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NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

CMS 7th grade downs Hartselle 12-0 to win Tennessee Valley Championship, cap perfect season

» PAGE 4

Vinemont Elementary named Alabama Science of Reading Spotlight School

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. — Teachers, faculty and students at Vinemont Elementary School were recognized on Oct. 17 for their dedication and commitment to ensuring all children in their school are able to read at or above their current grade level before they leave third grade. Vinemont Elementary was one of 12 schools across the state recognized as an Alabama Science of Reading Spotlight School by the Alabama Reading Initiative.

Schools and students were evaluated based on two consecutive years of ACAP scores in Reading and English Language Arts, along with considerations for how scores have improved in that time as well as their commitment to meeting and exceeding the Alabama Literacy Act's requirements.

The Resolution reads as follows: » PAGE 4



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette congratulated students, faculty and teachers Tuesday, Oct. 17.

Best in show

Local teen shines at 17th Annual Mr. Painterman 'Rhythms of Color' Art Fest & Student Art Competition



JEANIE RHODES

Local teen artist Marie Rhodes poses next to her submission to the 17th Annual Mr. Painterman "Rhythms of Color" Art Fest & Student Art Competition on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023, in Birmingham.

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Hundreds poured into The Harbert Center in Birmingham on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023. In a sea of colorful canvases and other mediums sat two vases on a pillar, aptly named "Sassy Vase" and "Wonky Vase," created by Cullman artist Marie Rhodes.

Rhodes, a 16-year-old potter with only a year and a half of experience under her belt was shocked to walk away with the prestigious title of Best in Show at the 17th Annual Mr. Painterman "Rhythms of Color" Art Fest & Student Art Competition.

Rhythms of Color is a multidisciplinary art festival and art competi- » PAGE 7



JEANIE RHODES

A close-up of the two pieces submitted by Marie Rhodes to the 17th Annual Mr. Painterman "Rhythms of Color" Art Fest & Student Art Competition on Saturday, Oct. 14, in Birmingham. "Sassy Vase," left, and "Wonky Vase," right, were thrown, sculpted and glazed by Rhodes.

Joran van der Sloot sentenced for extortion and wire fraud, admits to murdering Natalee Holloway



CONTRIBUTED

Natalee Holloway » PAGE 8

Berlin Town Council celebrates clerk's achievement, talks roads and events



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Berlin Town Clerk Keirstyn Montgomery shows her Municipal Revenue Officer certification Monday evening, Oct. 16. » PAGE 7

Wallace State unveils first EV heavy duty truck for Diesel Technology program

» PAGE 8

PET OF THE WEEK

Grady



DONNA RUTTKAY

Grady's nose was a little itchy... don't worry, he's got it. » PAGE 2

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Oct. 18

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Oct. 18, 2023. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.
GJ = grand jury; **FTA** = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
No arrests or incidents reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS
Oct. 13
• theft of property-4th degree; Marathon; 2nd Ave. SW; miscellaneous; $5

Oct. 16
• identity theft; person
• domestic violence; person; Walker St. SW
• theft of property-1st degree; Wheeler Machine & Parts; cash
• leaving scene of accident; Cullman EMS; 2nd Ave. NW; damage to 2021 Ford E350SD

Oct. 17
• theft of property-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $764

ARRESTS
Oct. 16 – 17
Boatright, William S.; 33
• FTA- theft of property-4th degree
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Peeples Jr., Christopher D.; 31
• public intoxication

Puckett, Logan I.; 22
• FTA- resisting arrest
• FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA- speeding
• FTA- run stop sign
• FTA- improper lane usage
• FTA- following too close

Underwood, Adam C.; 45
• theft of property-4th degree

Tucker, Daniel L.; 40
• carrying brass knuckles

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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Grady (from Front)

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

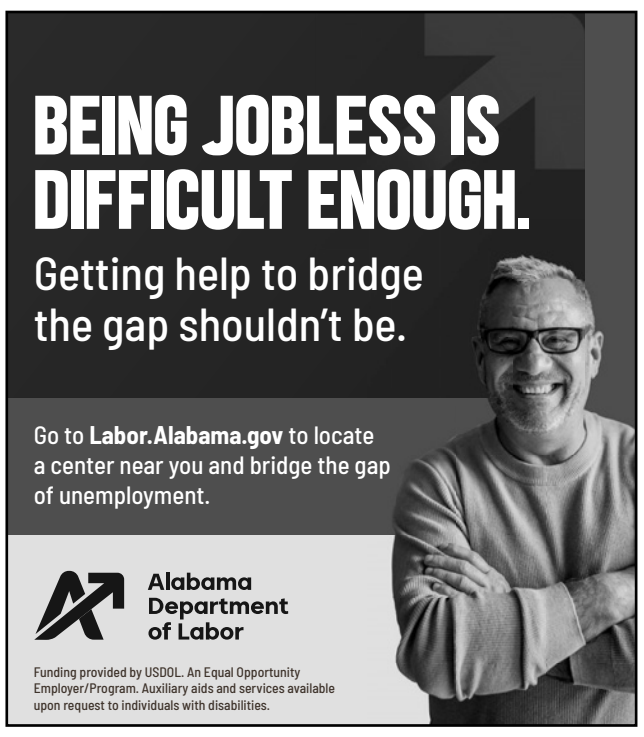
CULLMAN, Ala. — Grady, an approximately 2-year-old male terrier and hound mix with a dark-toned tricolor coat is available for adoption at the Cullman County Animal Shelter.

Grady is a simple guy with a low-to-medium energy level. He's sensitive, deeply attuned to the people around him. He cherishes the time he gets to spend with humans, and loves to give them all of his attention. Grady practically floats on a leash, navigating the shelter recreation scene with ease. His muscular and slender build will make him the perfect size to curl up at your feet as you read on the porch in the coming chilly weather or accompany you on a hike as you observe the changing colors of the leaves. He has a good understanding of personal boundaries and would, without a doubt, be the perfect fellow for a therapy, companion or hiking dog.

Ready to add Grady to your family's fall festivities? Head over to Cullman County Animal Shelter at 935 Convent Road NE, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for a meet and greet.

His adoption fee includes neuter, DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet and microchip. Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmananimalshelter@co.cullman.al.us.

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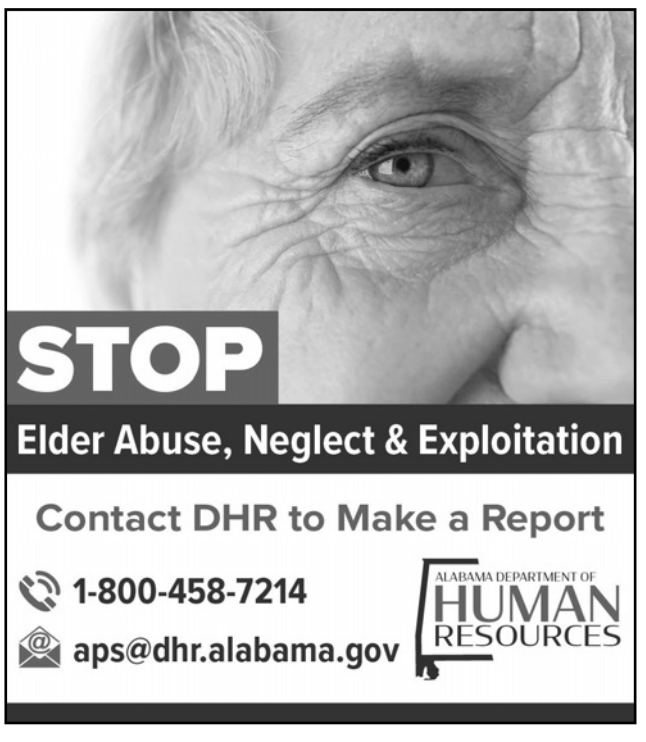




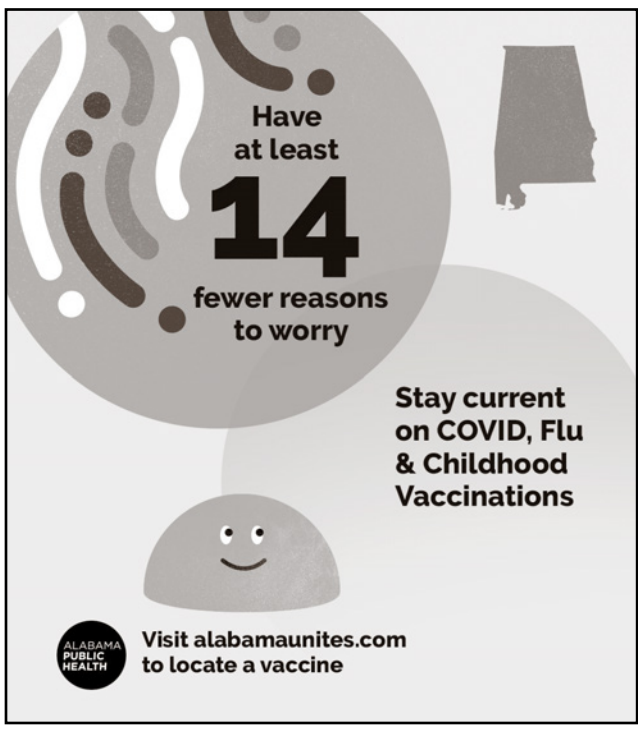
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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.
• Friday, Oct. 20 - 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship & testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Bring a dish, dessert or drink for a potluck meal at 6:30. Nursery provided!
• Saturday, Oct. 21 - 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank
• Sunday, Oct. 22 - Prayer - 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. 22 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area. Call 256-841-2060 for pickup. Breakfast at 9. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise & worship and message by Pastors Bobby & Pam Dodd -"First Fruits" - at 11.
• Sunday, Oct. 22 - 5 p.m. Healing service: Miracles, signs and wonders Follow those who believe! Join us! GOD answers prayers. We have seen a woman healed of pain in her fingers from arthritis, and another healed from pain in her legs from lymphedema. People are receiving a touch from the LORD!

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 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@linking-cullman.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.

The National Association of Retired and Active Federal Employees Meeting
Monday, Nov. 13, at the Golden Coral, 1720 Cherokee Ave. SW, Cullman. Meeting begins at noon. Dutch lunch prior to meeting. Our guest speaker, Cris Alexander, who is a federal Blue Cross Blue Shield representative, will share needed new information regarding a change in plans. All members, as well as nonmembers, are urged to attend.

COMMUNITY CORNER



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YARD SALE

HUGE YARD SALE Kelley Community Center, 1270 County Road 1435 Vinemont, AL 35179. October 20th & 21st 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you are looking for bargains we have them. Name brand clothes, shoes, handbags, Household items, Fishing items, Briggs & Stratton 6000W Generator, etc.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL

CMS 7th grade downs Hartselle 12-0 to win Tennessee Valley Championship, cap perfect season

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — After wrapping up an undefeated regular season against Arab last week, the Cullman Bearcats returned home Tuesday night to host this year's Tennessee Valley League seventh grade championship game and the 'Cats took down Hartselle 12-0 to claim the league title and complete the season 7-0. James Short recorded touchdown runs of 85 and 55 yards along with several big tackles on the defensive side of the ball to earn Championship Game MVP honors.

Bearcats Head Coach Gerald Turner has spent nearly two decades on the sideline at Cullman Middle School and has coached a lot of great teams and players but admits this year's team has been special to coach.

"It was just a lot of hard work and unity every day. No one ever complained, everyone just did their job and did what they were supposed to do. We do a lot of different stuff here at the middle school. We throw the ball all around the field and use a lot of different formations, but these guys stepped right up and caught right on," Turner said.

"That's something special about these kids here. A lot of times when something doesn't work, we just draw it up in the dirt and they're smart enough to figure it out and that's what makes them special."

In addition to the efforts of his players, Turner wanted to acknowledge his coaching staff and the work they put in to help their players and teams reach their goals on and off the field.

"These teams are special. I've been here 18 years, 16 as a head coach and we went on a 34-game winning streak but it's just never enough for these guys, we just keep coaching, and the kids keep playing. Most of my assistant coaches played for me I've been here so long, and I couldn't ask for better help," Turner said.

"These guys take care of our kids, they love them, they teach them football but not only that, they teach them a lot about life.

"We use football to teach about life, that's really our job, the football will take care of itself."

After a high snap sailed over quarterback Shannon Wynn's head on the game's first play, the Bearcats made up for it on the very next snap when James Short took a handoff from Wynn 85 yards down the sideline for a touchdown to put Cullman in front 6-0 just one minute into the first quarter.

After both teams exchanged a pair of punts, the Tigers were able to put a drive together late in the second quarter and move into Bearcat territory but an interception by Walker Gentry stopped the drive short and gave the ball back to Cullman's offense near midfield. The 'Cats went into the halftime break leading 6-0 but Hartselle came out to start the third with another good drive.

The Tigers converted on fourth down to move the ball inside Cullman's 20-yard line but Short burst through the middle of the line on a blitz to make a big tackle for loss and set up fourth and long at the end of the third quarter.

On fourth down, Gentry broke up another Hartselle pass to force a turnover on downs and give the ball back to the Bearcats at the start of the fourth.

Just a few plays later, Short took off down the Cullman sideline for his second touchdown of the night, this time from 55 yards out, and made it a 12-0 game with just over three minutes to play.

The Tigers threatened to score one more time in the final minute of the game, but Levi Voss picked off a Hartselle pass and returned it all the way down to the 6-yard line to preserve the shutout and secure a 12-0, championship win for the Bearcats.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman Bearcats defeated Hartselle 12-0 Tuesday night to win this year's Tennessee Valley League seventh grade championship game and finish the season unbeaten.

Cullman Middle School's eighth grade team will be looking to finish its own perfect season Thursday night when they host Muscle Shoals for the eighth grade Tennessee Valley Championship Game at 6 p.m.

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Good Hope sweeps Oneonta to claim area championship

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — This year's 4A, Area 12 Tournament tipped off at Good Hope Tuesday night and the hosting Lady Raiders downed Oneonta to claim the area title and punch their ticket to the next round. After Oneonta swept Hanceville in three straight sets, Good Hope ended up sweeping the Lady Redskins 3-0 to capture another area championship.

Oneonta 3 - Hanceville 0 (Game One)

Oneonta held a slim 3-2 lead early on in the first set, then a big 7-0 run by the Lady Redskins pushed their lead to 10-2. A block point by Kate Sterling stopped the run and made it a 10-3 game, but Oneonta scored the next eight points to widen their lead to 18-3. An ace from Zoe Pitts made it an 18-5 game, and later on, a point by Eden Clements, an ace from Olivia Stallings, and a point by Alex Twitty cut it to 24-9. Oneonta, though, collected the final point as they ended up taking the first set, 25-9.

The Lady Redskins got out to a quick 7-2 lead in the second set, but the Lady Bulldogs trimmed it to 8-4 on a point by Clements, and later on, to 10-6 on an ace from Stallings. Another big run by Oneonta saw them increase their lead to 17-7, and they later held a 22-8 lead. Hanceville went on a mini run to cut into the deficit, as back-to-back aces from Clements made it a 22-11 game. They wouldn't get any closer after that, though, as the Lady Redskins would go on to take the second set, 25-12.

A point by Sterling, followed by an ace from Charity Barnes, gave Hanceville an early 3-1 lead in the third set, but Oneonta scored four straight points to take a 5-3 lead. They would later push their lead to 10-5, but a pair of points by Barnes made it a 10-8 game.

Later on, an ace from Stallings cut it to 13-10, but Oneonta went on yet another big run, scoring nine of the next 10 points, to widen their lead to 22-11. Hanceville looked for another late run to get back in the game; they scored four straight points, including an ace from Barnes, to make it a 22-15 game. Oneonta, though, put a stop to their run in a hurry, as they ended up collecting a 25-16 win in the third set.

Good Hope 3 – Oneonta 0 (Area Championship)

Good Hope got off to a strong start in the first set, as a kill by Emma Bailey, an ace from Charly Johnson, and a pair of points by Ivey Maddox, gave them a 6-3 lead. They later pushed it to 10-5, and later on, to 13-7 on an ace from Bailey. Oneonta, though, went on a little run to help cut it to 15-11, but led by a pair of aces from Carley Adams, the Lady Raiders pushed their lead to 20-11. The Lady Redskins cut it to 22-15 later in the set, but Good Hope made sure that they wouldn't get any closer after that, as a point by Johnson, and the set-winning ace from Campbell Koch, helped them seal the 25-15 win in the first set.

It was tight early on in the second set, but Good Hope broke a 3-3 tie with five straight points, which included a kill by Maddox, another ace from Adams, and back-to-back points by Molly Benefield, to take an 8-3 lead. Oneonta trimmed it to 9-6, but points by Johnson and Jolee McHan, plus an ace from Makenzie Cruce, gave the Lady Raiders a 13-6 lead. They later widened it to 16-7 on an ace from Koch. They continued to add onto their lead, as back-to-back aces from Bailey, and points by Maddox and Johnson helped Good Hope increase their lead to 24-8. Maddox delivered the set-winning kill to help give the Lady Raiders a 25-9 win in the second set.

The third set was a tight one throughout. Good Hope broke a 2-2 tie with three straight points, including points by Maddox and McHan, to give them a 5-2 lead. Oneonta would come back to take a 7-6 lead. They later made it 9-7, but the Lady Raiders regained the lead right back, as a pair of aces from Bailey, and a kill by Johnson, gave them a 12-9 lead. The Lady Redskins, though, would get the lead right back at 16-13, but Good Hope tied it up at 16. The Lady Redskins would later take an 18-16 lead, but the Lady Raiders got points from Koch and McHan, and an ace from Maddox, as that gave them a 21-18 lead. Oneonta cut it to 21-20, but Good Hope finished the set strong, as Maddox started things off with a kill, then Johnson followed that up with a block point to make it 23-20. It was Cruce that would collect the final two points of the game, as her game-winning ace helped the Lady Raiders seal the 25-20 win and the area championship.



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Good Hope Lady Raiders swept Oneonta Tuesday night to win the Class 4A, Area 12 championship.

Ivey Maddox, Charly Johnson, Campbell Koch, and Makenzie Cruce got All-Area for Good Hope, while Kate Sterling and Charity Barnes got it for Hanceville. Johnson got MVP for the area tournament.

Good Hope will be heading to the Super Regional tournament at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville next week.

Vinemont (from Front)

"WHEREAS, the Alabama Reading Initiative recognizes schools that have demonstrated a strong commitment to foundational literacy for Alabama's K-3 learners; and

WHEREAS, these schools demonstrate commitment to the components aligned with the Science of Reading as outlined in the Alabama Literacy Act; utilizing explicit, systematic, and differentiated reading instruction and interventions with extensive opportunities for practice, based on student need, for all students including those exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia; and

WHEREAS, the leadership in these schools work alongside the school's local reading specialist and teachers to deepen their understanding of the science of reading by fully participating in professional learning such as Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS); and

WHEREAS, the science of reading is considered an integral part of the educational processes to prevent and remediate reading difficulties for the purpose of ensuring all students read at or above grade level by the end of third grade; and

WHEREAS, data is utilized to monitor individual student reading progress, make necessary instructional adjustments, and provide additional instructional opportunities such as Tier III reading intervention, summer reading camp, and before/after school tutoring; and

WHEREAS, these schools have demonstrated reading growth in their third-grade outcome data that exceeds the average third grade reading growth of the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Reading Initiative recognizes these schools as 2022- 2023 Science of Reading Spotlight Schools, with the goal of highlighting effective structures and practices across the state of Alabama:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alabama State Board of Education does hereby commend the professional accomplishments of these schools who have been able to demonstrate reading growth based on their outcome data and replicable actions from their community of invested stakeholders, that they are Science of Reading Spotlight Schools in 2022-2023."

Students assembled in the gym and Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette took to the mic to speak directly to them, stating, "Today we're here at Vinemont Elementary because we are celebrating not only our students in the stands, but all of our teachers and faculty.

"Vinemont Elementary has been highlighted as an ARI Spotlight School in the state of Alabama. You are one of the top 14 schools (12 schools and two school districts) in the entire state of Alabama, so we want to celebrate with you guys!"

The Alabama State Department of Education shows that 86% of second graders and a whopping 94% of third graders at Vinemont Elementary are reading at or above their grade level. Teacher Kim Brown understands how hard the students worked to achieve those high numbers. Addressing the entire gymnasium of grade-schoolers, Brown spoke directly to them, saying, "All of you earned this honor. You should be very proud. You should go home and tell your parents what a great job you've done, because you all earned this award. Congratulations!"

Barnette arranged a congratulatory sweet treat for the assembly: a cake for teachers and faculty, and a freshly made chocolate chip cookie for each student. Barnette spilled the beans to the students and joked to the teachers, "Every student in here gets a cookie to eat on the way back to class. Sorry teachers!"

In 2024, the Spotlight Schools and districts will host officials and educators from around the state, in an attempt to share new methods and innovative approaches to increasing literacy skills in elementary-aged children.



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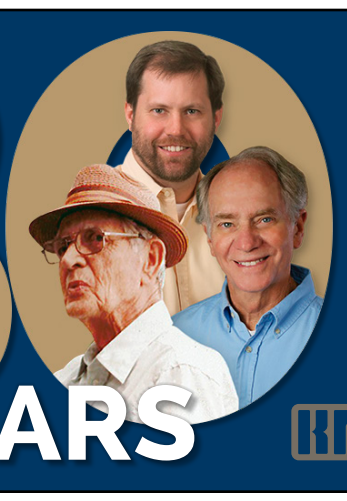
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...IN THAT WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS CHRIST DIED FOR US. ROMANS 5:8

80 YEARS
80 YEARS ANNIVERSARY 1943-2023



Thanks, Cullman!

KNIGHT-FREE INSURANCE AGENCY



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right, Dr. Chris LaGanke; Mayor Woody Jacobs; longtime patient of Dr. LaGanke, Ron Seybold; and Office Manager Debbie Simonsen pose in front of North Central Neurology Associates.

Jacobs proclaims Oct. 28 Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Awareness Day; MS walk at Heritage Park

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — As North Central Neurology Associates gears up for its Multiple Sclerosis (MS) awareness walk to be held Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs has proclaimed the day Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Day - a major win for informing the public of the condition and making patients and their families feel seen and heard, according to Office Manager Debbie Simonsen.

"It feels great!" exclaimed Simonsen, sharing that the return of the local MS awareness walk has been especially motivating for the practice's patients, especially for those whose conditions make them unable to tolerate long car rides.

"It's especially great for our patients with mobility issues who have difficulty traveling long distances. For the past few years the walk has been limited to Birmingham and Huntsville and our patients just couldn't make the drive," she said. "Now with it being local again, they are able to participate to walk. And, for those that are unable to walk, at least they can get out in their own community and be a part of the event."

Simonsen said the support of local government is key to expanding awareness about MS, and the many conditions that fall under the umbrella, many of which affect local community members.

"It helps to have the support of our mayor and the City of Cullman and to know that others recognize the need for awareness. MS is an umbrella for so many other problems," she explained.

"A lot of MS patients deal with loss of mobility, anxiety, depression, brain fog, inability to concentrate and so many other issues."

Simonsen said that while the condition affects nearly a million people in the United States, proper diagnosis and treatment can be a lengthy and confusing process for patients.

The condition typically affects those between the ages of 20-50, but it can hit at any time; the first well-defined case of MS was described by French neurologist Jean-Martin Chacot in 1868, and with the cause still unknown 155 years later, there's a lot of ground for the medical world to cover in finding a cure.

Simonsen urges residents to come out to Heritage Park on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, from 8 a.m.-noon to walk, raise awareness and raise funds for research and treatment of MS.

In addition to the walk, live music, T-shirts and raffles will be available.

"It's going to be a great morning filled with fun, and it gives hope to those affected with MS. Come out and walk for some of those who can't!" exclaimed Simonsen.

If you would like to donate an item to be raffled, it's not too late! Contact Debbie Simonsen at North Central Neurology Associates at 256-739-1210. To learn more about North Central Neurology Associates, visit www.facebook.com/northcentralneurology.

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FIGHT CANCER

Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation overwhelmed by support

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation (CCBBF) said it is overwhelmed by the support shown by the community. The nonprofit hosted its annual Little Pink Dress Benefit on Oct. 3, 2023, and boasted a record turnout. The event raised more than $26,000, money that has already been applied to assist at least 100 Cullman residents with basic needs while undergoing cancer treatments.

CCBBF Board Member Judy Grissom said, "It is amazing, but it's because the community has gotten behind us; they're the reason that we're able to do this. Because without their support and their donations, we couldn't, and so we're so grateful to them every day."

In the wake of COVID-19, Grissom envisioned a more intimate feel to the LPD benefit, and has since opted for a night of fellowship and fundraising instead of programs and paid speakers, emphasizing the need all humans have for connection and close conversation.

"I said I want this to be a social evening so that people that have been closed up can just mix and mingle and talk and visit," she said.

"So that's what we did. We shortened (it), and we don't have a program. That's when we started with the video and just let people visit. It's just a fun night."

Grissom said CCBBF would be an unrealized dream if Mary Dyer hadn't begun a small support group, offering help to neighbors and friends in their time of need.

Speaking of Dyer's will to help others, Grissom recalled, "It started as Bosom Buddies Support Group.

"In 2011 and 2012, people started asking Mary and her support group to help them with their basic living expenses, such as rent or housing, utility bills and that sort of thing.

"So Mary and her group would have a bake sale. Mary said she had made as many as 20 (cakes) and carried them up to the hospital and they would sell them at the hospital to raise enough money to pay this person's bills."

Thanking the CCBBF Advisory Board for its continued support, Grissom said, "All of our board members, like our president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, they're all survivors.

"We're all survivors. So the advisory board is just an extra layer of support for all of us."

If you or someone you know need financial assistance while undergoing cancer treatment, contact Jessica Nicholson at 256-737-2588.



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman County Sherrif Matt Gentry mingled and served guests at the annual Little Pink Dress Benefit.

LEGALS

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE:
A.H.
A Minor Child, 07/29/2014

CASE NO. JU 2022-423.02

NOTICE

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

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the mother of A.H., born on or about 07/29/2014, respond to the Petition by the 2nd day of November, 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 14 day of Sept, 2023.

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

FILED IN OFFICE
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.
SEP 19 2023
LISA McSWAIN CIRCUIT CLERK CULLMAN COUNTY
Witness my hand and official seal, this 20th day of September, 2023.
Clerk of Circuit Court

PB MIN BK 219 PG 687 - 10/06/2023 03:56 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ANDREW BEXON MCKIMMON, Deceased.

CASE NO.: PC2023-297

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to MARY MCKIMMON as Administrator of the Estate of ANDREW BEXON MCKIMMON, deceased, on the 6th day of October, 2023, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

MARY MCKIMMON
Administrator

Julia Smeds Roth
Attorney for Petitioner
Eyster, Key, Tubb, Roth, Middleton & Adams
108 4th Avenue NE, 2nd Floor
Post Office Box 1607
Decatur, Alabama 35602

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, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

PB AOT BK 67 PG 485 - 10/03/2023 02:37 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

IN THE PROBATE COURT
CASE NO. AD2023-078

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF JIMMY RANDALL BROWN JR. and LUCY JANE BROWN TO ADOPT K.R.E., a minor child.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: UNKNOWN FATHER OF K.R.E.
WHOSE IDENTITY, ADDRESS AND/OR WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN OR UNDISCLOSED

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of K.R.E., a minor child born on March 16, 2023, to Ammie Marie Entrekin, was filed on the 29th day of September, 2023, in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, by Jimmy Randall Brown Jr. and Lucy Jane Brown. Please be advised should you intend to contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama, 35055.

DONE this 3rd day of October, 2023.

Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

To: *THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE*

PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS.

Sharon H. Barrett
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorney for Petitioners
328 1st Avenue SE
Cullman, AL 35055
256.734.4721
sherry@smithandsmithllp.com

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicle, 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:

2010 Nissan Rogue, Vin.#JN8AS5MT4AW023865

This vehicle will be sold on Friday, December 8, 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.

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Jerry Finley Husband And Victoria Finley Wife to Jim Walter Home, Inc. dated September 28, 2001; said mortgage being recorded on November 6, 2001, in Book 1214, Page 136 in and re-recorded in Book 1210, Page 42 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to U.S. Bank, N.A., as Trustee, successor in interest to Wachovia Bank, National Association, as Trustee, for Mid-State Trust XI by assignment recorded in Deed Book 333, Page 171 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, ALABAMA.

The undersigned, U.S. Bank, N.A., as Trustee, successor in interest to Wachovia Bank, National Association, as Trustee, for Mid-State Trust XIunder and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on the 20th day of November, 2023 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

COMMENCE AT THE NW CORNER OF THE S 1/2 OF THE SW 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 33, T-11-S, R-3-W, CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA; THENCE RUN S 86 DEGREES 44'23"E, 786.92' TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE RUN S 86 DEGREES 44'23"E, 150.00'; THENCE RUN S 00 DEGREES 00'00"E, 320.00'; THENCE RUN N 86 DEGREES 44'23"W, 150.00'; THENCE RUN N 00 DEGREES 00'00"E, 320.00' TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; SAID HEREIN DESCRIBED TRACT CONTAINS 1.1 ACRES MORE OR LESS, AND LIES IN THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 33, T-11-S, R-3-W, CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA.

ALSO, A 30' ACCESS EASEMENT, 15' EITHER SIDE OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LINE: COMMENCE AT THE NW CORNER OF THE S 1/2 OF THE SW 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 33, T-11-S, R-3-W, CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, A(N) 1/2" IRON PIN FOUND; THENCE RUN S 86 DEGREES 44'23"E, 786.92'; THENCE RUN S 00 DEGREES 00'00"W, 320.00'; THENCE RUN S 86 DEGREES 44'23"E, 37.92' TO THE POINT IN THE SOUTH LINE OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY, THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE RUN S 57 DEGREES 49'41"W, 166.27; THENCE RUN S 59 DEGREES 11'33"E, 391.93.; THENCE RUN S 66 DEGREES 34'41"E 82.63'; THENCE RUN S 86 DEGREES 38'34"E, 239.96' TO THE POINT OF ENDING IN THE ROAD EASEMENT ACQUIRED BY JOSEPH A. CHAPMAN BY DEED RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 301, PAGE 827, IN SAID COUNTY.

ALSO, A 30' ACCESS EASEMENT, 30' NORTH OF AND PARALLEL TO THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LINE: COMMENCE AT THE NW CORNER OF THE S 1/2 OF THE SW 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 33, T-11-S, R-3-W, CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA; THENCE RUN S 86 DEGREES 44'23"E, 786.92'; THENCE RUN S 0 DEGREES 00'00"E, 320.0' THENCE RUN S 86 DEGREES 44'23"E, 150.0' TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE RUN S 86 DEGREES 44'23"E, 400' TO THE POINT OF ENDING IN THE ROAD EASEMENT ACQUIRED BY JOSEPH A. CHAPMAN BY DEED RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 301, PAGE 827, IN SAID COUNTY.

Said property is commonly known as 501 County Rd 588, Hanceville, AL 35077.

Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal description will control.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage.

U.S. BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE, SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO WACHOVIA BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, FOR MID-STATE TRUST XI
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC
Two North Twentieth
2 20th Street North, Suite 1000
Birmingham, AL 35203
(205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 23-05296AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Cullman Tribune
10/19/2023,10/26/2023,11/02/2023

PB MIN BK 219 PG 844 - 10/18/2023 11:09 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM JOSEPH SPEER, deceased.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
CASE NO. PC2023-231

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Jerry Speer, as Administrator of the Estate of William Joseph Speer, deceased, on the 17th day of October, 2023, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

TO: Publisher
The Cullman Tribune

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

Attorney for Administrator:
J. Bradley Wilson
Baggett & Wilson, LLC
206 Ninth Street Southwest, Suite 102
Cullman, AL 35055
256-737-0740

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Karen M Perry to Citifinancial Corporation, LLC dated February 3, 2005; said mortgage being recorded on February 4, 2005, in Book 1415, Page 15 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Indenture Trustee of CIM Trust 2023-NR2 by assignment recorded in Deed Book 390, Page 326 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, ALABAMA.

The undersigned, U.S. Bank Trust Company, National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Indenture Trustee of CIM Trust 2023-NR2under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on the 6th day of November, 2023 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

LOT 30 OF THE RESUBDIVISION OF LOTS 30 & 31 OF LOTS 30-34 OF LARKWOOD SUBDIVISION AS RECORDED IN MAP BOOK 6 PAGE 139 IN PROBATE RECORDS OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA.

SUBJECT TO THAT CERTAIN UTILITY EASEMENT OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN RECORDED IN FICHE 483 FRAME E11.

SUBJECT TO SANITARY SEWER LINE AS SHOWN ON SURVEY OF H.D. HARRIS, AL REG. NO. 5742 DATED APRIL 14, 2000.

SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS AS FILED IN BOOK 210 PAGE 71 AND SHOWN ON MAP BOOK 2 PAGE 52.

Said property is commonly known as 1221 NE Larkwood Dr., Cullman, AL 35055.

Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal description will control.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage.

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Cullman Tribune
10/05/2023,10/12/2023,10/19/2023

Berlin (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

BERLIN, Ala. — The Berlin Town Council on Monday evening took time from its meeting to recognize Town Clerk Keirstyn Montgomery for her recent completion of Alabama Municipal Revenue Officer certification. Montgomery earned the certificate as part of a series of credentials she is seeking to better carry out her duties. After congratulating her, the council voted unanimously to grant its clerk a one-time pay adjustment of $2,500 to be paid at the beginning of December.

In regular business, the council considered issues involving local roads. Noting requests from residents on County Road 1600, and the number of children living in homes along that road, the council approved a 25 mile per hour speed limit. Mayor Patrick Bates told the council that planned Cullman County Road Department work on County Roads 1612 and 1614 has been canceled due to increasing charges for use of equipment and a manpower shortage at the County. Bates said that he would seek bids for a private contractor to do the needed work.

The council met with construction company representatives before the meeting to view the planned site for Berlin's tornado shelter, and Bates reported in the meeting that the council is waiting on estimates for ground preparation work before installing the shelter. Plans are to have the project completed by the end of February 2024.

The council briefly discussed upcoming community events including:

- Trunk or Treat at the Berlin Farmers Market from 5-8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28
- Berlin Volunteer Fire Department Pancake Breakfast and Raffle on Dec. 9 to benefit children of local families in need

Almost all spaces for the trunk or treat event have been filled, and candy donations are accepted at Berlin Town Hall or the Berlin Dollar General. The council voted to donate $325 to the fire department to purchase supplies for the breakfast.

The Berlin Town Council meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at Berlin Town Hall. The public is invited to attend.

QUILTING MATERIAL FOR SALE

Starts at $1.00 a yard and goes up to $10.00 a yard (when it gets up to 3 yards it is $15.00 a yard). Until it sells out. 8517 County Road 946, Crane Hill, 35053 (right before Williams Bridge). Call 256-747-4184.

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Show (from Front)

tion from students in grades six through 12.

Artists from across the Southeast gather in one building for live demos, vendors and cutthroat fine art competition.

Rhodes, a regular customer at the event's main sponsor, Alabama Art Supply, said she saw a sign as she was picking up her usual order of clay and glazes and decided to go for it.

Under the tutelage of Christy Brock at Cullman's Art Shop Around the Corner and even a few classes from Sandra Heavan at Meek High School, Rhodes has learned to shape, sculpt and glaze, but most importantly, to work with the clay and not against it.

"Most of the things I make I just try to work with the clay, letting it kinda just do its thing," she said, comparing working with clay to a "team effort."

While harsh angles and striking lines may be impressive at a competition level, Rhodes noted her personal preference for fluid contours and free-flowing designs.

"I really like making decorative vases; there is a lot of wiggle room for creativity," she said.

"And I really love doing organic shapes!"

Pottery is one of the slower crafts in the realm of makers, with final products taking days or weeks to make, often needing fine tuning after firings or repeated dips in glaze.

The pressure was on before competition time.

"Each vase took about a week to make and dry, then the firings took three days in total," said Rhodes. The time spent preparing the pieces paid off as Rhodes walked away with $250 in winnings and Best in Show bragging rights as "Sassy Vase" came out the victor in a fierce battle of mediums.

"It was unbelievable!" exclaimed Rhodes. "I was happy, surprised, excited!"

Rhodes, who also does pop-ups at local festivals with her pottery, said that while the competition is over, she's not hanging up her apron. Her hobby business, Mud Toad Pottery, keeps her busy when she's not working on homeschool curriculum as she crafts carefully sculpted and colorfully glazed mugs and vases.

Rhodes may be a humble "maker of cool things," in her own words, but in others' words, she's a bona fide "Best in Show."

Obituary Announcements: Oct. 17-18

Judy Austin, 73
Graveside services for Judy Austin, 73, of Blountsville, will be Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Blountsville, Alabama. Mrs. Austin was born Feb. 12, 1950, in Columbia, Kentucky. She passed away Oct. 12, 2023, in Cullman, Alabama. Mrs. Austin is survived by her daughter, Melissa (Casey) Culwell; her grandson, Austin Culwell; siblings, Virgina Collins, Robert Hagy, and Marty Daniel. Mrs. Austin was preceded in death by her parents, Harvey Hagy and Adell Boone; her husband, Harold Austin; brothers, Don Hagy, and Mike Hagy.

Shirley Ann Pitts, 78
Funeral services for Shirley Ann Pitts, of Hanceville, Alabama will be noon, Friday, Oct. 20, 2023 at Fairview West Baptist Church in Hanceville. Burial will follow in the adjoining cemetery. Claude Bennett, Gene Shelton, and Jack Welch will be conducting the services. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023, at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mrs. Pitts will also lie-in-repose at the church on Friday from 10 a.m. until noon. Mrs. Pitts was born on Jan. 14, 1945, in Cullman. She passed away at the age of 78 on Oct. 16, 2023, at Cullman Regional Medical Center in Cullman. Shirley was a graduate of Hanceville High School. Shortly after graduating she would meet and eventually marry the love of her life, Doug. She spent several years working at various places but devoted most of her time at home raising her beloved children. Shirley was strong in her faith and always had time to help someone; whether it be advice or just to have someone to talk to. Her personality was bright, and her love was contagious. She will be deeply missed and remain forever in the hearts of those she loved. Survivors include her husband, Douglas Pitts; children, Jeff Pitts, Keith Pitts, and Nancy Johnson (Felix); grandchildren, Maegan Wright (Adam), Halee Holloway (Dakota), Promise Pitts, Courtney Pitts, Jordan Pitts (Maddie White), Savannah Johnson, Alexis Johnson, and Logan Johnson; seven great-grandchildren; brother, Ralph Brown; sisters-in-law, Charlotte Brown and Peggy Kyle (Jack); brother-in-law, Danny Pitts; and a host of many nieces, nephews, and friends. Mrs. Pitts was preceded in death by her father, R.J. Brown; mother, Frances Brown-Baker; stepfather, Ott Baker; and brother, Roger Brown. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Pitts' Family.

Nancy Carol Nobinger, 79
Funeral service for Nancy Carol Nobinger, age 79, of Athens, will be Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023, at 3 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home chapel, with Rev. Wade Maynard officiating. Visitation will be held from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. on Thursday. Interment will be at Pleasant Grove Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Nobinger passed away Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023 at her residence. She was born June 20, 1944, to Joseph Howard Thomas and Deloros Brindle Thomas. She was a member of Lindsay Lane Baptist Church and Northbrook Church. She was also a member of Cullman Civitan for many years. She loved shopping, eating out, socializing with her friends, and being with her grandsons. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Bill Nobinger; One brother; One sister. She is survived by her daughter, Nicole (Joseph) Hoenig; grandchildren, Ethan (Karla) Hoenig, and Evan Hoenig; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Faleisha Rochelle Thompson, 42, of Guntersville
Faleisha Rochelle Thompson, age 42, of Guntersville, Alabama passed away on Monday, Oct. 16, 2023. She was born Nov. 14, 1980, in Indiana. Faleisha loved her family and was an amazing wife, mother and the greatest grandmother in the world. She is survived by her daughters, Veronika (Austin Ely) Torres, Angelica (Aaron) Delagrange and Abigail Torres, all of Huntington, Indiana; granddaughters, Braelyn Morrett, Chloe Morrett, Opal Delagrange and Olive Ely, all of Huntington, Indiana; mother and step-father, Herbert and Marsha Patrick of Athens and a host of aunts, uncles, other family and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Michael Thompson. A memorial service will be announced at a later date. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.mossservicefh.com for the Thompson family.

David Dwayne Hollaway, 59
Funeral service for David Dwayne Hollaway, age 59, of Hanceville, will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Lonnie Speakman officiating; interment in Etha Baptist Cemetery. Visitation will be from noon until 2 p.m. prior to the service. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Hollaway passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023, at Cullman Regional. He was born June 17, 1964, in Florida to Willie Dwayne Hollaway and Gloria Ann Hollaway. He was preceded in death by his grandparents. Survivors include his son, David Holloway; daughters, Cecilia (Steven) Kirby and Clarissa Windisch; grandchildren, Eric Holloway, Caleb Holloway, Jay Holloway, Alex Kirby, Braxton Kirby, Ariel Windisch, Liam Windisch, and Willow Windisch; parents, Willie Dwayne Hollaway and Gloria Ann Hollaway; sister, Regina Sullivan; brother, John Hollaway; nephews, Danny (Breanna) Sullivan, Dakota Sullivan, Jeff Hollaway, and Ellis Hollaway; and nieces, Natasha Sullivan, Jerica (Derrick) Bryant, and Rachel Hollaway.

Hope Dooley Fallin, 82
Hope Dooley Fallin, 82, of Warrior, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023, with her son by her side. Hope was born Dec. 3, 1940, along with triplet sisters, Charity and Faith, to Ray Thomas Dooley and Ettie Mae Forsyth Dooley in Cold Springs, AL. She graduated from Tarrant City High School and worked at the Eye Foundation Hospital in Birmingham for nearly 20 years. Hope married the love of her life, Rayford Fallin in 1960 and they gave birth to their only son, Brian Fallin in 1964. She was a compassionate woman of many talents and spent most of her time caring selflessly for others. She enjoyed crafting, cooking, singing in the church choir, serving in the community and loved watching Alabama football. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Rayford Fallin; sisters Charity and Faith Dooley, Maye Dooley Stricklin, and Ruby Nell Dooley Welch; and brothers, Roy L. Dooley and Leldon Ray Dooley. Hope is survived by her son, Brian Fallin (Shannon); sister Anna Sue Dooley Tubbs; grandchildren David Fallin, Faith Lang (Adam), Chanah and Brianna Fallin, great-grandchildren, Cadence, Jacob and Jaxson; and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held on Friday, Oct. 20, 2023, at 2 p.m. at the Cullman Funeral Home Chapel (461 U.S. Highway 278 East) in Cullman, Alabama 35055. Visitation will be held prior to the service from noon until 2 p.m. Interment will immediately follow at Cold Springs Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in Bremen, Alabama.

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Sloot (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Dutch citizen Joran van der Sloot pleaded guilty Wednesday, Oct. 18, and was sentenced for his role in a scheme to obtain $250,000 from Elizabeth ("Beth") Ann Holloway, the mother of Natalee Holloway, announced U.S. Attorney Prim F. Escalona and Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge Carlton Peeples.

The guilty plea and sentencing of Joran Andreas Petrus van der Sloot, 36, occurred before U.S. District Court Judge Anna M. Manasco. Van der Sloot pleaded guilty to extortion and wire fraud and was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

According to the plea agreement, in 2010, van der Sloot solicited money from Beth Holloway, Natalee Holloway's mother, on promises he would reveal the location of her daughter's remains in Aruba and the circumstances of her 2005 death. However, after being paid a total of $25,100, van der Sloot provided information that he later described as "worthless."

According to the sentencing memorandum and plea agreement, van der Sloot agreed to provide full, complete, accurate and truthful information regarding Natalee Holloway's disappearance in exchange for a sentence of 20 years.

"Today, the United States held Joran van der Sloot accountable for his scheme to exploit a mother looking for information about her missing daughter," Escalona said.

"The United States hopes that the information regarding Natalee Holloway's disappearance provides some important answers for the family and the community that has followed this family's tragedy. Today's result would not have been possible without the help of the FBI, Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs, and the Government of Peru, the Netherlands and Aruba, U.S. Marshals Service and Shelby County Sherriff's Office, who assisted in this process.

"I am grateful for their hard work and dedication. May this long-awaited day finally bring justice for Beth and for Natalee's family and friends."

"Today's sentence holds Joran van der Sloot accountable for the pain he has caused the family and friends of Natalee Holloway," said Peeples. "After more than a decade of uncertainty, hopefully this will bring them and this community some closure. During this lengthy investigation, the FBI remained committed in aggressively pursuing and holding this individual accountable for the crimes he committed against US persons. I would like to thank our local, state, federal and foreign partners who assisted in this investigation and a special thanks to all the FBI personnel, past and present, who worked tirelessly in bringing this individual to justice."

According to the Associated Press, van der Sloot "admitted he beat the young Alabama woman to death on a beach in Aruba after she refused his advances, then dumped her body into the sea."

Per the AP, "Natalee Holloway went missing during a high school graduation trip with classmates. She was last seen on May 30, 2005, leaving a bar with van der Sloot, a Dutch citizen and student at an international school on the Caribbean island where he grew up. He was questioned in the disappearance but never prosecuted. A judge declared Holloway dead, but her body was never found."

Read more at www.wvtm13.com/article/natalee-holloway-case-news-van-der-sloot/45573655?.

Truck (from Front)

Gail Crutchfield
Wallace State

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — During the unveiling of a new piece of equipment to be used in Wallace State Community College's electric vehicle curriculum in the Diesel Technology program, President Dr. Vicki Karolewics noted the addition is part of the college's continuing efforts to be proactive when it comes to providing learning opportunities for students.

"I'm often reminded of something that Tom Peters said a few years ago in his book, 'Re-Imagine!'," Karolewics said. "Tom's book was focusing on the disruptions in the business world, and he said, if you are uncomfortable with the notion of change, think how much (more) uncomfortable you'll be with the notion of irrelevance. Here at Wallace State, we not only work constantly to change how we do things in order to maintain that relevance, with our partners, but we strive to be a pacesetter."

To set that pace, Wallace State recently purchased from Truckworx a Kenworth T680E Class 8 heavy duty electric vehicle, the first sold in the state of Alabama.

"This will give our students the opportunity to see something that no one in the field has seen yet," said Wyatt Swann, chair of the Wallace State Diesel Technology program.

The purchase was made with funds provided in a three-year, $1.3 million grant by the Appalachian Regional Commission.

"Over the timespan of the grant, Wallace State aims to provide comprehensive training to as many as 230 students in the safe handling and maintenance of high voltage vehicles and batteries," said Associate Dean of Technologies Jerry Murcks. "The initiative encompasses both prospective technicians who will enroll in our programs and the upskilling of current technicians already working in the field."

Truckworx representative Heith Pike noted the inevitability of the increase in electric vehicles in the trucking industry and the importance of having the technicians to keep trucks running.

"Electric is coming, and it is coming faster than we realize," said Pike. "And as you know, over the road trucks keep America moving. But without good technicians the over the road trucks are not on the road."

Pike added that Truckworx is extremely blessed to have a relationship with Wallace State and the Diesel Technology program.

"Wallace State has provided us with great technicians," Pike said. "Almost every single location that Truckworx has a graduate from the Wallace State diesel program."

Wallace State also accepted a $44,000 donation from the Cullman Electric Cooperative. Brian Lacy, the Co-Op's manager of communication and external affairs said the funds come the Tennessee Valley Authority's Community Care Fund. The funds will be used to install two electric vehicle charging stations on the Wallace State campus.

"We are glad to help Wallace State add these facilities to their campus, and we appreciate the leadership that Dr. Karolewics and the staff at Wallace State Community College have shown in recognizing where this trend is heading in our industry," Lacy said.

Along with guests from Cullman Electric Cooperative and Truckworx, representatives from Congressman Robert Aderholt's office, the Cullman Economic Development Agency, TVA and the City of Hanceville were also on hand for the unveiling.

Wallace State offers electric vehicle related training in three areas. Along with Diesel Technology, students in Advanced Automotive Technology and a new Electrical Technology program under the umbrella of the Mechatronics, Electronics and Robotics Technology are offered electric vehicle related curriculum.

80 YEARS ANNIVERSARY 1943-2023

Thank you, Cullman, for the best 80 years of our lives.



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

But it's a history that wouldn't have happened without you, Cullman. We never forget that. For 80 years, you've trusted us to insure your homes, your cars, your businesses, your lives. You've become our friends, our neighbors, and our reason to turn up at the office every day. You're also the reason that, after all these years, Elliot's son Wescoat Free is still running the independent insurance agency that bears his family name. And, for that, we can't thank you enough.

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