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The Cullman Tribune

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MARTHA NEEDHAM/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Holly Pond sweeps Cleveland, Southeastern to win 2A, Area 12 tournament

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Library board opts not to remove challenged books

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The small back room of the main branch of the Cullman County Public Library System was packed Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023, as residents filed in to attend the Public Library Board of Cullman County meeting. Attendees came to show support, hear settlements of book challenges, voice their concerns about the challenges' validity and address various miscommunications with other branches in the county.

The books challenged at the board's Sept. 19, 2023, meeting were "Prince & Knight," "Heather Has Two Mommies" and "Lily and Dunkin," all three of which fall into the juvenile or young adult categories.

After approval of minutes, financial report, director's report and a » PAGE 4



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Speaker Kristy Shallenberger addresses Public Library Board of Cullman County members on Thursday, Oct. 19.

Good time for a great cause



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Hope Horses Executive Director Kelsey Scott, Barn Manager Mariah Miles and Volunteer Manager Allison Curl show off their artwork after the nonprofit's fundraiser Oct. 19.

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Hope Horses, Inc. has been a staple in the north Alabama special needs circuit since opening its doors. On Oct. 19, the nonprofit held a Sips n' Strokes fundraiser to support its therapeutic riding program, which serves children and adults from ages 4 to 25 with physical, emotional and cognitive special needs.

Guests brought their sips and Hope Horses provided the strokes, leading to a fantastic night of laughter, girl talk and painting floral bouquets. Sips n' Strokes Owner Emily Bussman instructed the group with an almost Bob Ross-esque technique, laughing and saying, "This will be a mess; we want it to be a mess. Don't panic."

Canvases on individual easels were set and ready for the nearly 30 guests, dollops of paint in each workspace in coordinating colors dotted the paper tablecloth, and cups of water were ready to work and rinse brushes clear. Some painters followed the instructions perfectly, while others took a much more personal approach, using varying shades of colors and designing different bouquets of greenery. Step by step, and color by color, paintings took shape and imagination was realized. Each painting had a personal spin, courtesy of each artist.

The event was » PAGE 12



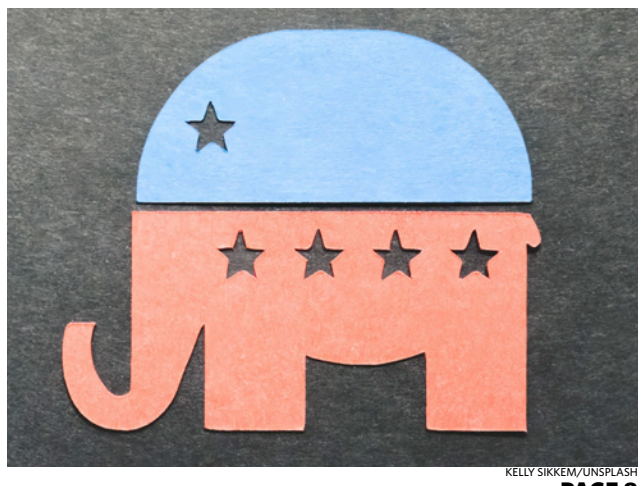
CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Renee Welsh beams and proudly displays her beautiful bouquet.

8 arrested in Cullman child exploitation sting operation

» PAGE 9

Cullman GOP gearing up for 2024 election season



KELLY SIKKEM/UNSPLASH

» PAGE 8

Render Aid Alabama hosting Boo Festival Oct. 28

» PAGE 10

Local church hosting 'Judgement House'

» PAGE 12

Woodland Village seeking candy donations for 1st fall carnival since pandemic

» PAGE 7

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Oct. 20

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Oct. 20, 2023. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Oct. 16

- theft of property; Lindsey Rd.
- theft of property; Hwy. 278 E
- menacing; CR 1082

Oct. 17

- assault; Commercial St. SE
- domestic violence; CR 1606
- theft of property; CR 651
- possession of controlled substance; Megan Ln.
- harassment; criminal mischief; CR 1196
- harassment; Edwardian Way SW
- burglary; CR 1341
- possession of controlled substance; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1269
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; Hwy. 91

Oct. 18

- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; CR 38
- harassment; Hwy. 31
- theft of property; CR 1059
- theft of property; CR 1233
- harassment; CR 1629

ARRESTS

Oct. 16 – 18

Baker, Kenneth B.; 46
- FTA- public intoxication
- FTA- DUI (alcohol)

Baker, Rayburn L.; 54
- stolen vehicles-auto theft

Bibby, Michael H.; 49
- FTA- DUI (alcohol)
- FTA- assault-domestic violence-strangulation or suffocation

Black, Jesse S.; 33
- Judges Order- family offense-non-support-child

Carroll, Scottie A.; 37
- drug trafficking
- ex-felon in possession of a firearm
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Conn, Stanley D.; 59
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Corbin, Ray J.; 53
- FTA- possession of methamphetamine
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- expired tag

Foreman, Makayla R.; 27
- FTA- public intoxication

George, Kevin T.; 33
- assault-child abuse-simple-family (2 counts)

Hyde, Kody L.; 29
- Judges Order- possession of dangerous drugs

Kimbrough, Nicholas L.; 21
- FTA- driving while license suspended

McAnear, Brooke N.; 27
- assault-child abuse-family

McDonald, Joshua R.; 33
- possession of methamphetamine

McLeod, Randy I.; 40
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Odom Jr., Michael D.; 38
- violation of domestic violence protection order
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Ritchie, Robin L.; 43
- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft less than $500 (2 counts)

Rush, Danah L.; 25
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- possession of prescription drugs

Shedd, Baylee M.; 26
- destruction of property by prisoner

Stephenson, Bart M.; 35
- FTA- larceny/theft-miscellaneous
- FTA- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft $500 less than $1,500

Tucker, Daniel L.; 40
- negotiating worthless instrument (3 counts)
- FTA- operating vehicle without insurance
- FTA- no plainly visible tag
- FTA- driving while suspended, revoked or cancelled
- public intoxication

Underwood, Adam C.; 45
- larceny/theft-shoplifting less than $500

Weaver, Jennifer N.; 36
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of drug paraphernalia

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Oct. 18

- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; 2nd Ave. SW
- burglary-3rd degree; person; Logan St. SW

Oct. 19

- theft of property-4th degree; Hibbett Sports; Town Square SW; general merchandise; $100
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $180
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $127
- theft of property-4th degree; Circle K; Hwy. 157; general merchandise; $28
- domestic violence-3rd-harassing communications; person

ARRESTS

Oct. 18 – 19

Applebaum, Matthew A.; 43
- domestic violence-3rd degree

Burns, Tina R.; 45
- domestic violence-3rd degree

Bates, Brody H.; 33
- human trafficking-1st degree

Phillips, Patrick E.; 26
- theft of property-4th degree
- possession/receiving controlled substance
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- felon in possession of firearm
- attempt to elude
- resisting arrest

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Local man arrested following foot chase from south Cullman Wal-Mart

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Cullman man was arrested Thursday, Oct. 19, following a foot chase that began at Wal-Mart on Olive Street Southwest and ended at the Alabama Specialty Clinic, located across Cherokee Avenue Southwest, a short distance away.

Patrick Eugene Phillips, 26, is charged with possession of methamphetamine, being a felon in possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana, attempting to elude a police officer, fourth-degree theft and resisting arrest.

Phillips was taken into custody just after 3:30 p.m. Thursday.

Cullman Police Department Public Relations Officer Adam Clark expressed gratitude to CPD officers for their swift action in apprehending Phillips.

Three years ago, almost to the day, Phillips was arrested by the Cullman County Sheriff's Office after leading deputies and investigators on vehicle chase.

On Oct. 16, 2020, the CCSO posted to Facebook, "Yesterday afternoon Mr. Phillips eluded CCSO deputies & investigators after a short vehicle pursuit.

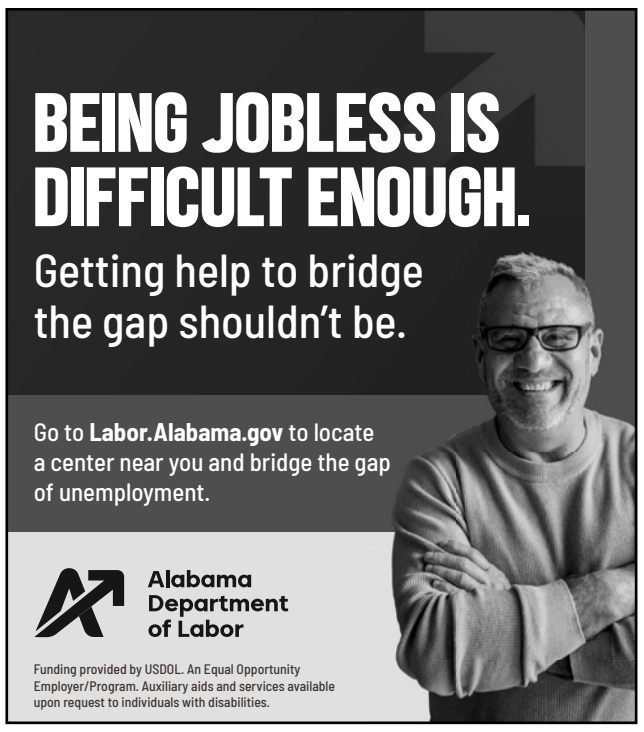
"Today after receiving a tip he was still in the area, CCSO investigators continued to search the area when Mr. Phillips approached undercover investigators for a ride out of the area.

"He was arrested at that time."



CONTRIBUTED

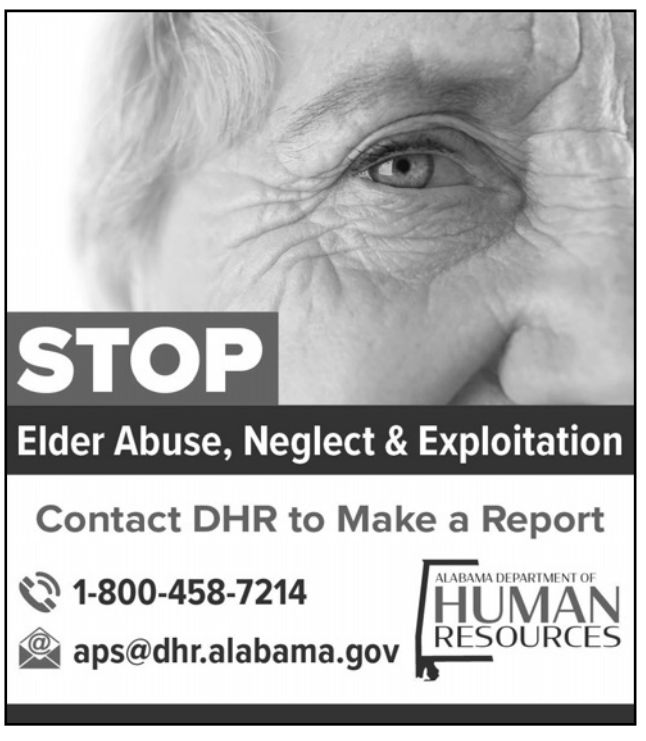
Patrick Eugene Phillips being taken into custody by Cullman Police Department officers

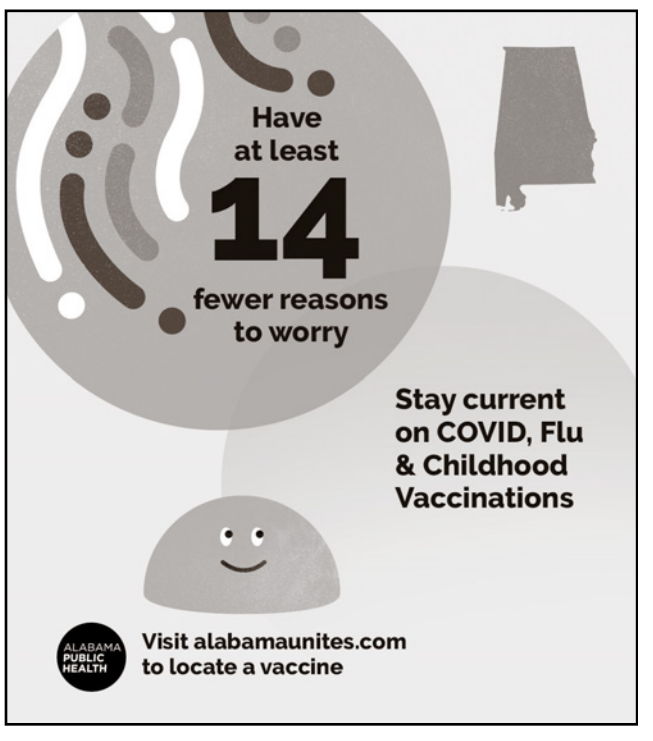












COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

Church Services- Spirit Life Church of GOD
• Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Mondays-Fridays- Free hot meals for children Mondays 11 a.m.-noon, Tuesdays 1-2 p.m. and Wednesdays-Fridays 11 a.m.-noon. Cullman Housing Authority Community Center 1545 Vine Circle SW. Please call Kristie 256-636-5362 for more information. Eat in or take out. Sponsored by Kids Loving Kids, Raising Arrows Ministry and Spirit Life Church.
• Kids Loving Kids Birthday Blessings serves children ages 1-18 in need of assistance to celebrate their birthdays. Register your child and pick up a birthday box with cake mix, icing, sprinkles, decorations and toys! Pickup is the last weekend of the month. Saturday (5100 Curry Highway Suite 100-B Jasper, AL 35504) from 3-5 p.m. or the last Sunday of the month at Spirit Life Church Cullman from 12:30-1 p.m. Birth certificate is required at the time of box pickup. Register at https://form.jotform.com/203435614640045. For more information, text or call 205-717-7478.
• Saturday, 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.

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.

Chambers Family Reunion
The Chambers (David Lon, Dock, Gene, Will) Family's annual reunion will be held Sunday, Nov 5, at the Berlin Community Center (usual location) on U.S. Highway 278 East starting at 11 a.m. Dinner will be at noon. Family members and friends, plan on attending. Bring favorite food dishes, family histories, stories, photos, etc. to share. For information, contact Rodger Walling at 256-734-8235.

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.

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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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
OCTOBER 21, 2023

Board (from Front)

motion to ask for appropriations from the City of Cullman, the board heard from four speakers, two of whom spoke at last month's board meeting and were given five-minute time slots versus the typical 10-minute time slots due to the topic being the same as last month's.

Shirley Arnett

Arnett began her time by saying she feels that she and her argument have been misrepresented.

"I assure you my commitment is only to protect our children," she stated. "I persevere and am here to ensure that our taxpayer-funded public library has clear guidelines in place to protect our children from the pornography creeping into our Alabama libraries."

It is unclear to which books Arnett was referring when she said "pornography." The three challenged books being discussed are not pornographic in nature.

Arnett followed her statement by sharing that while the book challenges have happened recently, her research began several months ago, comparing a list of more than 100 books she found questionable with the library's current collection. Arnett said that while those titles were not present, she did find three she took issue with.

"Now, it is not for me to judge; that's God's job, but it is for me, as a taxpayer, to request that my taxes do not fund agendas with which I disagree."

Arnett followed by setting a clear expectation that as the submission for reconsideration was first put in nearly three months ago, she expected a decision during the meeting.

Lance Conn

Conn began his time by stating his concern for both the intent of book challenges and how those who are challenging books are treating the library, as well as a call for unity.

"No matter how the argument is phrased, we know that these book challenges are driven by anger, hate and malice," Conn said plainly. "You can't say that you don't hate LGBTQIA+ individuals, but then demand that books featuring LGBTQIA+ characters and voices be suppressed. These actions are incompatible."

Conn expressed concern about how some previous meeting attendees have conducted themselves on Cullman County Public Library System social media pages, saying, "I have seen harassment of the Cullman Public Library System on several social media posts."

Noted Conn, "The library isn't perfect. None of us are. But I yearn for the time when we as a community strive to move forward in unity through our diversity, where we allow the differences to permeate through us and strengthen us in the spirit of friendship. I will not remain silent while my friends, neighbors and fellow citizens are unfairly demonized and attacked. I will not indoctrinate my children to hate."

Kristy Shallenberger

Shallenberger began her time by describing her relationship with the library growing up as a "Conservative homeschooled kid," and sharing concerns about access to intellectual freedom should the book challenges pass.

"These books are being attacked based on very vague definitions of 'sexually explicit' content and ignore decades of success in laws and guardrails guiding children and young adult literature, while also overriding the judgment of other parents who may disagree with these attackers," she said. "In my opinion, the only common theme in their content that led to the challenges would be that they represent the LGBTQ community."

Shallenberger shared, "Our LGBTQ community is composed of people who grew up in Cullman, with roots reaching deep, entwining with our churches, schools and people here today."

She then read an excerpt of an email sent to the board members in attendance from a family in Cullman with two moms, one named Christie Gibb:

"I have lived in Cullman pretty much my entire life. I pay my taxes, go to church, run my kids to school and sporting events, spend time with family and friends. We sing songs and say our prayers before bed. My kids also have two moms.

"I believe that most who know us would say we are a kind and generous family. Our boys are wild, funny and adventurous. They often wonder why some people are so mean to our family. They are told their moms are going to hell, that their family is gross, etc.

"We then have to go and try to defend those people. We have to tell our boys that we live in America and while our family believes "XYZ," other families don't. But, we know that God has called us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Even when they are cruel, we should show them God's love."

Shallenburger closed her time by saying, "Relocating these books from the children's section sends a vicious message to this Cullman family. It says that a public library does not have room to represent them based on the beliefs of a very small minority, in a community of tens of thousands."

Board vote

Jill Meggs, who was appointed to the board Tuesday, Oct. 17, by the Cullman County Commission, abstained from voting on the challenged books as she had not reviewed the content, but did note, "I don't think this a political issue. I think this is just a parents' rights decision."

She offered the idea, along with board member Rusty Turner, that perhaps a special system could be put in place to help parents be more informed about the content of books their children might select from the library's collection, which Interim Library Director Josie Harrington agreed should be discussed.

The board members present who had reviewed the challenged books – Tanya Allcorn, Turner and Drew Green – discussed the content of the books and unanimously agreed to keep the books in the library's collection and maintain their place in the children's and juvenile section.

Library system questions

Representatives of the Hanceville Library, Pam Reid and Cathi Bradford, voiced frustration at the lack of communication from the library's main branch with its satellite branches. Reid noted that while Harrington had attended the Hanceville Library board meeting the week prior, members are still unclear on certain issues.

Reid noted that with Cullman's library system opting to get rid of late fees and lost fines through its partnership with Unique Management Services, the Hanceville Library is left with no steady monies coming in, leaving it in a deficit as far as keeping refreshments on-hand for its children's programs and updating its book collection.

"We have three book sales a year, and y'all know how those go. So we're going in the hole, basically," explained Reid.

"We felt that there are holes in some processes, and maybe we can fill in those holes," chimed in Bradford, who raised concerns with how funds are distributed through the library branches and voiced frustrations with the fact that books cannot be returned to any library branch, as they could be in years prior.

Reid, Bradford and Harrington discussed at length the status of libraries in Cullman, with Harrington noting how status affects funding for most library systems. "Satellite" libraries are typically not afforded funding from main libraries for general bills or programs, while "branches" of libraries typically do receive funding from main libraries. At this time, it is unclear according to the bylaws of both libraries whether Hanceville or other libraries in the county are "satellites" or "branches."

"When it comes to other branch's programming or general bills, that is not in our budget, which, it should be, if they are branches," said Harrington. "That's why I say they're in a weird place (status-wise)."

Turner suggested an open forum type of meeting, to include representatives from all libraries in Cullman, and Harrington agreed that a meeting between those representatives, town leadership and the Cullman County Commission would be beneficial to determine next steps that both the main library and other libraries can take to ensure that programming can continue and collections can continue to be refreshed.

In other business:

- The board motioned to begin reviewing the bylaws and bringing them up to date. The board will go section by section to review the current bylaws and vote on any changes, beginning at the next board meeting.

- The board discussed paying Harrington "director" pay while she is performing interim director duties; major points of discussion included Harrington taking on "above and beyond" duties during her role as interim director, such as dealing with storm damage and bylaw revisions. The board motioned to write a letter to request a change in pay for Harrington.

- The board discussed the posting of the director position, noting that while one week is typical for internal hires, 30 days is typically best for outside candidates. Green suggested requesting a higher salary to attract more qualified candidates due to the education and experience requirements of the position. Meggs motioned to table the matter to discuss a possible salary increase with the Cullman County Commission. Currently, the advertised salary is $57,000.

- Turner, Allcorn and Green were named to the nominating committee in order to vote on officer positions at the next meeting.

- The board discussed changing the formatting of its financial reports; Meggs, who has an accounting background, offered to teach Harrington different ways to format the reports to increase ease of reading, which Harrington agreed to.

- Board members who have not viewed "Trustee Training" videos this year will begin doing so at the next meeting. There are eight videos that are about eight to 10 minutes long.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. in the back room of the Cullman County Library located at 200 Clark St. NE.

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‘We accept everyone who comes through that door’

Northside Baptist Church hosts monthly community meal

Cayla Grace Murphy
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CULLMAN, Ala. — The small parking lot of Northside Baptist Church was packed on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023, as Cullman residents weaved in and out of the door of a small building to the side of the sanctuary. The scent of lush marinara sauce with hints of garlic wafted out of the door as hungry folks walked out with towering boxes filled to the brim with dinner for their families, all exchanging pleasantries with Pastor Stephen Stringer as they came and went.

Stringer, a pastor of nearly 30 years, shared that this sight is pretty typical for them every second Tuesday of the month. Over 130 people, including 12 new families, came Oct. 10 to be filled not just with food, but a sense of belonging.

“Well, we have a responsibility to minister to our community,” said Stringer very matter-of-factly. “This month we really picked up; I’ve counted 135. Most of the time it’s a little over a hundred.”

Stringer said that while the dinners are very well attended, it’s not usually his own congregation showing up for the meals.

Nestled in the heart of refurbished shotgun houses and government housing, Northside Baptist has made it a point to be open to the whole community, not just those who sit in its pews on Sunday. While much of the west side of town is undergoing massive revitalization, some residents are still just getting by. Northside aims to lighten the load for families in the area, at least one night a month.

“We have very few people from our church who eat here. Most of them are just community members, you know, different walks of life,” he explained.

“Some you can tell have been on things, some may be homeless. We accept everyone who comes through that door; we try to love on all of them.”

According to Stringer, Northside’s community meal is not one that many think of when they envision church-sponsored dinners. There are no gospel tracts snuck between dinner rolls and desserts, no obnoxiously loud preaching while you’re slurping up spaghetti and you aren’t required to come to church after. Stringer maintains that his church’s mission is just to meet the needs that many food-insecure residents have, and if the attendees are open to it, go from there.

“Instead of sharing the gospel first, let’s try to meet their needs in life. We can share the gospel on the path, but we need to meet that need first,” he said.

Stringer noted he doesn’t put this dinner on by himself - a dedicated team of volunteers gathers to make the magic happen by giving both their time and resources to ensure the success of the monthly dinners, and they are more than happy to do so. A few take on the task of cooking enough to feed a small platoon, while a few more act as hosts to make guests feel welcomed and safe.



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Left to right, Lisa Sharpton, Joyce White and Sissy Warnick prepare plates for Northside Baptist Church’s community meal hosted Oct. 10.

“Our people love doing it,” he said. “We normally have about 15 or 16 people (volunteer). We may not need them, but they sit around and talk to the people who come in.”

As attendance at these dinners increases, and with the rising cost of everything - especially food and paper products, which are both needed to make the dinner successful - Stringer and his church members have decided to stop relying on donations and step out in faith by penciling it into the church’s annual expenses.

“People have been giving out of their pocket, but this year, we’re putting it in our budget,” he smiled.

While it may seem a lofty goal to some to continue to host these dinners, Stringer said it’s just a matter of doing what he believes God has called them to do: serve their neighbors, love God and love others.

“God’s been good to us; He’s met our needs in every way. It’s really about stepping out in faith,” he nodded, shutting his to-go container of spaghetti as he waved to another family leaving with bellies full and faces smiling.

Northside Baptist Church hosts its free community meal every second Tuesday of the month at the building next to its sanctuary, with the next meal being Nov. 14, 2023. The meal begins at 5 p.m. and ends at 6:30, or while supplies last. The church is located at 1310 Katherine St NW.

For more information about Northside Baptist Church, visit www.facebook.com/NBCCullman.













THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
OCTOBER 21, 2023

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL

CMS 8th grade tops Muscle Shoals 20-8 to win Tennessee Valley Championship, finish season unbeaten

Nick Griffin
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CULLMAN, Ala. — After capturing the seventh-grade title Tuesday, Cullman Middle School was back on Mark Britton Field at Oliver Woodard Stadium to play Muscle Shoals for the Tennessee Valley League's eighth grade championship Thursday night. The Bearcats trailed Muscle Shoals at halftime but outscored the Trojans 14-0 in the second half to win the game 20-8, claim this year's league title and finish the season undefeated. Brooks Loftin earned Championship Game MVP honors after making several big plays on defense and catching a pair of passes for 77 yards.

'Cats Head Coach Gerald Turner knew his team wasn't playing loose in the first half and knew they could pull ahead if they settled down for the second.

"At halftime I just told them they weren't playing the way they were taught. I think in the first half they were just so hyped up and ready to go and we missed some assignments and had a weird fumble down on the goal line and things weren't going our way," Turner said. "But I told them at halftime we're probably two touchdowns better than they are, and we aren't playing like that. Going into the second half we just needed to take a deep breath and relax, and we were ready to go."

Cullman took an early lead right out of the gate when Joshua Au took a handoff 65 yards for a touchdown on the game's first play to put the Bearcats in front 6-0. Muscle Shoals responded on the ensuing possession, capping off a scoring drive with a 28-yard touchdown pass and a successful two-point conversion to move in front 8-6. Cullman was stopped short on fourth down on its next drive, but the Trojans were forced to punt a few plays later after a big tackle for loss by Brooks Loftin.

On the next 'Cats possession, quarterback Michael Shadeck hit Loftin on a screen pass and he ran it all the way down inside the 5-yard line but a fumble near the goal line was recovered by Muscle Shoals in the end zone, resulting in a touchback and a first down for the Trojans. Neither team was able to get any more points on the board in the remainder of the second quarter and Cullman went into the halftime break trailing 8-6.

The Bearcats looked sharp to start the second half, forcing Muscle Shoals to punt on its first possession and then putting together a methodical scoring drive that consumed most of the clock left in the third. After driving down inside the 5-yard line, Cullman pulled ahead 12-6 after Jace White punched in his first touchdown of the night from two yards out. The Bearcats got a big play on defense to end the third quarter when Loftin caught the Trojans deep in the backfield for another big loss and forced Muscle Shoals to punt once again.

Cullman was moving the chains on the ground, keeping the ball away from the Trojans and running the clock when White broke free for a 31-yard touchdown and made it an 18-8 game. Shadeck found Colt Colvard over the middle for the two-point conversion and the Bearcats pulled ahead 20-8 with five minutes left to play. The next possession ended on a Trojans fourth down when Loftin got into the backfield for a sack and all but secured the 20-8 win for the 'Cats.

Turner is proud of the way his team responded in the second half and is even prouder of the work they and his coaching staff have put in over the last year to prepare for this moment.

"This is the hardest working group. We started working these guys out this same week last year and it was every day. Every day we were over here on this hill running and they never complained because the one game they lost last year was to this same bunch and they knocked us out of the playoffs. They didn't want that to happen again, and they worked every day to get where they needed to be," Turner said. "This coaching staff is unbelievable, and I just can't say enough about them. Some of them have played for me, some of them are community coaches and they're taking away from time with their family to be part of football because they all played here. Every one of these guys was successful here on the teams they were on, and the big thing is the kids love them. They love them and they play way above their heads for these guys because they can get it out of them."

Turner continued,

"The administration here is great and they've been so good to us whether it's letting us out early or whatever we need to do to go the games and stuff. It's unbelievable what our parents do to help us ever since I've been here. That's why football has been successful here at the middle school and these guys are going to make great players and responsible men when they have their own families."

White led the way for Cullman on the ground with 79 yards and two touchdowns on 11 carries. Au posted 75 yards and a score on three carries, Shadeck carried it seven times for 31 yards and Loftin caught a pair of passes for 77 yards.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Middle School's eighth grade team defeated Muscle Shoals 20-8 Thursday night to win this year's Tennessee Valley League Championship.

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Holly Pond sweeps Cleveland, Southeastern to win 2A, Area 12 tournament

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HOLLY POND, Ala. — Holly Pond was the site of the Class 2A, Area 12 tournament this year and after Cold Springs fell just short in a five-set battle with Southeastern, the Lady Broncos swept Cleveland and Southeastern to take home this year's area championship.

Southeastern 3 - Cold Springs 2 (Game One)

Cold Springs got off to a 5-2 lead in the first set, but a huge run by the Lady Mustangs gave them an 8-5 lead. They later made it 11-7, but points by Malaya Taylor and Ciara Calvert, and three straight aces from Ella Bruer helped the Lady Eagles get the lead right back at 13-12. Southeastern held an 18-15 lead late in the set, but a kill by Ellanora Slusser tied things up at 20. The Lady Mustangs held a slim 22-21 lead, but Cold Springs got the final four points of the set, including back-to-back aces from Bruer to end it, as they ended up taking it 25-22.

A point each by Mary Warden and Cheyenne Bishop, plus an ace from Warden, gave Cold Springs an early 5-4 lead in the second set. An ace from Kaley Barger helped the Lady Eagles push their lead to 10-7, but Southeastern came back to take a 12-10 lead. The Lady Mustangs later held a slim 17-14 lead. Another ace from Warden tied it up at 17, but Southeastern broke the tie with a 4-1 run as that gave them a 21-18 lead. A point by Taylor made it a 21-19 game, but Cold Springs wouldn't get any closer after that, as they ended up dropping the second set 25-21.

The third set was close early on, but a little run by Southeastern gave them a 9-5 lead. A kill by Calvert cut it to 11-10, but another run by the Lady Mustangs helped push their lead to 17-11. They later held a 20-14 lead, but Cold Springs went on a run to get back in the game, as they cut it to 21-19. Later on, back-to-back aces from Bruer gave Cold Springs a 23-22 lead, but Southeastern scored the final three points to take the third set 25-23.

Cold Springs got off to a strong start in the fourth set, getting off to a 4-0 lead behind an ace from Calvert and a kill by Slusser. They later pushed their lead to 7-2, but Southeastern came back to tie it up at seven. The Lady Eagles scored the next eight points, including a pair of aces from Cloe Shelton, and a kill by Calvert, to take a 15-7 lead. They later widened their lead to 19-10 on an ace from Calvert. The Lady Mustangs, though, went on a late run to cut it to 23-20, but Calvert finished off the set with a kill to help Cold Springs win the fourth set 25-20.

The Lady Eagles jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the fifth and deciding set behind a kill by Warden and a point by Bishop, and later held a 7-5 lead on a point by Calvert. Cold Springs pushed their lead to 10-6, but the Lady Mustangs went on a 5-0 run to take an 11-10 lead. Cold Springs took a 13-12 lead late in the set, but unfortunately, for them and the rest of the Cold Springs faithful, Southeastern scored the final three points to take the final set 15-13.

Holly Pond 3 - Cleveland 0 (Game Two)

Holly Pond got off to a fast start in their opening set against Cleveland, jumping out to a quick 5-1 lead. Cleveland cut it to 7-4, but a big run by the Lady Broncos quickly broke things wide open. A trio of aces in a row by Maycie Black widened Holly Pond's lead to 11-4, and later on, Ellie Burks followed that up with four aces of her own; Ava Thomas and Blakely Baggett each chipped in with two points and a kill, respectively, as the Lady Broncos pushed their lead to 23-6. The Lady Panthers later trimmed it to 23-11, but Holly Pond collected the final point to take the first set 25-13.

A pair of points by Black and a kill by Gracie Armstrong helped Holly Pond jump out to a 6-2 lead. Cleveland quickly cut it to 6-5, but the Lady Broncos went on a 9-1 run, which included aces from Black and Burks, and points by Thomas and Baggett, to widen their lead to 14-6. Holly Pond made it 19-9 later on in the set, and later, made it 22-12 on another ace from Black. Thomas finished the set off for the Lady Broncos with a point, as the Lady Broncos ended up taking the second set 25-13.

Behind a kill by Thomas and back-to-back aces from Kamryn Tankersley, Holly Pond got off to a quick 7-2 lead. They later made it 11-5 on an ace from Burks, and later on, a kill by Emma Earl, followed by an ace from Thomas, made it 14-7. Cleveland cut it to 14-9, but back-to-back points by Tankersley, and an ace from Kaylee Rohrscheib, helped increase the Lady Bronco lead to 17-9. A point by Black made it 20-10, and later on, Baggett collected a kill to push their lead to 24-12. Black finished off the set and sweep of the Lady Panthers with an ace, as Holly Pond took the third set, 25-12, to move on to the championship game.

Holly Pond 3 - Southeastern 0 (Area Championship Game)



MARTHA NEEDHAM/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Holly Pond Lady Broncos defeated Cleveland and Southeastern to win this year's 2A, Area 12 Tournament Thursday night.

Holly Pond got off to another fast start, this time, against Southeastern, as aces from Rohrscheib and Earl, and a kill by Tankersley, gave them an early 7-1 lead.

The Lady Broncos continued to add onto their lead, as back-to-back aces from Black, and a point by Burks, made it a 13-4 game. Southeastern, though, went on a little run to cut it to 14-9, but a pair of points, plus a kill, by Baggett, helped Holly Pond push their lead to 19-9. The Lady Mustangs trimmed it to 19-12, but Holly Pond finished the set really strong, as a kill by Black finished off the 25-13 win for the Lady Broncos.

An ace from Rohrscheib gave Holly Pond an early 3-1 lead in the second set, but Southeastern would go on a little run to take a 4-3 lead. The Lady Mustangs later pushed their lead to 10-7, but the Lady Broncos reeled off six straight points, which included a pair of aces from Burks, and kills by Thomas and Baggett, to take a 13-10 lead. An ace from Thomas pushed their lead to 15-11 and later held a 16-12 lead, but Southeastern came back to tie it up at 17. Kills by Tankersley, Baggett, and Thomas helped Holly Pond take a 22-19 lead. The Lady Mustangs tied it up at 23, but a kill by Earl and the set-winning point by Baggett gave Holly Pond the 25-23 win in the second set.

Holly Pond couldn't have asked for a better start to the third set, as a trio of kills by Tankersley and three aces from Rohrscheib, gave them a 10-0 lead.

An ace from Morgan Bartlett kept the lead at 10 for the Lady Broncos at 12-2, and later on, an ace from Black pushed their lead to 18-5. Back-to-back points by Baggett, plus a kill and a point by Thomas, gave Holly Pond a 22-6 lead. Back-to-back aces from Burks made it 24-6, and the game-winning kill by Earl helped the Lady Broncos win the third set, 25-6, as they won yet another area championship.

Emma Earl, Kamryn Tankersley, and Maycie Black won both All-Area in the team and tournament category for Holly Pond, while Mary Warden and Ella Bruer won All-Area in the team category, while Kaley Barger and Ciara Calvert took home All-Area in the tournament category for Cold Springs.

Holly Pond will play next Wednesday morning in Huntsville against the Area 10 runner-up, Donoho.





PREP VOLLEYBALL

No. 1 Addison tops No. 3 Meek to win 1A, Area 13 Tournament

Todd Walker
Tribune Correspondent

ADDISON, Ala. — The Addison Lady Bulldogs are becoming used to hosting their area tournament and did so again this year by winning the area throughout the regular season. Addison, the top seed played fourth-seeded Decatur Heritage, while the second-seeded Meek Lady Tigers played the No. 3 seed Saint Bernard with the winners meeting each other in the nightcap. 1A Area 13 is a tough region due to Addison and Meek being the No. 1 ranked and No. 3 ranked teams in the state in 1A volleyball. State seed No. 2 Spring Garden had their Head Coach there to scout his main competition for the state title. Addison handled the ladies from Heritage in straight sets, while Meek swept the Lady Saints. Addison then continued their dominance of the Meek Lady Tigers by sweeping them for the area championship. Both the ladies from Addison and Meek will advance to the State Volleyball Tournament to be held in Huntsville next week.

GAME 1

Addison opened the tournament with the Ladies from Decatur Heritage and Addison won the first set 25-11 in fairly easy fashion. Addison's Katie Barrett finished off the set by serving for Addison's last 8 points to take set one. Dacey Baker and Ava Bartlett were offensive and defensive stalwarts for the Lady Dawgs in the opener.

The second set was a little closer, but Addison was still able to pull away 25-17. Lauryn Cunningham and Baker served for 16 of Addison's 25 points. Bailee Ory was a digging machine while Hadley Butler handed out assists like they were candy.

The Lady Dawgs then came out super focused for the third set by jumping out to a 14-0 lead utilizing the jump serve of Ory. Baker and Bartlett had multiple blocks and kills during this run. After a short Lady Eagle run, Addison finished off the set and the game by winning 25-12 to advance to the championship game.

GAME 2

The Meek Lady Tigers then played the undermanned Saint Bernard Lady Saints, the Saints were missing one of their better players due to injury and the Lady Tigers weren't in a forgiving mood. Meek was consistent with crisp passes and solid offensive work to come away with a quick 25-16 win. Meek followed that first set victory by blistering the Lady Saints 25-5. Meek wrapped up the final set with a 25-17 victory, but the Lady Saints did not go down without a fight as they actually led most of the third set until the Lady Tigers decided enough was enough and ran the last 10 points to come away with the 25-17 victory.

GAME 3

The Addison Lady Bulldogs and the Meek Lady Tigers met in the area championship game, and it was due to be a fine game as both teams are two of the best teams in the state of Alabama in 1A Volleyball. Sometimes one team has another team's number and Addison has apparently gotten Meeks. Meek has lost to the Lady Bulldogs on 3 occasions this season and none of the games were particularly close. The Meek ladies are a quality group of young women, and they are a very deep team but for some reason they have yet to defeat the Lady Bulldogs and tonight would not be their night as they fell for the fourth time this year to the Lady Bulldogs.

In the first set, Addison's Lauryn Cunningham opened up serving and got Addison to a quick 5-0 lead. The teams would split the next 8 points with Addison holding a 9-4 lead. Katie Barrett had several kills and a block during this quick start for the Bulldogs. After a quick Meek timeout, the Lady Tigers came out and started a nice solid run of their own. Meek tied the game at ten.



BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Addison Lady Bulldogs defeated Decatur Heritage and Meek Thursday night to win this year's 1A, Area 13 Tournament.

Annabeth Powell then took the serve and would not release it until she had run off 10 consecutive points giving Addison a 20-10 lead. Powell was assisted by the emergence of young Freshman Ava Bartlett. Bartlett dominated the net on the offensive side as well as the defensive side. You would not want to be in front of one of Miss Bartlett's blasts across the net. As always, Bailee Ory and Hadley Butler were doing the dirty work with the assists and digs to keep the Lady Bulldog machine rolling. The teams swapped points until with Addison leading 23-16, Addison grabbed the last two to take the first set 25-16.

The second set had a focused Lady Bulldog team jump on the Lady Tigers for a 10-3 lead. This run was led by Dacey Baker and Katie Barrett controlling the net. Addison has to have one of the tallest teams in 1A volleyball with at least 6 girls at least 5'9" tall. Once again Meek clawed their way back in by cutting the lead to 11-9. The Lady Tigers really communicate well on the court and seem to know what each teammate is going to do. Addison answered by taking a 17-10 lead using Cunningham and Ory's serves. The second set played out fairly evenly until Addison was able to clinch a 25-16 victory to take a 2-0 lead.

The third set was all Lady Bulldogs. After Meek got off to a 2-0 lead, Senior Leader Ory led Addison by serving for 11 straight points to put the Lady Dawgs up 11-2. After a quick point from Meek, Butler led Addison to 4 more points to put Addison in a commanding 15-4 lead. The Lady Tigers wouldn't quit and took 6 out of the next 8 points to cut the deficit to 17-10. The serve of Cunningham iced the set and the match as she rattled off 8 straight points to give the Lady Bulldogs the 25-10 win and the regular season as well as the area tournament championship.

The All-Tournament Team, voted on by the coaches, was as follows: Meek Lady Tigers, Marlee Mosley, Carmyn Daughety and Peyton Johnson. For Addison, Bailee Ory, Hadley Butler, Katie Barrett, Lauryn Cunningham and Dacey Baker. Addison's Baker was also named MVP of the Tournament.

Addison Head Coach Kaydi Woodard, "This was a big one for us. Meek is a tough team and will make some noise in the state tournament. They (Meek) seem to bring out the best in us as they are probably our biggest rival. It is extremely difficult to beat a quality team multiple times in a season, but our ladies seem to really play their best against them. I was proud of all my young ladies but especially Ava Bartlett. Ava has the talent but has seemed a little hesitant to become aggressive on the court with so many veteran upper classmen that we have. Tonight, she arrived. Big steps on a big stage for Ava, she did great."

OFFICIAL STATS

Addison was led in kills by Baker with 18. Barrett had 14. Cunningham and Bartlett had 11 each. Butler had 9 and Powell 3. Digs were led by Ory with 35 and Baker with 32. Cunningham had 14, Powell had 13 and Butler had 12. Aces, Ory had 8, Baker and Barrett with 6 each. Cunningham and Butler with 2 each. Blocks, Barrett had 4, Bartlett with 3, Baker with 2 and Butler with 1. Assists, Butler with 41 and Powell with 16.

Donations (from Front)

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CULLMAN, Ala. — Woodland Village Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center is preparing for its largest fall carnival yet after a four-year hiatus due to COVID-19. While the lawns are already covered in spooky inflatables, and the reception area boasts dangling conical witch hats and festive Halloween decor, Woodland Village needs just one more thing to make the return of the carnival successful: candy.

Administrator Emily Holcomb buzzed with excitement as she shared details about the fall carnival: food trucks, games, fellowship and, of course, candy are all on the agenda.

Holcomb said that while in years prior to COVID, Woodland Village would gather anywhere from 1,400 to 1,600 pounds of candy to be given out by the seniors, this year they're sitting at around 600 pounds, with less than a week to go before the carnival.

"We get a lot of donations from local businesses, and our staff of course," she said, explaining the sources of the candy to be distributed.

While the donations are always graciously accepted and appreciated, Woodland Village is finding itself in a tight spot this year.

With the joy of both the seniors and the community on the line, the pressure is on.

Holcomb said there is no donation too big or too small, and givers can be eligible for a donation slip typically filed with taxes.

"Anything helps, even just one bag of candy," she nodded.

Holcomb also explained that while hundreds of pounds of candy may not seem like a big deal to some, it makes a world of difference for seniors who have entered assisted living facilities, saying that this is an event residents look forward to all year long.

"The biggest thing about this event is that it's the first time it'll be hosted since before COVID, so our residents are so excited about all of it!" she said.

When asked about what numbers to expect, Holcomb gleefully shared, "We'll probably have about 60 or 70 residents outside!"

She also requested that families bring their children out, not only to join in on all the carnival fun, but also to help the seniors socialize and feel a bit less lonely, saying that while a lot of residents choose to sit this one out, it's a crucial opportunity for connection between generations, especially around the holidays.

"It's open to anyone, though we do sometimes tend to cause a traffic jam!" she laughed, noting the facility's close proximity to an intersection.

Woodland Village Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center's fall carnival will be held Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023.

Festivities kick off at 5 p.m.

To donate candy, simply bring it to the front desk.

For more information about Woodland Village Nursing home, visit https://tinyurl.com/WVHCC2023.

Election (from Front)

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CULLMAN, Ala. — As the 2024 election season nears, Cullman County Republican Party Chair Alex J. Chaney shed light on the GOP qualification process.

"Candidate qualifying opened Monday, Oct. 16, 2023, and will close on Nov. 10, 2023, at 5 p.m., which is 116 days before the Primary Election as required by the Alabama Code 17-13-5(a)," stated Chaney.

For those considering a run under the banner of the Cullman GOP, Chaney outlined qualification steps. "Candidates seeking a state or county position must file a declaration of candidacy, along with the appropriate qualifying fees," he said. "Interested parties should get in touch with either myself or Kenneth Cornelius, our campaign committee chair."

Chaney noted that several candidates have already signaled their intentions. Most incumbents are planning to run again.

Two local attorneys have their eyes set on Circuit Court Judge, 32nd Judicial Circuit, Place 2, a seat currently held by Judge Martha Williams. Williams is not seeking re-election. Cullman County Attorney Emily Niezer Johnston and Cullman attorney Melvin Hastings have spoken at recent Republican events stating their intentions to run for Williams' vacant seat. Johnston officially announced her candidacy on Oct. 9.

Additionally, Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette on Oct. 7 officially declared his intention to run for election. Barnette was appointed to the role by the Cullman County School Board in 2016. Last November, Cullman County voters decided the superintendent position should be an elected one.

Chaney emphasized some essential points for those unfamiliar or out of touch with the election process.

"Apart from filing a declaration and paying the fees, qualified candidates must also submit a campaign finance report to the party once they qualify," he said. "This is a critical step that ensures transparency in the campaign process."

The Cullman County Election Department released upcoming election dates, as well as the offices that will be on the ballot.

Presidential Preference and Alabama statewide election dates

- Primary Election: March 5, 2024
- Primary Runoff Election: April 16, 2024
- General Election: Nov. 5, 2024

Offices on the ballot:

- President and Vice-President of the United States
- United States Representative, 4th Congressional District
- Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Place No. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Court of Civil Appeals Judge, Place No. 1, 2 and 3
- Court of Criminal Appeals Judge, Place No. 1, 2 and 3
- President, Public Service Commission
- Circuit Court Judge, 32nd Judicial Circuit, Place No. 1 and 2
- District Court Judge, Cullman County, Place No. 2
- Circuit Clerk, Cullman County
- Cullman County Judge of Probate
- Cullman County Commission Chairman
- Member, Cullman County Commission, Districts 3 and 4
- Superintendent, Cullman County Board of Education
- Member, Cullman County Board of Education for West Point, District No. 1
- Cullman County Board of Education for Holly Pond, District No. 3
- Cullman County Board of Education for Cold Springs/ District No. 5

As Cullman County braces for a busy election year, residents are encouraged to stay informed, participate actively and cast their votes responsibly. More information on candidates and Primary Election rules will be provided as election time gets closer.

Get more information on the Cullman GOP at www.facebook.com/CullmanGOP.

Look for a separate story on the Cullman County Democratic Party. Get more information on the local Democratic Party at www.cullmandemocrats.org.

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LEGALS

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.

PB WIL BK 119 PG 379 - 10/19/2023 03:44 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF * IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
CALVIN B. WILLIAMS, * CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
Deceased * CASE NO. PC-2023-304

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: Holden Hyatt, Holland Hyatt, Hayden Hyatt and All Known and Unknown Heirs of the Estate of Calvin B. Williams, Deceased

That on the 19th day of September, 2023, a Petition For Probate of Will, was filed in the aforesaid Probate Court by Sharon Denise Faulkner, as Petitioner, and that the 24th day of November 2023, at 10:00 o'clock a .m. has been appointed as the day for hearing said Petition, at which time you may appear and contest the same, if you deem it proper to do so.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Court this 19th day of October, 2023.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

TO: Publisher
The Cullman Tribune

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

Attorney for Petitioner:
Dan J. Willingham
FULLER, WILLINGHAM & CARTER, LLC
413 1st Avenue S.W.
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-2023

PB WIL BK 119 PG 367 - 10/19/2023 01:27 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
DEBRA ANN YANEY COIA, * CASE NO. PC 2023 - 129
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE: Letters Testamentary having been granted to Robert Frederick Coia as Executor of the Estate of DEBRA ANN YANEY COIA, deceased, on the 19th day of October, 2023, 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.

Robert Frederick Coia
Executor

Shay Persall
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
700 Second Avenue SW
Cullman AL 35055
(256) 841-7800

Attorney for Executor

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

PB MIN BK 219 PG 854 - 10/18/2023 02:25 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
RANDY PAUL CALLOWAY, DECEASED CASE NO. PC 2023-338

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF RANDY PAUL CALLOWAY, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Procesa G. Calloway on the 17th 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.

Procesa G. Calloway, Personal Representative (Administrator),
and
Steven C. Smith, Attorney for the Estate

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

PB WIL BK 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.
Lisa McSwain
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

County Commission recognizes local women; new library board member appointed

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman County Commissioners at the Tuesday, Oct. 17, commission meeting recognized Nancy Moore for her work with Restoring Women Outreach, Inc.

CULLMAN, Ala. — Two local women were recognized by the Cullman County Commission at its monthly meeting held Tuesday, Oct. 17. Nancy Moore was recognized for her work with Restoring Women Outreach, Inc., a local 12-step residential program. Angie Carter was also recognized; she represented Cullman County in the Ms. Senior Alabama pageant this summer and brought home first alternate, after her win as Ms. Senior Cullman County.

Library board

Resident Lance Conn addressed the commissioners in an attempt to table a vote on Commissioner Garry Marchman's Public Library Board of Cullman County member appointee, Jill Meggs, who is slated to replace current board member Lea Scott. Conn's address contained concerns of censorship in the Cullman County Public Library System (CCPLS) and a conflict of interest between the CCPLS and Friends of the Public Libraries of Cullman County, a group for which Meggs also holds a board seat.

Conn spoke plainly as he said, "It's my understanding that this appointment will cause a conflict of interest between the Cullman County Public Library System and the group Friends of the Public Libraries of Cullman County. Jill Meggs currently serves on the board of Friends of the Public Libraries of Cullman County, and should not also serve on the Cullman County Public Library Board.

"What has been most disturbing to me is that Friends of the Public Libraries of Cullman County have been asked to disassociate from the Cullman County Public Library, due to its lack of support for the Cullman library. It is also my concern that some commissioners may be attempting to overload the board of Cullman County Library with individuals who want to ban books (and) censor information.

"We are all aware of the recent news where book bans are becoming increasingly common, and while these bans are disguised behind calls to remove 'pornographic,' 'obscene' or 'indecent' books, that is usually a smoke screen for removing anything that testifies to the existence of gay people. For the record, censorship is defined as the suppression or prohibition of any parts of books, films, news etc. that are considered obscene, politically unacceptable or a threat to security.

"I believe we are on a dangerous road if our elected officials believe that banning books is the correct side of history to be on; it's inappropriate for our elected officials to target specific communities of people and to let that stand. Our state and our county have an ugly history of allowing the majority to beat up the minority, whether that be based on the color of our skin, the choice of our religion, or the sexual orientation and gender identity of our families. It is my understanding that the library submitted a name of an individual that has been supportive of the library and should be considered for the position. I would request that the commission reconsider their appointment and instead appoint Susan Hauk to the Cullman County Library Board. We need individuals on the library board with no conflicts of interest, who understand that everyone in Cullman is welcome in the library and that the materials in the library represent them one and all."

When it was time for the commissioners to vote on Meggs' appointment, Chairman Jeff Clemons called motioned to approve, Marchman quickly seconded and Commissioner Kelly Duke carried the motion.

It should be noted that Public Library Board of Cullman County member Tanya Allcorn also serves on the board of the Friends of the Public Libraries of Cullman County.

As the Tribune previously reported, Marchman said in September, "I don't believe we should have a single book in that library, period, that covers anything to deal with LGBT, and I know that's a strong statement." His comment was in response to the commissioners signing the Clean Up Alabama petition. Read the full story at www.cullmantribune.com/2023/09/09/county-commissioners-sign-clean-up-alabama-petition-regarding-libraries.

Two days later, the Public Library Board of Cullman County at its Thursday, Oct. 19, meeting discussed three challenged books, choosing to take no action. (Background: www.cullmantribune.com/2023/09/20/cullman-library-board-discusses-challenged-books-censorship)

Smith Lake Park

At its Tuesday meeting, the commission also voted unanimously to apply for a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. Cullman County Economic Development Project Coordinator Tiffany Oldacre explained the need for the application (Resolution 2023-45), saying, "This is for a splash pad at Smith Lake Park. We also want to complete repairs on the existing pool."

The commission approved the following agenda items:

- Proclamation of October being recognized as Breast Cancer Awareness Month countywide

- Proclamation of October being recognized as Domestic Violence Awareness Month countywide

- Resolution to change the speed limit on County Road 645 to 25mph

- Resolution to change the speed limit on County Road 388 to 30mph

- Resolution to apply for an Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Fund Grant to provide materials needed by local police

- Set the dates and times for 2024 Commission meetings

- Authorize Chairman to sign the North Alabama Safety Grant for FY2024

- Authorize Chairman and County Administrator to sign NARCOG Title III Aging Contract for FY 2024 and new HIPAA Business Associate Agreement

- Authorize Chairman to sign the Alabama Department of Youth Services Grant Agreement for FY 2023-2024 in the amount of $79,680.00 for Blount County

- Authorize Chairman to sign the 5311 Supplemental Agreement No. One between CARTS and ALDOT

- Authorize Chairman to sign ARP Act of 2021 Furlough Certification for CARTS

- Consider allocation of $250,000 to Good Samaritan Health Clinic from Opioid Funds for capital campaign and amend budget accordingly

- Consider approval of the annual subscription for the Revenue Mapping Software-cost $55,000 to be paid from the Reappraisal budget

- Consider quote from Summertown Metals for water department storage building in the amount of $60,653.42

- Consider quote from Deep South Construction for stabilizing the back entrance to the water and EMA building in the amount of $29, 868.53

- Consider quote from Agreement for FY 2023-2024 in the amount of $74,612.00 as the fiscal agent for Jackson County

- Consider quote from D.A.B. Restoration LLC for courthouse renovation project in the amount of $97,585.00

- Consider the surplus of a 2018 Chevrolet Tahoe from the Sheriff's office to be auctioned on GovDeals

- Proposed preliminary plat re-subdivision of lots three, four and five of Duck Creek Estates; a minor subdivision located on County Road 1669 and corner of County Road 1668 in Commission district three

- Proposed preliminary plat Smith Lake RV Resort Phase Four; a major private subdivision containing 58 lots located off County Road 202 in Commission District Four

- Proposed re-subdivision of Lot one in Magic Farms subdivision; a minor subdivision located on County Road 1539 and County Road 1319 in Commission district one

- Proposed change of name of Hamby subdivision to Jacob's Well subdivision located on County Road 559. Hamby subdivision was originally approved May 16, 2023; there have been no changes to the original plat

The next Cullman County Commission work session will be Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 4 p.m. in the commission meeting room; the meeting will follow at 6.

Sting (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Top row, left to right, are Mung Sian Kim, Juan Carlos Gutierrez, Dalton Lynn Gilliland and Carey Andew Kraehmer; bottom row, left to right, are Brody Hayes Bates, Yovani Alan Cruz Martinez, William Henry Clift and Ryan Philip Nobriga.

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Police Department's Investigation Division and Tactical Unit, in a coordinated effort with the Covenant Rescue Group, conducted a child exploitation sting operation last week. The operation was aimed at identifying and apprehending child predators and underlining the CPD's commitment to protecting Cullman's young community members.

According to Police Chief David Nassetta, during the operation, eight individuals were arrested on various charges associated with child exploitation.

While these arrests are significant, the police emphasized that the investigation remains active and additional charges could be forthcoming.

Those arrested are:

- Dalton Lynn Gilliland, 31, of Blountsville, charged with traveling to meet a child for an unlawful sex act and electronic solicitation of a child

- Brody Hayes Bates, 33, of Cullman, charged with traveling to meet a child for an unlawful sex act and electronic solicitation of a child

- Yovani Alan Cruz Martinez, 20, of Blountsville, charged with traveling to meet a child for an unlawful sex act and electronic solicitation of a child

- William Henry Clift, 59, of Hazel Green, charged with traveling to meet a child for an unlawful sex act and electronic solicitation of a child

- Mung Sian Kim, 31, of Cullman, charged with first-degree human trafficking, traveling to meet a child for an unlawful sex act and electronic solicitation of a child

- Ryan Philip Nobriga, 31, of Town Creek, charged with first-degree human trafficking, traveling to meet a child for an unlawful sex act and electronic solicitation of a child

- Juan Carlos Gutierrez, 41, of Decatur, charged with first-degree human trafficking, traveling to meet a child for an unlawful sex act and electronic solicitation of a child

- Carey Andrew Kraehmer, 43, of Seymour, Tennessee, charged with traveling to meet a child for an unlawful sex act, electronic solicitation of a child, enticing a child for immoral purposes and facilitating the travel for a child for an unlawful sex act.

The CPD expressed its gratitude to the Covenant Rescue Group for its collaboration and dedication in the mission to protect the vulnerable.

Authorities are urging the community to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity that might be related to child exploitation.

All subjects listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Wallace State Community College-Hanceville has the following open positions:

Human Resources Clerk
Athletic Coordinator
Health Information Technology Instructor
Enrollment Clerk

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Department at 256-352-8029.

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COLLEGE TIRE

315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE

256-352-2221

Festival (from Front)

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Amid a plethora of fall and Halloween activities slated for next week, Render Aid Alabama is joining in on the fall fun and offering support at the same time by hosting its inaugural Boo Festival on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023. Attendees can expect all the fun of a typical fall festival, while also learning more about domestic violence prevention and awareness.

The lineup is stacked with a host of local speakers, advocates and domestic violence survivors. Food trucks, inflatables for kids, games and more will be available to keep kids at ease while adults visit the informational booths.

"Boo Festival is important to us as we recently lost a valuable member of the community to domestic violence," said Candie Cummings of Render Aid Alabama.

Cummings shared that while this spooky and festive time of year can be a fright for some, far creepier and more insidious than ultra-realistic Halloween decor is the issue of domestic violence, and often, those in relationships don't know what that looks like.

"We want to educate people on what a healthy relationship looks like. Sometimes we are the problem and don't realize it," said Cummings.

Cummings also made sure to thank her sponsors and board members.

Throwing an event this large requires dedication, skill and perseverance, especially for a newer agency on the humanitarian scene in Cullman.

"It's a blessing to be able to host this event," beamed Cummings.

"We're so thankful for all those who've helped make this happen.

"Without our volunteers, sponsors and board members we would be still dreaming about making an event like this happen."

Boo Festival will be hosted Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center located along U.S. Highway 31 North in Vinemont. Doors will open at 11 a.m., with the festival winding down by 7 p.m.

For more information, visit https://tinyurl.com/renderaidal.

Obituary Announcements: Oct. 19-20

Audrey Davis Carlisle, 83
Funeral services for Audrey Davis Carlisle, 83, of Hanceville, will be 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20, 2023, at the Hanceville Funeral Home chapel. Brother Mike King will be officiating. Burial will follow the service at Center Hill cemetery. Visitation for the public will be from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20, 2023, at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mrs. Carlisle was born Jan. 31, 1940, in Blountsville, to the late Hoyt and May McElroy. She passed away Oct. 17, 2023 in Cullman, Alabama. Survivors include her daughter, Peggy Sweatmon Bates (Perry); her grandchildren, Ryan Douglas Lambert (Kim), Amanda Nicole Vaughn (Nick), Julie Bates; siblings, Ernestine Davis Gray, and M.C. Davis; a host of nieces, nephews, and friends. She was a lifetime caregiver of the sick and elderly. She loved shopping and looking good. She married Benny Dec. 27, 1983, and he was the love of her life. In addition to her parents, Hoyt and May McElroy, Mrs. Carlisle was preceded in death by her husband, Benny Ray Carlisle; her son, Danny Ray Sweatmon; siblings, Imogene Davis Mead, Christine Davis Osborne, Evelyn Davis Ayers, and her twin brother Aubrey Davis. The family would like to send a very special thank you to Julie Bates for her extra loving care. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Carlisle Family.

Ricky Stroud, 65
Memorial services are incomplete at this time for Ricky Stroud, 65, of Vinemont. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Stroud passed away Oct. 18, 2023 at his residence. He was born Sep. 7, 1958, to Clifford and Dorothy Vanover Stroud. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Doris Ann Bertram, 70,
Funeral service for Doris Ann Bertram, 70, of Hayden, will be at noon, Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Cullman City Cemetery, Pastor Bill Gorse officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Bertram passed away Oct. 18, 2023, at her residence. She was born Aug. 5, 1953, to Noie Cecil and Mary Lois Peeks Wideman. She loved kids and loved her family. She was preceded in death by her parents; a granddaughter, Kayla Ann and brothers and sisters. Survivors include her husband of 53 years, Jerry Bertram; son, Kevin (Jessie) Bertram; daughter, Angie (Andy) Parsons; sister, Patty (Ron) Eggleston; eight grandchildren, Brianna (Casey) Dunsmore, Courtney (Zach) Leonard, Carley (Ashton) Johnson, Alexis Caulk, Jordan Caulk, Kaylee Parsons, Kaitlyn Bertram, Preston Bertram; nine great-grandchildren; family and friends. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Alexander Lee Curington, 20, of Cullman
Memorial service for Alexander Lee Curington, age 20, of Cullman, will be Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023, at 3 p.m. at Brickyard Baptist Church, with Rev. Randy Phillips officiating. Visitation will be held from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Alexander passed from this life Monday, Oct. 16, 2023. He was born May 14, 2003, to Roger Dale Curington and Tanya Lynn Phillips Arnold. He is survived by his parents, Tanya and Tim Arnold; father, Roger Curington; brothers, Hagen Speegle, Colby Jones, Zachery Arnold; sisters, Autumn (Austin) Van Stedum, Breanna Arnold; grandparents, Randy and Jenny Phillips; uncle, Tim Phillips; nieces and nephews, Gunner Creasey, Mason Speegle, Blakeleigh Van Stedum, Octavia Van Stedum; family and friends. He is in his eternal home with his best buddy, Granny (Faye Aaron). In lieu of flowers, please make donations to: Cullman County Commission, Attn: Juvenile Probation, 500 2nd Ave SW Room 105, Cullman, AL 35055. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Dorothy Earnestine Morgan Reeves, 88
Dorothy Earnestine Morgan Reeves, age 88, of Vinemont, Alabama passed away on Friday, Oct. 20, 2023. Dorothy is survived by her husband, Dennis Jerrell Reeves; her daughter Wynette Cagle (Bud); her son Steven Reeves (Danie); her son Terry Reeves (Laura); her son Jerel Reeves (JoAnn); her daughter of heart Dianne Shed; and her daughter of heart Regina Davis. Survived by 10 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, a great-great-grandchild, three brothers, five sisters, and many nieces, nephews, friends, and brothers and sisters in the Lord. Dorothy was preceded in death by her father Ocie Kyle Morgan; her mother Bula Mae Fanning Morgan; her father-in-law H.A. Reeves and her mother-in-law Ethel Reeves. Also preceded in death by four sisters and a granddaughter. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.mossservicefh.com for the Reeves family.

Samuel David Mooney Jr., 82
Graveside service for Samuel David Mooney Jr., age 82, of Vinemont, will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023, at Flint Creek Cemetery with Ervin Mooney officiating. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements. Mr. Mooney passed away on Friday, Oct. 20, 2023, at his residence. He was born July 4, 1941, in Tennessee to Samuel D. Mooney Sr. and Linda Ary Mooney. He was preceded in death by his grandson, Blain Mooney; parents; brothers, General Mooney, Harvey Mooney, and John Helms; and sisters, Luciell Hock, Susie Danecker, Celia Carden, and Pat (John) Ship. Survivors include his wife, Linda Mooney; son, Tony (Tracie) Mooney; grandchildren, Justin Yarbrough and Colton Yarbrough; sisters, Viola (Larry) Harrah and Violet (L.D.) Grisset; brother, David Mooney; special nephew, Lee Thomas; and a host of family and friends.

Deborah Crawford, 71
A graveside service for Deborah Crawford, 71, of Crane Hill was held on Friday Oct. 13, 2023, at Hopewell Cemetery in Hanceville, Alabama. Reverend Junior Wolfe officiated the service. Mrs. Crawford was born Aug. 20, 1952, in Cullman, Alabama. She passed away Oct. 11, 2023, in Birmingham, Alabama. Survivors include her husband, Jerry Crawford; her sister, Shirley Jackson (Terry); brothers, Marshall Hestla (Sarah), Jamie Hestla (Lynn), and Scotty Hestla (Tammy), all of whom will miss her dearly. Mrs. Crawford was preceded in death by her parents, John and Wilma Hestla; and her brother Roy Hestla.

Free Obituary Listings

HAVE YOUR FUNERAL HOME CONTACT US

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

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

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Cullman, Alabama 35055
www.cullmanfuneralhome.com

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

We took a trip back in time

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Jean and I were ready for a few days of hassle-free R-and-R last week. Sunday afternoon, right after church, we headed out toward the beautiful Appalachian Mountains of Eastern Tennessee. Rather than driving through the wonderfully busy city of Atlanta during the Mondy morning rush hour, we decided to leave on Sunday when there would be less traffic. Right? Much to our surprise, when we arrived in downtown Atlanta, we discovered something strange. It seemed that about half of the population of the Southeast had the same idea we did. In case you are thinking that we hit an Atlanta traffic jam, you would be wrong. We hit two of them! The first one was caused by a wreck. The second was caused by, well, I still don't know what caused the second one. We thought we might come back home by way of Montana in order to totally avoid any more traffic snarls.

We finally made it to Dillard, Georgia, where we stopped for the night, before heading on up to Tennessee the next day. Before we left Georgia, we decided to visit The Foxfire Museum and Heritage Center, located on a mountainside, next door to Rock Mountain State Park.

To get to The Foxfire Museum, you go up the mountain on a nice-paved road that turns into a narrow-paved road, that turns into a small-dirt road, that turns into a smaller dirt road, that goes on up to the museum... that is unless a truck-and-trailer carrying a track hoe is stuck at the bottom of the hill and blocking the road.

I said, "You've got to be kidding me!" We had a traffic jam on a dirt road, on the side of a mountain, and in the middle of the woods. It appeared that his trailer was too long to go up the steep hill without dragging. Three jams in two days might be more jams than even Smucker's has!

Finally, someone from the museum arrived. She instructed us to follow her and she would lead us up the rest of the mountain by a back entrance to the museum.

A four-wheel drive pickup would have been nice, and perhaps Lewis and Clark would have been helpful too! I prayed on the way up, and I prayed the other road would be unblocked by the time we headed back down.

We eventually made it to the top and boy was I ever glad. No, I really wasn't frightened by the back entrance road, but Jean and I were both delighted by what we found at the museum and heritage center.

We enjoyed hiking a trail up the hillside on a beautiful fall day. All along the trail we saw 20 historic log buildings that helped us catch a glimpse of the Appalachian Mountain lifestyle from the early-19th Century until the mid-20th Century.

There we toured houses, a church, a school, a covered wagon shed, a blacksmith shop, and more. Best of all, there were craftsmen there who demonstrated how the people performed such skills as weaving and cooking on a wood-burning stove. We even sampled some of their delicious-homemade vegetable soup and freshly-baked pumpkin bread. We washed it all down with apple cider. My favorite stop of the day was at the music shop. There we listened to music played on a dulcimer made from a wooden cigar box, a guitar made from a tin pie plate, and a canjo made from a tin can. You can even attend a workshop and make your own instrument from a cigar box...and you don't even have to smoke the cigars! I'm definitely going back!

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

HISTORY

Files from yesteryear: 1904, 1954

From the files of 1904

Miss Annie McConnell has returned to her studies in Tuscaloosa.

Mrs. Joseph Rudder returned Wednesday from an extended visit in Knoxville.

Captain R.P. Hobson will speak at the courthouse here today.

A.D. Brooks has purchased the D.O. McKoy farm, near Logan.

Harp Speegle left Tuesday for South America.

From the files of 1954

Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Corley of Vinemont celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on August 22, at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Robert Bryant of Falkville. They have four children, Virgil, Floyd and James Corley and Mrs. Robert Bryant. They have twelve grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Annette Gibbs was recently elected president of the Hanceville High Band. Other officers chosen were Glenda Plunkett, vice-president, Susie Whaley, secretary, Billy Welti, treasurer, Janice Loretta Chappell, reporter and Allen Fox and Frances Guy, Arms at Guard. The band's new director is Hubert Guy of Lewisburg, Tennessee. Mr. Guy's wife is also teaching choral music in the Hanceville schools. They have twin daughters, Frances and Marie. Band parents met with Mr. Guy last week to make plans for a new music library.

The Cullman Emblem Club entertained at a dinner party at the Elks Club recently honoring Miss Shirley Hamilton, Maid of Cotton. Mrs. Tignal Holmes presided and presented Miss Hamilton a train case, as a gift from the club. Mayor W.J. Nesmith made a brief talk.

Attending the party were Mr. and Mrs. Claude Schlosser, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Drake, Mr. and Mrs. C.L. Burke, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Boike, Mr. and Mrs. Lambert Mackentepe, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ruehl, Mr. and Mrs. Powell Blair, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Weissend, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Buettner, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Schlosser, Misses Margaret Fife, Margaret Schlosser and Shirley Hamilton and Mesdames Tignal Holmes, Joe Michie, Ottis Burrow, James F. Berry,C.W. Garrison and Al Powandra.

POET'S CORNER

Possibilities | By: Ann Coberley, Texas

Oh! What riches of possibility
come to mind!
Pumpkins in every shade
of orange and tinge of white!

I imagine pies with crimped crusts,
pumpkin bread and cookies,
kitchens fragrant as bazaars,
their air thick with cinnamon
and spices.

And what young artists
will adorn these round heads
with ghostly smiles
and monstrous leers,
their flickering eyes
and pointed teeth
the spirits of this season,
watching from dim lit windows
as goblins come for candy.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

OCT. 21

C O R G A N I Z A T I O N S N
R L H I D E S O S B D D F S O
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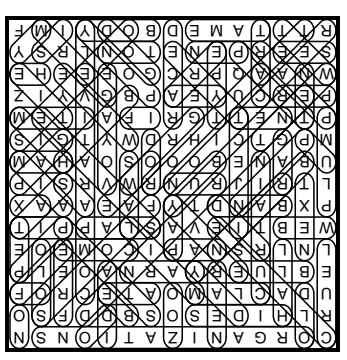
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

OCT. 21

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		2			8	7	1	
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ANSWERS:



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

Cause (from Front)

held not only to raise funds to support the therapeutic riding program, but also to also get the Hope Horses name out into the community. Said Executive Director Kelsey Scott, "We really want to get our name out there, you know? We're getting our name out and getting volunteers and stuff so we can make the lessons possible; to make one lesson possible it's not just the horse and the certified instructor - it's the volunteers that we need to make it possible."

Therapeutic horseback riding has been shown to assist and improve the quality of life of individuals with an array of disabilities in a vast number of ways and has been widely used and recommended since the 1960s. Scott knows what an impact therapeutic riding can make in clients' lives - mentally and physically.

Physically, horseback riding is a workout, one Scott understands is beneficial. "If someone has bad muscle tone or weak muscle tone, you know sitting in a saddle is core strength, and if you've ever been on a horse before you're gonna find out that you've got more muscles than you thought you had - that benefit from holding the reins. That's fine and gross motor skills"

She continued, "We have children with CP, muscular dystrophy, Down syndrome, autism.

"We've seen a lot of the emotional side coming out here in the past couple of years - communicating to your horse, asking your horse to walk on, even just taking the initiative to give your horse a squeeze.

"If you have a child with special needs that may be non-verbal, you know, that's a lot. Let's say you have a child who struggles with social communication or social skills. They're building confidence on a thousand-pound animal. They're telling that animal where to go.

"They're the ones controlling it, you know, and that's one thing we always push at Hope is independence because we want our students to accomplish that and ride independently."

To participate in the Hope Horses therapeutic riding program, participants must be 150 pounds or less, complete the Hope Horses participant application and submit a physician's statement, which must be signed by his or her primary care physician.

Both forms can be found at www.hopehorsesinc.com or can be obtained by emailing krice@hopehorsesinc.com.

Hope Horses, Inc. is located at 1301 Convent Road NE and can be reached by phone at 256-507-4088. Hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.



Local church hosting 'Judgement House'

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Redemption Church in Cullman will host a "Judgement House" titles "Collision" Oct. 27-29.

According to Pastor Rachel Thompson, a Judgment House is a six to eight-scene walk-through drama that presents people's choices and what the church believes are the consequences that come from those choices, both in this life and the life after.

"It is an effective tool for churches and ministries across the U.S. and the world to communicate the Gospel of Jesus to those who might not attend a church or hear a Sunday sermon," Thompson said. "I have had a vision of having a Judgment House for years. I can remember as a preteen and teenager going to Judgement House in my small town and the impact that they left on my own life. I have always wanted to host one at our church and see people lives change the way mine was. So this year we were able to make it happen, with the original writer and founder of Judgment House, Tom and Karen Hudgins, and his crew coming from Florida to help us. We wanted to offer something to our community for the youth and young adults to be able to attend to show how quickly life can change, but also to show the love of God and offer prayer for everyone that comes through the Judgment House."

Thompson said the Judgment House is not recommended for children younger than 10, but said that is at the parents- discretion.

The event is free to the public. It will be held Oct. 27-29, starting at 7 p.m. The church is located at 516 Schaeffel Road in Cullman.

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