported to Cullman Regional, where she later succumbed to her injuries and was pronounced deceased.

The crash occurred on U.S. Highway 278 near the 86 mile marker, approximately 7 miles east of Cullman, in Cullman County.

Nothing further is available as Troopers with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's (ALEA) Highway Patrol Division continue to investigate.

Addition (from Front)

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — After 18 months of construction, the new additions and renovations at Cullman City Primary School (CCPS) are complete and the school system welcomed its second-grade students back to the new and improved CCPS campus Friday. In addition to the new facilities, there is also a new exit from campus that is officially opening Friday as well. The new Primary School Road will lead parents out of the Primary School area from the other side of campus and exit onto Oak Drive N.E.

The newly completed project includes the addition of a 12-classroom wing, a multipurpose building, tornado shelter and an expanded cafeteria and kitchen area.

Cullman City Schools Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff thanked the board of education for establishing a plan for Cullman City Schools to continue to grow and improve and appreciates them starting with what he believes is the foundation of the school system.

"You guys established a vision to ensure that our facilities are safe for our students and our employees. That's how this all started. I appreciate the vision and I certainly appreciate you starting here where the foundation of our school system is. This is the foundation as we all know, this is where our students start," Kallhoff said.

"I appreciate and thank you for establishing to prepare plan for long-term growth, not just what we can do now, but looking into the future. Even the great reconfiguration which will take place over the next three years was part of the vision and I appreciate that. Finally, thank you for creating a modern space to serve our current Primary School students and the many generations to follow."

CCPS Principal Elizabeth Shadix is excited to welcome in a new group of students and teachers Friday to get comfortable in the new facility and begin a new chapter at CCPS.

"First and foremost, I would like to thank the CCPS faculty and staff. For the past 519 days, our staff has persevered through construction, limited learning and lunches in classrooms. Our staff has maintained professionalism, positivity and flexibility throughout the construction process," Shadix said. "We are excited to welcome our second-grade teachers to this team. Thank you to the CCPS PTO who have continually supported our teachers and volunteered their time. As we close this chapter of construction, tomorrow marks a new day for Cullman City Primary School as we welcome 240 second graders back to CCPS."

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Brown (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Board of Education at its October meeting approved the hiring of Scott Brown as the next principal of Good Hope High School. Brown is a 27-year educator in the Cullman County system. He replaces Dr. John Hood, who is retiring, effective Nov. 1, 2023.

"I am thankful for the great things that Dr. Hood has done while leading Good Hope High School and wish him the best as he takes on a new challenge on the college level," said Dr. Shane Barnette, Cullman County Schools superintendent. "While Dr. Hood is leaving the school in a good position, I am excited to be able to hire Mr. Scott Brown as the school's next principal. I am confident that he will lead this faculty, staff and community as it continues its tradition of excellence. Mr. Brown brings a wealth of experience working with students to help them succeed."

Brown is currently the assistant principal of Good Hope Middle School.

"I am proud to have been part of the Good Hope family the last five years and I am excited to be stepping into a new role as high school principal," said Brown.

"We have great students, outstanding teachers, supportive parents and community members that make Good Hope a wonderful place to be.

It's great to be a Raider!"

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1943-2023

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In 1943, when the Paul R. Knight Insurance Company opened its doors in downtown Cullman, there was no way of knowing what the future would bring. Paul Knight was a 30-something father of of three, registered for the World War II draft, with no idea that his new venture would not only succeed but would ultimately pass down through three generations of his family. Then his son-in-law Elliot Free joined the business in 1970, the agency was re-named Knight-Free, and the rest is history.

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Seniors enjoy a day at the Cullman County Fair

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The air was drizzly and crisp as Cullman County seniors gathered in hundreds and made their way to the Coca-Cola Theater on Wednesday, Oct. 11, to enjoy a day together at the fairgrounds. With an afternoon stacked with entertainment acts and oodles of exhibits to check out, Senior Day at the Cullman County Fair had a little something for everyone.

The morning was opened in worship with a performance by Daystar Church's praise and worship team, and the stage stayed hot after that until time for lunch, with dance routines by a group of local senior ladies known as the Klassy Kickers; comedy skits that showed off the costumery and ad-libbing skills of the Senior Outreach Players, advertising their upcoming "Mayberry Goes to Hee Haw" show; local elected officials and those hoping to be introduced on stage; and a veteran's program that saw Ms. Senior World 2022 Tammy Little Haynes belt out a rendition of "America the Beautiful" as members of Cullman's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2214 honored veterans in attendance.

Cullman County Commission on Aging (COA) Director Stephanie Lawson was quick to give high praise to a company that seems to be a mainstay at these events, either by offering free swag or putting the event itself on: Aveanna Healthcare.

"Aveanna Health Care, formally Comfort Care, always does a terrific job hosting Senior Day at the Cullman County Fair," gushed Lawson.

"Aveanna does all the hard work for this event and COA is just happy to pitch in and help where we are needed!"

Lawson estimated attendance was about 300 for the afternoon as seniors took full advantage of the day to pour over giant produce, 4-H projects, informative booths and more exhibits without having to navigate around the massive crowds the Cullman County Fair has been drawing in.

"Some folks hung out and enjoyed the entertainment under the theater and others came just to walk through the exhibits," said Lawson, noting that while seniors seemed to enjoy a lax day on the fairgrounds, many expressed frustration at not being able to ride the two rides that are typically open on Senior Day.

"Most everyone seemed to have a great time but expressed disappointment in not being able to ride the Ferris wheel and merry-go-round this year," she said.

The next senior day event will be Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023, as Cullman County seniors take on Winter Wonderland at Sportsman Lake Park.

To stay up to date on future events hosted by the COA, or to find a full-time senior center, visit www.facebook.com/coacullman or https://co.cullman.al.us/coa.



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Ben and Brenda Kerny pose with Julie Kerny (dog) at Senior Day at the Cullman County Fair on Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023. The Kernys attend the Cullman Senior Center.

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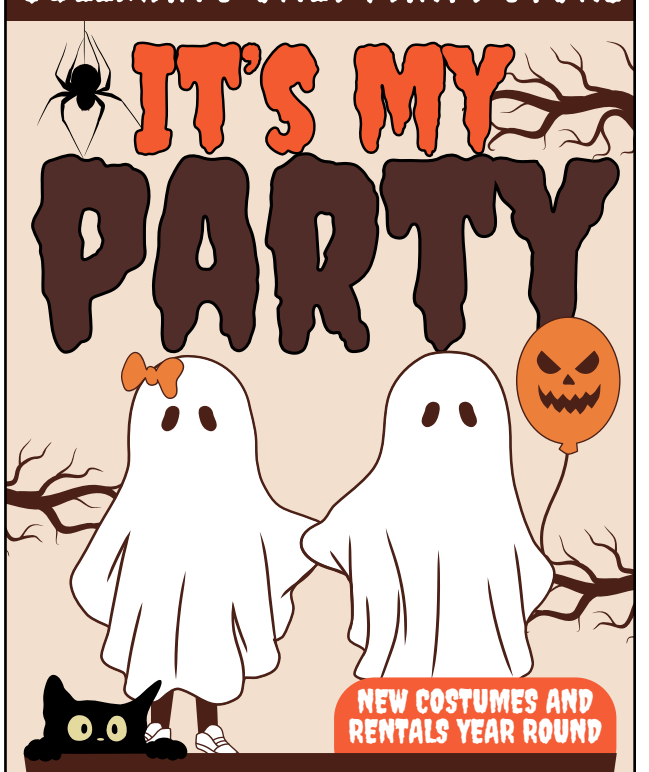
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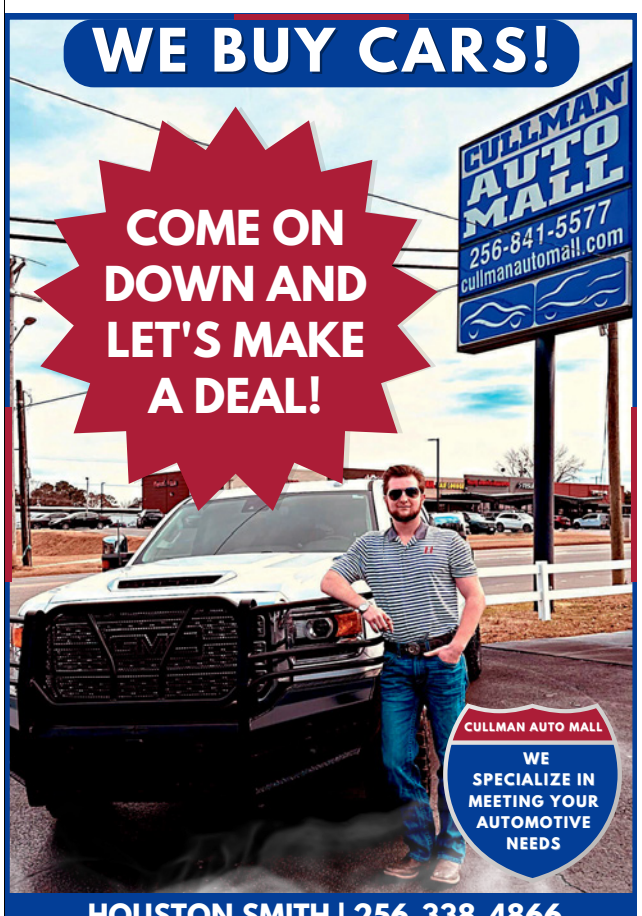


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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
OCTOBER 14, 2023

The road less traveled: DL duo Harris, Jones find opportunity at Auburn

Greg Ostendorf
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. – In the fall of 2020, in the middle of a pandemic, Marcus Harris was a redshirt freshman at Kansas, more than 800 miles from his hometown of Montgomery. Jayson Jones was even further away. He spent the 2020 season as a freshman at Oregon, more than 2,500 miles from where he grew up in Calera, Alabama.

This season, the duo has started every single game next to each other on the defensive line at Auburn. Both are back in their home state. Both are making the most of their opportunity.

But neither Harris nor Jones would undo the past and their decision to leave home.

"That helped me grow up and become a young man," Harris said. "Being that far away helped me live on my own and become my own person and find new friends and people I never knew from different walks of life and different cultures. It just opened my mind up to different things and how big the world really is."

"I'm glad I went out to Oregon," added Jones. "First of all, I loved Oregon. There was nothing wrong with Oregon. I grew up. I had to grow up because I was living by myself. That really helped me, especially coming back home and being very dependent. When I came back here, it was like, 'OK, I'm closer to home, but you know how to operate by yourself.'"

It was the road less traveled for Harris and Jones coming out of high school. But the road led them both back to Auburn where they are now thriving on and off the field.

Despite growing up down the road from Auburn, Harris never thought he'd get the opportunity to play for the Tigers. Kansas and Washington State were his only two Power 5 offers. So, one can understand why the senior defensive lineman still gets goosebumps every time he plays at Jordan-Hare Stadium.

"It amazes me still to this day when I go on the football field on Saturdays, especially at Jordan-Hare," Harris said. "I'll just be like, 'Wow, I'm really here. This is what I dreamed about. These are the games I used to come here and watch.' It just feels surreal, like an out-of-body experience. At the same time, you've got to go against the opponent and the big guys on the other team, so you've got to snap back out of it real quick.

"But knowing that I played in the same stadium as guys like Nick Fairley, Derrick Brown, Marlon Davidson, Carl Lawson, Jeff Holland – it just feels surreal."

Harris might be the next great Auburn defensive lineman with the way he's playing.

"When I was a little kid, I didn't know I was going to be here. Especially coming out of high school. I went to Kansas. So, I always take advantage of these moments and take advantage of this opportunity."

Two weeks ago, when the Tigers nearly knocked off No. 1 Georgia, Harris was easily one of the best players on the field. He finished with seven tackles, two tackles for loss, one forced fumble and one pass break-up against the defending national champions. To do it on that stage against that caliber of competition, it turned some heads.

After his performance, Harris was named to the Pro Football Focus (PFF) Team of the Week. His rush defense grade (91.1) through five games was tops in college football.

"That just made me lock in more on the little details because I know how close we were to winning that game and seeing how close we are to where we want to be," Harris said. "I want to know the bad plays I had so I can understand how to get better and have an even better game."

With more games like he had against Georgia, Harris could end up playing on Sundays – a possibility he never imagined while at Kansas.

But regardless of what happens in the future, Harris is making the most of the present and leaving a legacy at Auburn that would make his family proud. After all, family is what is most important to him.

"That's what I do it for," he said. "I do it for my family, so they can brag on me. Not so much me bragging on myself. I like my family to brag on me. It's so amazing having your little cousins be like, 'I've got a big cousin who plays for Auburn,' and they can actually be truthful about it. When I grew up, I didn't have anybody like that. I used to tell stories. 'I know him.' And I really didn't know him.

"I try to bring that positive impact to my family, show them that they can do it too.

"When I was a little kid, I didn't know I was going to be here. Especially coming out of high school. I went to Kansas. I never knew I was going to be here. So, I always take advantage of these moments and take advantage of this opportunity."



ZACH BLAND/AU ATHLETICS

Auburn defensive lineman Marcus Harris (50).

Like Harris, Jones saw an opportunity when he left Oregon and transferred to Auburn. Yes, it was closer to home where his family could come and watch him play.

"It means a lot to me now that they can come support me," he said. "Not so much for me but more so for them because I know they love football, and they love watching me play football. They grew up watching me play football. Those two years (at Oregon) were kind of hard for them not being able to really watch me play football. Now they're taking advantage of it. They're coming to almost every single game."

But for Jones, it was more than just being close to home. It was an opportunity to play in the SEC and an opportunity to follow in the footsteps of his cousins, Cornelius Bennett and Andre Tippett, who both played college football and 10-plus years in the NFL.

It was an opportunity to continue the rich tradition of defensive line play at Auburn.

"A lot of great defensive linemen like Derrick Brown, Colby Wooden, Marlon Davidson have come out of here and made a name for themselves in the league through Auburn," Jones said. "They're the people that did it right. They didn't get there for no reason, so they must have done something right.

"It means a lot to try and add to that legacy of being a defensive lineman at Auburn."

Jones arrived on the Plains in 2022, a year after Harris, but the 6-foot-6, 338-pound nose tackle has started every game for the Tigers in that span and has formed one of the SEC's more intimidating tandems up front alongside Harris.

"I appreciate him," Jones said. "He doesn't know this, but I watch him and I see what he does because he does a lot of things right. That's the kind of person you want on your team."

From Harris to Colby Wooden to Derrick Brown, doing things the right way has clearly been a common denominator for some of Auburn's great defensive linemen over the years.

It's no different with Jones. He had to grow up when he left home for Oregon as a college freshman, but he found his way back to Auburn where he wants to leave as an Auburn Man.

"The legacy I want to leave here is not so much for football," he said. "It's for the type of person I am. Jayson Jones did it right. Be like him. He went to class, never got in trouble, did the right stuff on the field. When he messed up, he knew he messed up, and he fixed it the next play. I just want to be known for that."

LEGALS

Public Meeting Notice

The Alcohol Review Committee of the City of Cullman will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the administrative conference room at City Hall located at 204 Second Avenue NE. The Committee will receive public comments for and against the alcohol license applicant listed below:

Gervais & Lulu, LLC
117 4th Street SE
Cullman, AL 35055
Retail Table Wine – Off Premises

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80.
1991 Chevrolet 1500, Vin.#1GCDK14K7103509
2017 Ford Focus, Vin. #1FADP3K26HL286479
These vehicles will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Smith's Body Shop and Wrecker Service, LLC, 11597 US Highway 278 East, Holly Pond, Alabama, 35083, on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 8:00 a.m.

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned motor vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80, as per Legislative Act 2015-470:
2006 Chevrolet Cobalt, Vin.#1G1AK15F067846624
2009 Toyota Camry, Vin.# 4T1BE46K89U797805
2003 Jeep Grand Cherokee, Vin.#1J4GW48S03C517466
These vehicles will be sold on Friday, December 1, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. for towing/storage fees if not claimed. Located at Hammock Auto Sales, 17 County Road 406, Cullman, Alabama 35057, 256-775-3754.

PB WIL BK 119 PG 236 - 10/12/2023 08:28 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
WILLIAM RAY WOOTEN * CASE NO PC 2023-296
Deceased *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary have been granted to Gene Leland Gamble, as Personal Representative of the Estate William Ray Wooten, deceased, on the 11th day of October, 2023, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County.

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

Gene Leland Gamble
Personal Representative of the Estate of
William Ray Wooten, deceased.

Clement J. Cartron
Attorney for Petitioner
Carton & Jacobs LLC
2310 Market Place, Suite B
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

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

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

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

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF)
) Case No.: JU-2016-000573.06
DIXON SILAS)

NOTICE AND ORDER

The Petitioner having made a Motion for Service by Publication on the Biological Father in the above styled action, it is therefore:

ORDERED and **ADJUDGED** that the Biological Father, Douglas Dixon, of Cullman, respond to the Petition by the 20 day of November, 2023, or thereafter a judgment may be rendered in favor of the Petitioners.

Contact may be made: Attorney for Petitioners: Kimberly H. Drake, 419 2nd Ave SW, Cullman AL 35055, or Clerk of Court: Lisa McSwain, 500 2nd Ave SW, Cullman AL 35055.

DONE this 4th day of October, 2023.

/s/ WELLS R. TURNER III
JUVENILE JUDGE

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 11th day of October, 2023.
Lisa McSwain
Clerk of Circuit Court

FILED IN OFFICE
OCT 04 2023
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF)
) Case No.: JU-2016-000570.06
DIXON LILYANN)

NOTICE AND ORDER

The Petitioner having made a Motion for Service by Publication on the Biological Father in the above styled action, it is therefore:

ORDERED and **ADJUDGED** that the Biological Father, Douglas Dixon, of Cullman, respond to the Petition by the 20 day of November, 2023, or thereafter a judgment may be rendered in favor of the Petitioners.

Contact may be made: Attorney for Petitioners: Kimberly H. Drake, 419 2nd Ave SW, Cullman AL 35055, or Clerk of Court: Lisa McSwain, 500 2nd Ave SW, Cullman AL 35055.

DONE this 4th day of October, 2023.

/s/ WELLS R. TURNER III
JUVENILE JUDGE

FILED IN OFFICE
OCT 04 2023
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY

STATE OF ALABAMA, CULLMAN COUNTY
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 11th day of October, 2023.
Clerk of Circuit Court

PB MIN BK 219 PG 720 - 10/11/2023 02:40 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

In Re the Estate of)
Shirley Ann Peterson,) Case No. PC 2023-311
Deceased)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Nancy P. Carretero as Personal Representative of the Estate of Shirley Ann Peterson, deceased, on the 10th day of October, 2023, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate,

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

Nancy P. Carretero
Personal Representative
Nancy P. Carretero

To the Publisher of the Cullman Tribune:
Please publish the above notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

G. Edward Coey
Attorney for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 834
Hanceville, Al 35077
256-352-2090

PB MIN BK 219 PG 727 - 10/11/2023 03:14 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

WILLIAM HENRY YOUNG, DECEASED CASE NO. PC 2023-285

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED
BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM HENRY YOUNG, DECEASED.

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

William Jerome Young, Personal Representative (Administrator),
and
Steven C. Smith, Attorney for the Estate

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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





The Vendor Venue hosts Ladies Night Out

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — New small business mercantile The Vendor Venue and Owner Leah Harris hosted Ladies Night Out on Thursday, Oct. 12. Harris threw open her doors and invited locals into her newest business venture, allowing guests to shop the many booths filled with community-made wares and trinkets. Sale racks filled to the brim with boutique clothing, handmade tumblers and glitter hair clips lined the sidewalk of Harris' shop.

Harris said she hand-picked her vendors carefully, hoping for a curated feel to her venue. "It's like an in-person Etsy," she said. "You can come and get everything at once instead of having to go to different places."

Two other local small business owners held pop-up shops during Ladies Night Out - Lauren Mills with Seint Makeup and Denise Cooper with Lux-Link Permanent Jewelry.

Mills was on-site for color matching, skin type consultations and in-person makeup purchases. Saint Makeup is an all-in-one cream makeup system. Mills praised the versatility of her makeup line, stating, "It's made to, you put all on in one layer so you're not feeling cakey. So you know, you put on contour and bronzer and concealer and foundation." Mills said Seint is meant to be one layer, similar to a "paint by numbers" sheet, placed strategically and blended all in tandem. "This is made to put in different places on your face. It moves with your skin; it looks like skin and it doesn't settle into your fine lines and wrinkles. Lip and cheeks double as a blush and a lipstick. You can also use it as a color corrector."

Cooper offered a variety of permanent jewelry options; permanent jewelry is welded together in lieu of traditional clasps and, depending on the material, has an indefinite lifespan, making it a perfect solution for the low-maintenance person who needs a little sparkle. Cooper explained her process for installing the jewelry, saying, "You pick out your chain and we measure it to what size you want, then I solder it on and then it's on there. You can take it off whenever you want, just get wire cutters. But you save the chain and I can put it back on!"

Harris said bringing the community together has always been a desire. "My goal has been to have an affordable place for local people to sell their goods and help contribute to their small business to make it successful for years to come," she said. "I hope that everyone can shop local for the holiday season coming up and support all of these vendors."

Harris' current list of vendors includes Summer Ray Apparel & More, Graceful Living Co, Otter Designs, Mama Made, Quarantine Cuts, Crafty Bama Stitch, Koala Ts, The Modern Collective, ET's Crafts & More, The Redbird Cottage, Pretty Little Thing and Oyster Shell Trinkets & Jewelry Holders.

The Vendor Venue is located at 201 2nd Ave. NW. It is open Wednesday and Thursday from 12-5 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Denise Cooper of Lux-Link Permanent Jewelry installs a necklace on a guest.

Pink is for men, too

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Each year around 300,000 individuals will hear the words that nobody ever dreams of hearing, "I'm so sorry, but you have breast cancer." Eight words to shatter a reality and set the path for an uphill battle. Out of 300,000 patients diagnosed with breast cancer every year, 2,800 are men. One out of every 100 breast cancer diagnoses every year are for men, and one in 833 men will face a breast cancer diagnosis in their lifetime.

Symptoms and treatments for breast cancer in men and women are largely the same; however, male breast cancer patients have a 19% higher mortality rate than their female counterparts. Why is there a large disparity in mortality and survival rates between men and women if symptoms and course of treatment are often similar? There simply aren't enough men who seek treatment early, due to not recognizing symptoms. Even when a man sees his primary care physician with unusual chest symptoms, neither the doctor nor the patient expects breast cancer; it often goes undiagnosed until it is more advanced.

Scientists have also found that male breast cancers are biologically and molecularly different compared to women's breast cancers, highlighting the need for more research to improve prognoses and survival rates in men. Risk factors also vary widely between men and women; this includes previous radiation treatments or hormone therapy, a family history of breast cancer (male or female) or liver disease. Males with Klinefelter syndrome are also at a higher risk of developing cancer.

Dr. Michael Garcia of Clearview Cancer Institute stressed the need for genetic testing in men with a family history of breast cancer, stating, "Men with family history of breast cancer should have genetic testing performed. Many breast cancer cases in men are men who have the BRCA-2 gene."

While women are well versed and studied in the art of manual breast checks, as they are constantly reminded to periodically feel for lumps and abnormal areas, this is not standard information given to men. To check a breast manually, simply take the tips of the fingers, and feel around the soft tissue of the breasts, ensuring to go as far as the underarm, applying light pressure with the fingertips in a walking motion.

Garcia said, "Lumps are usually found on the breast by the nipple, but can be anywhere in the breast tissue."

If any abnormal lumps, discharge, raised areas or abnormally textured patches of skin are found, contact a doctor immediately.

Symptoms of male breast cancer can include:

- A painless lump or thickening in the breast tissue
- Changes to the skin covering the breast, such as dimpling, puckering, redness or scaling
- Changes to the nipple, such as redness or scaling, or a nipple that begins to turn inward
- Discharge from the nipple

Breast cancer can also disproportionately affect Black men. Reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) state that w2.7 of every 100,000 Black men are diagnosed with breast cancer each year, and they typically have a lower recovery and survival rate than their white peers. Males of color are 76% more likely to succumb to the disease, even with the same or similar treatments as white males.

Standard treatments can include hormone therapy, chemotherapy, radiation and surgical options such as mastectomies. Clinical trials are also an option if cancer cells are not responding to conventional treatment options. Many of the available treatments that are currently used and recommended are the product of successful clinical trials. An oncologist will evaluate a patient's health history and recommend a course of action and treatment to target the cancer cells.

Survival rates for breast cancer in males vary greatly, depending on age, health history, stage of disease at diagnosis and efficacy of treatment options used. If cancer is only located in the breast tissue, the five-year survival rate is 95%; if cancer has spread to the lymph nodes, the survival rate is 83%; if cancer has spread to a distant area in the body, survival rates are 19%. Keep in mind that 47% of breast cancer diagnosed in males is diagnosed at an early localized stage. Even with a more advanced stage of cancer at diagnosis, new treatments are always becoming available to help people fighting breast cancer maintain and keep a satisfactory quality of life for a significant length of time. Early detection and intervention are key, and can drastically improve outcomes and survival rates.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
OCTOBER 14, 2023

Hanceville Public Library hosts monthly homeschool Art Club

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — "It looks like an onion with legs!" "It's a Walmart bag, bro!" Exclamations and chatter fill the usual stillness of the Hanceville Public Library. It is Oct. 11, the second Wednesday of the month, and that means it's time for Art Club with the Hanceville/Center Hill Homeschool Group. Moms gather at a central table, smiling sweetly, sharing stories of motherhood, all the while keeping eyes on exploring little ones as their older children seek out friends and wait for Art Club to begin.

Group Leader Angeline Riggs explained how the Homeschool Art Club came to fruition, saying, "We started meeting every Wednesday because the library had already had a storytime that Ms. Shirley had going on."

Riggs said growing children means growing interests, and the needs of the group changed.

"So we started coming for storytime and then our kids started growing up. So we started doing stuff for our bigger kids here.

"So the art club that we do is once a month on the second Wednesday of every month."

She said ages in the homeschool group range from preschoolers to teens on their way into high school, meaning Art Club has to be tailored to each group.

Preschoolers happily corral into a playroom off to the side of the Library to paint with paper plates and primary colors.

Parents gather in the room to assist their children. Riggs actively tries to keep all ages active and engaged in Art Club.

"We try to do a small paint activity on Art Day for the little ones, too," she said. "It helps them feel involved."

Older children gather in a back room equipped with a whiteboard, an office table and several mismatched office chairs.

One by one the chairs fill up, and the room erupts with giggles, greetings and conversation between old friends as artists trickle in and join the group.

Students take turns choosing the project and instructing each monthly Art Club meeting. This month, it was 15-year-old Abby Wisener who led the class. For October's design, Wisener chose an array of pumpkins, telling the others, "Today I'm doing different size pumpkins in different shapes." Artists jump into action, recreating their versions of Wiseman's design, smashing their pumpkins out of the park.

The Hanceville/Center Hill Homeschool Group meets every Wednesday, at the Hanceville Public Library with Art Club the second Wednesday of each month.

The Hanceville Public Library will also host a used book sale on Oct. 21 beginning at 8 a.m.; all proceeds will help the library continue to support homeschooling groups and local children. The Hanceville Public Library is located at 201 Commercial St. and can be reached at 256-352-0685.



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Hanceville Public Library hosted local children and homeschool groups for a monthly Art Club on Oct. 11.

Cullman Regional trustee named to statewide board

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Ginger Hogeland, Ed.D., a member of the board of Cullman Regional Medical Center, was recently elected to serve on the board of the Alabama Council of Hospital Trustees (ACHT). The statewide council serves to support hospital trustees through educational programs, publications and networking. The organization, which is an affiliate of the Alabama Hospital Association, is comprised of trustees from facilities across Alabama.

A lifelong educator, Dr. Hogeland is currently working with Cullman County dual enrollment students at Wallace State Community College. Prior to that she was a systemwide supervisor in the Cullman County School system and principal at Good Hope Primary School. She has been an active member of a number of community organizations, including serving as president of the Cullman Lions Branch Club, earning the distinction as the 2021-2022 Lioness of the Year. Previously she served on the boards of the Cullman County American Red Cross and the Alabama Lions High School Leadership Forum. Hogeland has also been active in the National Association of School Personnel Administrators, the National Education Law Association and Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce.

"Local hospital trustees are the lifeblood of our organizations," said Donald E. Williamson, president of the Alabama Hospital Association.

"They not only serve a critical governance role, but they represent their communities, ensuring the needs of local citizens are met. Being a hospital trustee is a time-consuming position, so it's even more admirable that local leaders like Dr. Hogeland would agree to share their time and talent on the state trustee board."

The Alabama Hospital Association, based in Montgomery, is a statewide trade organization that represents more than 100 hospitals and numerous other health care providers by offering membership services designed to enhance the provision of health care in Alabama.



CONTRIBUTED

Dr. Ginger Hogeland

Cullman Whataburger holds soft opening; official opening Saturday

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman's newest burger joint hosted a soft opening Wednesday, Oct. 11, inviting local officials and VIPs to sample the menu. Whataburger's arrival has been highly anticipated by locals since it was announced in October 2022.

Marketing Manager Shaundra Lancaster, Director of Operations Andrew Lanyon and Operating Partner Moe Rahman patrolled the freshly waxed floor, ensuring their VIP guests had an equally VIP experience. Invitees including Cullman County Commission members, law enforcement officers and more of Cullman's city and county officials were welcomed. Later, team members welcomed friends and family.

Lanyon described the soft opening timeline Wednesday, saying, "We have our friends and families event tonight. From 5-6:30 we kick off our VIP.

So all those city officials will be here from 5-6:30. From 6:30-8, it will be friends and families up there with the staff. Their families come in and kind of get to see their work and kind of test our product."

It wasn't just about testing product and practicing customer service, Lanyon added. It was also about preparing the team and familiarizing them with the community and the product.

"It gives the team that exposure to what they can expect on opening day, you know; it's beneficial on both sides."

Whataburger officially opens to the public Saturday, Oct. 14, at 11 a.m. and will be open 24 hours day, 364 days a year.

Lanyon said cheekily, "We open Saturday at 11 a.m., and we will be open to the public and open 24 hours a day 364 days a year, and the one day we're closed is Christmas."

Whataburger is located at 2001 Cherokee Ave. SW in Cullman.



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Whataburger on Cherokee Avenue Southwest hosted a soft opening on Oct. 11.

Les Dames hosting 2nd annual Witches Ride Oct. 22

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Good witches and bad witches alike will descend on Cullman's Warehouse District to drink witches brew, glide through the cobbled streets (on golf carts) and throw candy to spectators on Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023, as Les Dames Cullman kicks off its second annual Witches Ride.

With live music, inflatables, face painting and plenty of food vendors, it's a parade you won't want to miss.

The ride aims to raise funds to install feminine hygiene product dispensers and organic products in every school in Cullman County to meet the needs of young women who may be struggling to afford those monthly necessities.

Les Dames Cullman Founder Laura Quick reflected on the inaugural ride hosted in 2022, noting that while the rain presented some challenges, women still showed up and ready to be boots on the ground - or, golf carts, on the ground - to show their support for girls and young women in Cullman. Quick also noted a few changes in the flow of the event.

"This event was our first ever in 2022 and we marveled at how women showed up even in the rain to 'ride' for the young women in our community," said Quick.

"We learned so much from our first event and we have made some changes! Our parade will go straight down First Avenue and we are hoping families and children will gather down First Avenue in the Warehouse District.

"The 'witches' will start throwing candy as they come out of the parking lot across from Festhalle and will continue throwing until they reach Flavors (Bakery)!"

The cost per individual to walk or ride in the parade is $50, the amount Les Dames has estimated to cover products for one girl or young woman for one school year.

"For every 'witch' that registers at $50, it's like going back and buying feminine hygiene products for another young woman under the age of 19," said Quick. "It's amazing to think of that way!"

While many have asked about product donations, Quick shared that it's easier for Les Dames to accept monetary donations to continue outfitting the schools with dispensers and streamlined products through its partnership with Aunt Flow, a company that aligns with Les Dames' mission of ending period poverty.

"The company we are partnering with to outfit schools is called Aunt Flow. We chose this company because all of the products they offer are completely organic.

"We were intentional about finding a feminine hygiene partner that could provide the most safe products," explained Quick, who explained the dispensers also make it easier on school employees to restock and maintain the products.

"Les Dames currently has no overhead and is fully volunteer run. This means when you donate, 100% of the money is going straight to our effort to eradicate period product poverty in Cullman County and gather women for mentorship opportunities!" added Quick.



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Cullman showed up in droves to support local students and ride with the witches Sunday, Oct. 30, 2022.

While the event is aimed at raising funds for girls and young women, Quick made sure to mention that the event is open to all to join in on the festivities - warlocks and wizards are welcome, too!

"Please know this event is so fun for the whole family! Let your kids dress up and bring friends and the whole family!" she said.

"Our events are designed to raise awareness, to gather women in meaningful ways and to help all of us pursue more generous ways to live."

To register to join in on the parade, visit https://tinyurl.com/LDWitchesRide. Registration ends Monday, Oct. 16, 2023. Attending the parade is free. To learn more about Les Dames, visit www.lesdamescullman.com.

Cullman County youth win big at Alabama National Fair

Full list of winners available at CullmanTribune.com



MARY JOHNS WILSON/ALFA FARMERS

Rex Harrison of Cullman County exhibited the Chianina Reserve Champion during the Alabama National Fair Youth Beef Cattle Heifer Show. The show was Oct. 8 at Teague Arena in Montgomery. Fair livestock shows are sponsored by the Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance. Harrison is pictured with Federation and Alfa President Jimmy Parnell, right, and judge Abigayle Pollock of Tennessee, left.



MARY JOHNS WILSON/ALFA FARMERS

Rex Harrison of Cullman County exhibited the All Other Breeds (AOB) British Reserve Champion during the Alabama National Fair Youth Beef Cattle Heifer Show. The show was Oct. 8 at Teague Arena in Montgomery. Fair livestock shows are sponsored by the Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance. Harrison is pictured with Federation and Alfa President Jimmy Parnell, right, and judge Abigayle Pollock of Tennessee, left.



MARY JOHNS WILSON/ALFA FARMERS

Ethan Tapscott of Cullman County exhibited the All Other Breeds (AOB) British Champion during the Alabama National Fair Youth Beef Cattle Heifer Show. The show was Oct. 8 at Teague Arena in Montgomery. Fair livestock shows are sponsored by the Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance. Tapscott is pictured with Federation and Alfa President Jimmy Parnell, right, and judge Abigayle Pollock of Tennessee, left.



MARY JOHNS WILSON/ALFA FARMERS

Easton Elrod of Cullman County, left, exhibited the Grand Champion Market Wether at the Alabama National Fair Youth Goat Show Oct. 7 in Montgomery. He is shown with judge Tim Hubbard of Charlotte, Mich., and fellow exhibitor Mason Smith of Blount County. Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance sponsored the youth livestock programs at the fair.



MARY JOHNS WILSON/ALFA FARMERS

Etta Hudson of Cullman County exhibited the AOB Continental Reserve Champion during the Alabama National Fair Youth Beef Cattle Market Show. The show was Oct. 7 at Teague Arena in Montgomery. Fair livestock shows are sponsored by the Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance. Hudson is pictured with judge Abigayle Pollock.



MARY JOHNS WILSON/ALFA FARMERS

Cole Eubanks of Cullman County exhibited the Charolais Champion/Charolais Reserve Champion during the Alabama National Fair Youth Beef Cattle Heifer Show. The show was Oct. 8 at Teague Arena in Montgomery. Fair livestock shows are sponsored by the Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance. Eubanks is pictured with Federation and Alfa President Jimmy Parnell, right, and judge Abigayle Pollock of Tennessee, left.



MARY JOHNS WILSON/ALFA FARMERS

Senior Premier Exhibitors in the Beef Show were recognized at the Alabama National Fair Oct. 7. They were, from left, Amelia Thrower of Marshall County, first; Annabelle Wesley of Pike County, second; Lyndee Meadows of Randolph County, third; Mary Elliott Martin of Lee County, fourth; Etta Hudson of Cullman County, fifth.



MARY JOHNS WILSON/ALFA FARMERS

Allie Hembree of Cullman County exhibited the Hereford Champion during the Alabama National Fair Youth Beef Cattle Heifer Show. The show was Oct. 8 at Teague Arena in Montgomery. Fair livestock shows are sponsored by the Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance. Hembree is pictured with Federation and Alfa President Jimmy Parnell.



MARY JOHNS WILSON/ALFA FARMERS

Beginner Showmanship winners in the Alabama National Fair Youth Goat Show Oct. 7 were, from left, Brooklyn Ray of Cullman County, first place; Georgia Flowers of Pike County, second place; Boone Maples of Lee County, third place; Macie Barfoot of Elmore County, fourth place; and Luke Sexton of Autauga County, fifth place. Beginner Showmanship is for exhibitors ages 4-8. Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance sponsored the youth livestock programs at the fair.



MARY JOHNS WILSON/ALFA FARMERS

Intermediate showmanship winners at the Alabama National Fair Youth Beef Show were, from left, Sara Beth Faust of Blount County, first; Hudson Manning of Autauga County, second; Lillian Smith of Chilton County, third; Paycee Sewell of Dale County, fourth; and Allie Hembree of Cullman County, fifth. The show was Oct. 7 at Teague Arena in Montgomery and was sponsored by the Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance. Junior showmanship includes youth ages 13-15. Winners are pictured with Federation and Alfa Insurance President Jimmy Parnell.



MARY JOHNS WILSON/ALFA FARMERS

Intermediate showmanship winners at the Alabama National Fair Youth Beef Show were, from left, Sara Beth Faust of Blount County, first; Hudson Manning of Autauga County, second; Lillian Smith of Chilton County, third; Paycee Sewell of Dale County, fourth; and Allie Hembree of Cullman County, fifth. The show was Oct. 7 at Teague Arena in Montgomery and was sponsored by the Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance. Junior showmanship includes youth ages 13-15. Winners are pictured with Federation and Alfa Insurance President Jimmy Parnell.



MARY JOHNS WILSON/ALFA FARMERS

Beginner Premier Exhibitor winners in the Alabama National Fair Youth Goat Show Oct. 7 in Montgomery were, from left, Boone Trimm of Blount County, first place; Brooklyn Ray of Cullman County, second place; Macie Barfoot of Elmore County, third place; Georgia Flowers of Pike County, fourth place (not pictured); and Levi Sexton of Autauga County, fifth place. Beginner Premier Exhibitor is for exhibitors ages 4-8. It includes showmanship, livestock evaluation and a written quiz. Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance sponsored the youth livestock programs at the fair. t



MARY JOHNS WILSON/ALFA FARMERS

Aiden Brice of Cullman County exhibited the Reserve Grand Champion Commercial Doe at the Alabama National Fair Youth Goat Show Oct. 7 in Montgomery. His goat was also the Reserve Champion Junior Commercial Doe. He is shown with judge Tim Hubbard of Charlotte, Mich. Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance sponsored the youth livestock programs at the fair.



MARY JOHNS WILSON/ALFA FARMERS

Junior Premier Exhibitor winners in the Alabama National Fair Youth Goat Show Oct. 7 in Montgomery were, from left, Jessi Maples of Lee County, first place; Walton Epperson of Chambers County, second place; Aiden Brice of Cullman County, third place; Easton Elrod of Cullman County, fourth place; and Chase Burkett of Montgomery County, fifth place (not pictured). Junior Premier Exhibitor is for exhibitors ages 9-12. It includes showmanship, livestock evaluation and a written quiz. Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance sponsored the youth livestock programs at the fair.



MARY JOHNS WILSON/ALFA FARMERS

Junior Showmanship winners in the Alabama National Fair Youth Goat Show Oct. 7 were, from left, Jessi Maples of Lee County, first place; Walton Epperson of Chambers County, second place; Levi Franklin of Geneva County, third place; Aiden Brice of Cullman County, fourth place; and Chase Burkett of Montgomery County, fifth place. Junior Showmanship is for exhibitors ages 9-12. Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance sponsored the youth livestock programs at the fair.

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Cates (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall on Friday announced the indictments of Joshua Franklin Hill, 33, of Walker County and Cyerena Cheyenne Styles, 28, of Walker County for the 2015 death of Eric Cates. Cates and his dog Gypsy were found deceased in the Empire community on March 21, 2015. Hill and Styles were each indicted on one count of murder. The indictments were served, and defendants arrested on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. Styles was arrested by the Sumiton Police Department and Hill was arrested by the U.S. Marshal Fugitive Task Force.

On Oct. 5, 2023, Marshall's Special Prosecution and Criminal Trials Divisions, in partnership with the Sumiton Police Department and former agents of Walker County Sheriff's Office, presented evidence to a Walker County grand jury which resulted in Hill's indictment on one count of murder and Styles' indictment on one count of murder.

The Attorney General's Office investigated the case at the request of the Walker County Sheriff's Office.

If convicted of murder, a Class A felony, both Hill and Styles will face a range of punishment from not less than 10 years to not more than 99 years or life imprisonment.

Due to the possibility of additional suspects, no other information about the investigation or the defendant's alleged crimes can be released at this time.

Eric Cates was 32 on March 21, 2015, when he and his dog Gypsy were found dead inside Cates' burned pickup truck behind the old Empire School in Walker County. Cates' mother Tobbie Stover posted to Facebook Friday, Oct. 13, 2023:

"We are very emotional at this time but wanted to share this great information about two arrests of some involved in Eric and Gypsys murders. I cannot thank those of you who have supported us over the past 8 1/2 years as we have fought for Justice enough. Your prayers and encouragement has been warmly welcomed.

"I want to express our appreciation to the Alabama State Attorney General Steve Marshall, his Investigators, legal team and staff that has made theses arrests possible, along with the Sumiton Chief of Police TJ Burnett and the Sumiton Police Department.

"Had it not been for Secrets True Crime, Echo 7Foxtrot and Chief TJ Burnett , I doubt seriously if we would be reading about the arrests today. Again, Thank everyone for a job well done. We will release more info and keep the AGs updates coming as we get them. Keep praying, there is more work to be done in this case."

Obituary Announcements: Oct. 12-13

Ronald Allen Stone, 49
Ronald Allen Stone, age 49, of Crane Hill, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023. He was born Jan. 17, 1974, to Lawrence Randole Stone and Linda Mae Stone. Mr. Stone was a loving husband, father, brother, and friend. He will be missed by all. He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, April Stone; daughter, Kayla Stone; brothers, Randole (Karla) Stone II and Jonathan (Jenny) Stone; and a host of nieces, nephews, family, and friends. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Jean L. Sellers, 83
Graveside service for Jean L. Sellers, age 83, of Vinemont, will be Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Shiloh Freewill Baptist Cemetery in Gordo, with Tony Latham officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Sellers passed away Friday, Oct. 13, 2023, at her residence. She was born Sept. 5, 1940, to Grady Latham and Edna Roberta Stine Latham. She was a member of St. Andrews Methodist Church and was a minister's wife. She was also a wonderful seamstress, loved to collect buttons, and loved working in her flower gardens. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Bro. Donald Leon Sellers. She is survived by her four daughters; Pam (Jackie) Mayfield, Karen Sellers, Deborah (Jakey) Barrentine, and Teresa (Gary) Lasdon; brothers, John (Pat) Latham, and Donald (Vivian) Latham; sisters, Doris (Tom) Rogers, and Alice Martin; grandchildren, Jessica Mayfield, and Terri (Justin) Johnson; great-grandchildren, Jazlynn Tudor, Jaxton Tudor, Jaydon Tudor, Julia Tudor, Logan Johnson, and Mia Johnson; extended family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullman-funeralhome.com.

Deborah Ann Wilmot, 66
Deborah Ann Wilmot, age 66, of Cullman, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, at her residence. She was born May 6, 1957, in Michigan to Michael Filka and Catherine Filka. She was preceded in death by her parents, one sister and one brother. Survivors include her daughters, Brandy (Marek) Jones, Kristine Kist, and Desire Whitford; grandchildren, Amanda Rogers, Kaitlyn Wilmot, Zoe McLaughlin, Trystan Smith, Sophia Smith, Kylie Whitford, and Clayton Parker; and four sisters. Karen Lynn Harden, 69
Funeral service for Karen Lynn Harden, age 69, of Vinemont, will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 16, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Randy Makemson officiating. Visitation will be from noon until 2 p.m. prior to the service. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Ms. Harden passed away on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023, at Woodland Village Health Care. She was born June 4, 1954, to Earl Shaddix and Betty Shaddix. She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her son, Robert Malone, and brother, David Shaddix.

Gordon Albion Hudson, 78
Funeral service for Gordon Albion Hudson, 78, of Cullman, will be at 3 p.m., Monday, Oct. 16, 2023, at East Side Baptist Church with interment in Simcoe Methodist Cemetery, Rev. Sam Hollis and Rev. Matt Smith officiating. The family will receive friends at the church from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Hudson passed away Friday, Oct. 13, 2023, at CRMC. He was born Feb. 24, 1945, to Gordon Albion Hudson, Sr. and Helen Craft Hudson. He graduated in 1963 from Fairview High School. He married Rhea Tankersley in 1964. He owned and operated Hudson Roofing Company for 30 plus years. I'm sure if you have known him, he has told you a really bad joke through the years. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Rhea Hudson; daughters, Charese (Mitch) Morris, Channon (Brad) Wilhelm; grandchildren, Cydney (Blake) Rowell, Gunter (Leah Marie) Morris, Hudson (Lindsey) Wilhelm, Griffin (Tess) Morris and Jason Wilhelm; great-grandchildren, Noah Rowell, Brinley Rowell, Graham Morris, Landyn Morris; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullman-funeralhome.com.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Sopping syrup with homemade biscuits

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Last Saturday, I made my annual pilgrimage to Loachapoka, Alabama. Yes, you are quite correct, it is a native American name. The name means "Turtle killing place." Loachpoka is a quaint but adorable little town that is well worth visiting, unless, of course, you happen to be a turtle. A milder translation of the name is "Turtle gathering place." In case you've never heard of Loachapoka, and do not have the foggiest idea where it is located, just go to Auburn and head West on Highway 14. Travel about five-or-six miles, and you will find yourself in downtown Loachapoka. It will take you only about ten minutes to get there from Auburn and less time than that to drive through town.

Unless, of course, you happen to go there on Syrup Sopping Day, then you had better allow about 30 minutes. Don't drive "through" town on that day, but stop... stop and stay for a while. Wherever you are coming from, and ever how long it takes you to get there, it is worth the trip. Yes, you've already missed it this year, but write it on your calendar for next October. No, it won't take you until then to get there, but if you don't write it down now, you'll forget, and then you'll be upset when you remember that you forgot!

For the past several years, I have had the privilege of playing and singing on the main stage on Syrup Sopping Saturday. This year, beginning at noon, I did a 45-minute set of some original music, classic soft rock, and Christian.

I even played our National Anthem on the harmonica, while the crowd spontaneously joined in and sang the words.

They were quite moving! I went a little early this year to hear my friend Tom Tyson and his band play right before me. Tom even hung around to play with me on his mandolin for a couple of tunes.

I always try to get there early anyway, at least early enough to have breakfast there. That's because they have biscuits and syrup.

They usually have regular biscuits and sweet-potato biscuits. Sometimes, they run out, so that's why I go early. I have found it quite difficult to sop up syrup, if I don't have a biscuit to sop with. It can be done, but it is quite messy, not to mention it's rude to lick your plate!

I am a well-experienced syrup sopper. Growing up, Mama used to make homemade biscuits most mornings. Jean and I still have them sometimes, but Pillsbury usually makes them. We had two kinds of syrup back when. We had local farm-made Sand Mountain sorghum or store-bought Golden Eagle.

You have to have at least two biscuits to sop syrup. You break the first one into two pieces and smother it with your favorite kind of syrup.

Then, once you've eaten both sides of that biscuit, because you poured way too much syrup on them, it ran off your biscuits and covers much of the rest of your plate.

That's when the second biscuit comes into play. You use it to sop up as much of the remaining syrup as possible. Please be warned though, that a third biscuit may be required to sop up all of the syrup.

If it is not required, simply pour a little more syrup on your plate and it will be. Of course, you can always break open another biscuit and start all over again!

Now that you know how to sop syrup, don't forget to show up next fall for Syrup Sopping at Loachapoka! See you there.

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

HISTORY

Files from yesteryear: 1936, 1950

From the files of 1936

Mr. G.W. Tingle passed away on October 10. There were 12 children born to this union. Burial was at Mars Hill, Tennessee.

Attorney John H. Chapman has located in Cullman.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Tucker left for Georgia last week, where they will make their home according to Mrs. Ellen Sinyard and children.

George Screws and Mrs. Willie Reid were married last Friday.

Mrs. Jewell Miller and children from Trade were the guests of the Jackson Guthery's on Sunday.

Miss Grace Metz and Mr. Morris of Albany were married on Saturday evening.

A bird dog belonging to Lot Jones was killed by lightning, about the center of the street, in front of Leeth Bank, on Monday afternoon.

Students enrolled at the University of Alabama in 1936 are Harry and Dwight Fuller and Kathleen Calvert.

Those married this week were Leon Murphree, 22, to Lucille Skipper, 18.

The Reverend H.R. Edwards preached at Shelton Grove on Saturday and Sunday.

From the files of 1950

Ken Goodson's pear tree cannot figure out this year's weather. It bloomed in January and is blooming again.

Mr. and Mrs. George Stiefelmeyer, Junior have a new daughter, Betty Louise.

Attending the Explorer Scout rendezvous in the Bankhead Forest last weekend were Arville Whisenhunt, Robert Kelley, Bob Mashburn, Claude Schlosser, Reverend Marion Schwallie, Shirley Wood, Jerry Willis, Jene Glasscock, Jerry Patrick, Pat Padgett, J.D. Morgan, J.S. Pearce, J. Ray McDowell, Othel Horsely, Virgil Barnett, James L. Louvorn, Ellis Calvert, Edwin Calvert, Chyron Wood, Sonny Crawford, David Quattlebaum, Alvin Hinkle, Don Robinson and Chriss Doss.

POET'S CORNER

Freedom | By: Randy C. Hale

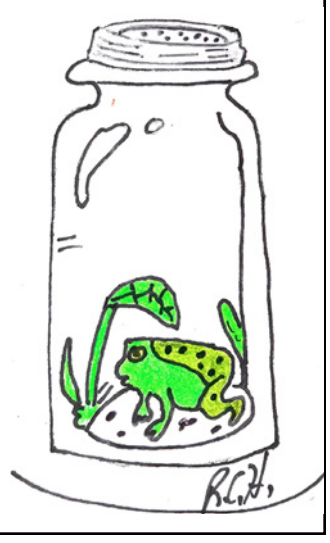
I remember in the third grade when one of the boys in our class brought a frog in a jar to school.
He had a few leaves in the jar, and some holes punched into the top lid.
When I asked him what he planned to do with it, he said, he might just "kill it." or keep it in the jar.

It seemed to me that no one would
want that or to live in a jar, so I bought the frog with my milk money, a whole fifteen cents, and brought him home and turned him loose
near the edge of the woods behind my grandparent's home.

When my grandparents told my dad what I had done, he laughed and
informed me that this other boy
might make a business out of me.
He even kidded me for a few days,
calling me "frog."

My mother was extremely proud of me for she would save a spider if
she could, saying everything wants
to live, and I think she was right.
I know I still do, even nearing
sixty-two.

But freedom is important as well,
and worth its price, being
fifteen cents or whatever
it costs in life.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

OCT. 14

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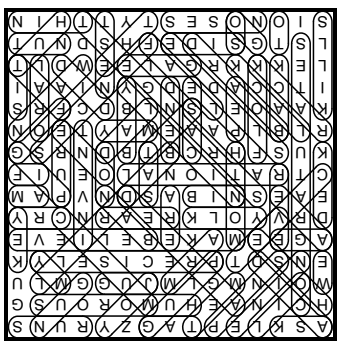
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

OCT. 14

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ANSWERS:



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

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
OCTOBER 14, 2023

Hanceville (from Front)

Cayla Grace Murphy
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HANCEVILLE, Ala. — At its meeting Thursday, the Hanceville City Council expressed frustration about unpaid fire dues. The dues, a $13 monthly charge benefiting Hanceville Fire Rescue, are currently not mandatory, but the council is considering changing that - if it can.

"It costs a lot of money to run a full-time fire department," said Nail. "Advanced Life Support, fire trucks costing half a million dollars. Everybody ought to do their part."

Nail said volunteer fire departments from the surrounding area are losing volunteers due to lack of interest or incentive, leaving Hanceville Fire Rescue responsible for calls in far reaches of the county. Nail shared concerns about these departments shuttering for good in the future.

"Some of the departments are closing down now," stated Hanceville Fire Chief Roger Green.

"It's a crisis situation," responded Nail.

After being presented with a multiple-page list of those who are not paying dues - which included several large and well-known businesses that call Hanceville home - the council discussed at length the possibility of making fire dues mandatory.

City Attorney Dan Willingham spoke plainly when he said there is no legal precedent to support the council making fire dues mandatory, but he said counties like Jefferson and Coosa have done away with dues and instead implemented a tax instead.

The council elected to table the matter to allow Willingham more time to research the legal side of the issue.

In other business:

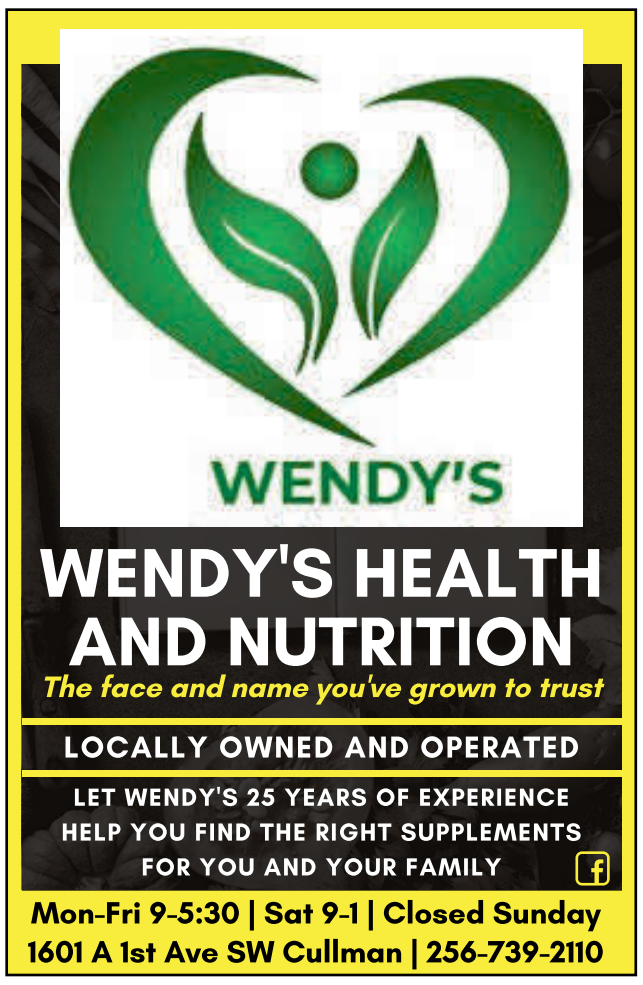
- The council discussed purchasing a 3-acre plot of land close to the city for dumping brush. Currently, the City is paying $450 monthly to dump brush outside of the city.

- The council decided not to purchase a dump truck, given that there was no urgent need to do so.

- The council examined three estimates for a fire extinguishing system for the Hanceville jail, ranging from $11,000 to $16,000.

- The council discussed a possible grant from Homeland Security with Police Chief Joshua Howell; Howell is following up with representatives to see what next steps the City would need to take.

The next regular Hanceville City Council meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023, at Hanceville City Hall. The work session begins at 5 p.m. with the meeting called to order at 5:30.







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