

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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Local volunteer fire departments granted $100K in American Rescue Plan Act funds

Cayla Grace Murphy
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VINEMONT, Ala. — It was all smiles Thursday evening, Nov. 16, as members of the Cullman County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments received $100,000 worth of new equipment and funds to strengthen their departments' operations. Even the burliest firefighter cracked a smile at being awarded new thermal imagers to help a variety of situations, a fund to purchase hazardous material equipment as needed and a new Kongsberg sonar system to assist in search and recovery on area lakes.

Cullman County Commissioner Corey Freeman shared that the grant funds that made everything possible were a year in the making, with the commission putting the ball in his court on getting with the firefighters and assessing needs.

"I'm involved with fire service myself, so » PAGE 12



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman County Association of Volunteer Fire Departments officers pose with Cullman County Commissioner Corey Freeman after receiving new, much-needed equipment on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023. Left to right are Tim Martin, Corey Freeman, Brandon Williams and Toby Bates

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SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Fairview Aggies, Lady Aggies collect wins over Curry

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Library board discusses changes in operations amid interim director resignation



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman County Administrator John Bullard is seen at the Cullman County Public Library Board Meeting on Thursday, Nov. 16.

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CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Public Library Board at its meeting on Thursday, Nov. 16, discussed director pay and changes in operations, rescinded a disassociation letter to the Friends of the Public Libraries of Cullman County, the forfeiture of a $25,000 collection development grant and the resignation of interim director Josie Harrington (effective Dec. 1, 2023.)

Director pay scale discussion

Given concerns held by the public and the board concerning director pay, the board invited Cullman County Administrator John Bullard to discuss the appropriate pay scale for a starting director of the Cullman County Public Library System.

"The way the County pay scale operates is designed to reward longevity. We have a starting point for directors that is not set by me, it's what the commission has felt comfortable starting at," said Bullard. "If someone has an associate degree, they have 5% incentive; if they have a bachelor's or higher, the incentive is 10%. A $57,000 salary, with the 10% incentive, would be $62,700."

He continued, "I know the question I've gotten from several board members was, 'Why is the pay at that lower rate, that is on the lower end of library director salaries?' and it just has to do with the fact that it's a starting point. I can only speak to the few years that I've been here, but we've done a step each year." Bullard said if someone started out at the previous director's salary, » PAGE 6

5 arrested in deaths of 2 Cullman County brothers » PAGE 2

2023 Festival of Trees begins Dec. 3



CONTRIBUTED

Cullman Rotary Club member Robert Hain assists in the selection of trees for the upcoming Festival of Trees event. » PAGE 8

Unsheltered International invites community to free Thanksgiving meal Nov. 22 » PAGE 3



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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Nov. 17

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Nov. 17, 2023. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Nov. 13

- theft of property; criminal mischief; CR 1154
- stalking; CR 1718
- criminal mischief; CR 1087
- burglary; criminal mischief; Hwy. 69 N
- theft of property; CR 1338
- burglary; Hwy. 69 N
- burglary; Fairview Rd.
- criminal mischief; CR 1311
- criminal mischief; CR 18
- criminal mischief; Hwy. 69 S
- theft of property; Hwy. 278 W

Nov. 14

- burglary; CR 161
- harassment; CR 1301
- theft of property; CR 62
- domestic violence; criminal mischief; CR 1282
- theft of property; Hwy. 69 S

Nov. 15

- domestic violence; CR 1742
- animal cruelty; CR 1081
- assault; CR 702
- assault; CR 493
- burglary; Hwy. 278 E
- harassment; New Hope Rd.

ARRESTS

Nov. 13 – 15

Aldridge, Dana J.; 44
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

Bircheat, Robert E.; 41
- Probation Violation-forgery-forged instrument

Boone, John T.; 39
- public intoxication

Brannan, Christopher M.; 48
- FTA- possessing forged instrument
- FTA- negotiating worthless instrument
- FTA- illegal possession/use of credit/debit card
- FTA- driving while license suspended
- FTA- failure/refusal to display insurance
- FTA- no seat belt

Chambers, Jonathan Ray O.; 36
- Grand Jury- burglary-residence-force
- Grand Jury- larceny/theft-theft of property-2nd degree $1,500 to $2,500
- Grand Jury- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft

Collier, Cynthia D.; 59
- Grand Jury- larceny/theft

Duke Jr., Jimmy D.; 27
- Grand Jury- causing of delinquency, dependency or need of supervision
- Grand Jury- sex offense-rape-strong arm

England, Gaberalle Lee A.; 30
- Grand Jury- financial exploitation of the eldery-1st degree
- Grand Jury- financial exploitation of the elderly-2nd degree
- Grand Jury- financial exploitation of the elderly-3rd degree
- Grand Jury- counterfeiting
- Grand Jury- forged instrument
- Grand Jury- larceny/theft-theft of property-2nd degree $1,500 to $2,500
- Grand Jury- theft-miscellaneous
- Grand Jury-theft-miscellaneous theft less than $500

Evans, Travis W.; 57
- Probation Violation- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle

Fields Jr., Julian T.; 40
- FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs

Green, Heath M.; 39
- FTA- DUI (alcohol)

Griffin, Brandon M.; 25
- Grand Jury- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle (no theft or damage)
- Grand Jury- larceny/theft-miscellaneous

Hutton, Charity D.; 33
- Grand Jury- homicide-capital murder-during arson 1st or 2nd degree
- Grand Jury- homicide-capital murder-during robbery-1st degree

Insunza, Fong R.; 20
- FTA- driving while suspended, revoked or cancelled

Jenkins, Jerry T.; 28
- Grand Jury- assault-domestic violence-strangulation or suffocation
- Grand Jury- kidnapping-terror-adult

Jones, Clinton M.; 34
- Grand Jury- burglary-residence-force
- Grand Jury- larceny/theft

Klosinski, Mary E.; 34
- Grand Jury- assault-domestic-menacing-gun
- Grand Jury- assault-reckless endangerment
- Grand Jury- burglary-2nd degree-domestic violence
- Grand Jury- discharging firearm into occupied building, railroad, aircraft, automobile, etc.

Martin, Kody A.; 33
- assault-aggravated assault family-strong arm

Moore, Dustin Andrew D.; 26
- Probation Violation- sell/distribution of dangerous drugs
- Probation Violation- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft $500 less than $1,500

Overton, Wesley L.; 37
- Grand Jury- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft

Rockwell Jr., Vinton E.; 35
- Grand Jury- murder-reckless
- FTA- failure/refusal to display insurance

Scott, Tressa L.; 53
- embezzlement-embezzle from a bank type institution
- forgery-checks
- forgery-possessing forged instrument
- larceny/theft-theft from banking institution

Stricklin Jr., Martin W.; 55
- larceny/theft-theft of property-2nd degree $1,500 to $2,500
- possessing stolen property $1,500 or more

Swafford, Jeffery S.; 45
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- assault-domestic-menacing-intimidation only
- interference with domestic violence emergency call

Vess, Devon L.; 33
- FTA- permitting dogs to run at large

Walker, Joey V.; 26
- Grand Jury- financial exploitation of the eldery-1st degree
- Grand Jury- financial exploitation of the elderly-2nd degree
- Grand Jury- financial exploitation of the elderly-3rd degree
- Grand Jury- counterfeiting
- Grand Jury- forged instrument
- Grand Jury- larceny/theft-theft of property-2nd degree $1,500 to $2,500
- Grand Jury- larceny/theft $500 less than $1,500
- Grand Jury- theft-miscellaneous
- Grand Jury-theft-miscellaneous theft less than $500

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Nov. 9
- forgery-3rd degree; theft of property-1st degree; Peoples Bank; cash

Nov. 15
- burglary-3rd degree; person; Cliff Rd. SE; trailer; miscellaneous
- theft by deception-3rd degree; Home 2 Suites; Hwy. 157; $708
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; general merchandise; $266
- criminal mischief; person; 2nd Ave. SW; damage to 2013 GMC Yukon; $600

Nov. 16
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; general merchandise; $353
- theft of services-4th degree; Applebee's; Cherokee Ave. SW; $68
- theft of property-3rd degree; person; Fantasia Dr. NW; cash
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $389

ARRESTS

Nov. 14 – 16

Drozda, John W.; 37
- Grand Jury- indictment for murder

Martinez, Yovani A. C.; 20
- Grand Jury- traveling to meet child/electronic solicitation

Bearden, Bradley L.; 55
- Grand Jury- sex abuse

Sellers, Van T.; 37
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Scott, Kristina A.; 38
- theft of property-4th degree

Vespi, Douglas E.; 26
- theft of property-4th degree

Shew, Lauren E.; 34
- Grand Jury- possession forged instrument
- Grand Jury- criminal conspiracy

Record, James R.; 67
- theft of property-4th degree

Vinson Jr., William J.; 20
- Grand Jury- assault-2nd degree
- Grand Jury- assault-3rd degree

Martin IV, William H.; 23
- FTA- criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA- speeding
- FTA- insurance violation
- FTA- driving without license
- FTA- violation of town ordinance

Beam, Clayel D.; 31
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Starling, Chance M.; 20
- Grand Jury- assault-2nd degree
- Grand Jury- assault-3rd degree

Taylor, Zachary S.; 21
- Grand Jury- assault-2nd degree
- Grand Jury- assault-3rd degree

William-Luke, Jalen F.; 28
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

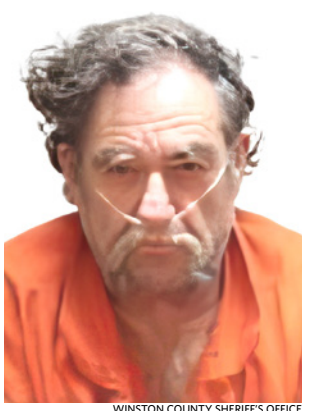
No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Arrests (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

WINSTON COUNTY, Ala. – The Winston County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, announced the arrests of five individuals in connection with the deaths of Cullman County brothers Braxton Thomas, 30, and Rico Tannehill, 28.



WINSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Marvin Edward Grace



WINSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
April Nicole Gosa



WINSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Brittiany Lashae Lewis



WINSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Shawn William Dickinson



WINSTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Nichole Cline-Ikerd

- Marvin Edward Grace is charged with two counts of abuse of a corpse, and one count each of tampering with physical evidence, unlawful possession of a controlled substance, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia and criminal conspiracy to commit a controlled substance crime

- April Nicole Gosa is charged with trafficking fentanyl and criminal conspiracy to commit a controlled substance crime

- Brittiany Lashae Lewis is charged with criminal conspiracy to commit a controlled substance crime

- Shawn William Dickinson is charged with third-degree theft of property and tampering with physical evidence

- Nichole Cline-Ikerd is charged with two counts of unlawful possession of a controlled substance

The WCSO posted details on its Facebook page, published (as written) below:

"The Winston County Sheriff's Office has been for many days been investigating the circumstances surrounding the deaths of two Cullman County men found deceased in Winston County.

"Having been an investigator for many years myself, I can attest to the difficulties involved in investigating cases such as these.

"Several members of the Sheriff's Office, to include our investigations division and patrol division, have put many long hours into this investigation.

"I am very proud of the team and the job that they have done. Hopefully the conclusion of this investigation will bring closure to the families of these two men.

"I am personally saddened by these deaths and by many others that I have encountered in my law enforcement career, again my thoughts and prayers belong to the families of those involved.

"This case in its entirety and many details pursuant to this case cannot be disclosed as there is pending legal action and we do not wish this case, for the victims and their families sake, to be put into jeopardy.

"However the broad parts of this investigation will be shared now in this update.

"On Sunday November the 5th at around midnight Rico Tannehill, Braxton Thomas and Brittiany Lashae Lewis traveled to Winston County from the Vinemont area of Cullman County.

"The three of them went to the south Haleyville residence of Marvin Edward Grace where it is believe that both Thomas and Tannehill consumed narcotics. We were also informed that Grace, Lewis, Tannehill and Thomas, with Thomas driving, left from south Haleyville and proceeded to an address on Gosa Farm rd, north of Double Springs where April Nicole Gosa and her boyfriend Shawn William Dickinson live. It is also believed that both Tannehill and Thomas consumed narcotics at that residence as well.

"From there Lewis, Tannehill and Thomas left the Dickinson/Gosa residence together with Grace driving Thomas's vehicle, where they reportedly went back to the residence of Grace.

"It is believed that Rico Tannehill and Braxton Thomas died later that morning in Thomas's car in the yard of Grace's residence of a suspected overdose pending toxicology results.

"Statements made in the course of the investigation have led us to believe that Thomas and Tannehill were driven to a remote area of County Road 17 by Grace.

"A statement made by Grace was that he parked the car in a location where he hoped that they would be found.

"Several search warrants were obtained and executed and total of five arrest have been made in the course of this investigation thus far. Those arrested have been listed below.

"I appreciate the patience and understanding of the public, I am a firm believer in those who have committed crimes not only in this case but others as well, be brought to justice.

"Justice however would not be possible in some cases and greatly hindered in others if all of the gathered information is released, and or released too quickly.

"Again I appreciate understanding and patience in these matters.

"In a final word please be kind in the comments as these tragic events have affected both families and communities."



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Braxton Thomas



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Rico Tannehill

HAY FOR SALE

4 x 5.5 rolls, $35. Mixed hay, all baled in 2023. Call (256) 338-6051 or (256) 338-6049.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

Church Services-Spirit Life Church of GOD
• Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Mondays-Fridays-Free hot meals for children Mondays 11 a.m.-noon, Tuesdays 1-2 p.m. and Wednesdays-Fridays 11 a.m.-noon. Cullman Housing Authority Community Center 1545 Vine Circle SW. Please call Kristie 256-636-5362 for more information. Eat in or take out. Sponsored by Kids Loving Kids, Raising Arrows Ministry and Spirit Life Church.
• Kids Loving Kids Birthday Blessings serves children ages 1-18 in need of assistance to celebrate their birthdays. Register your child and pick up a birthday box with cake mix, icing, sprinkles, decorations and toys! Pickup is the last weekend of the month. Saturday (5100 Curry Highway Suite 100-B Jasper, AL 35504) from 3-5 p.m. or the last Sunday of the month at Spirit Life Church Cullman from 12:30-1 p.m. Birth certificate is required at the time of box pickup. Register at https://form.jotform.com/203435614640045. For more information, text or call 205-717-7478.
• Saturday, Nov. 18 – 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank and CAMS training
• Sunday, Nov. 19 - 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, Nov. 19 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points area. Call Guy Sunter at 727-215-9092 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Jeff Gilliland at 11.
• Wednesday, Nov. 22 - Women's Ministry cooks for victim services. No bible classes; enjoy time with your families!
• Thursday, Nov. 23 - Happy Thanksgiving!
• Friday, Nov. 24- Celebrate Recovery canceled this week.
• Saturday, Nov. 25 - Youth Iron Bowl Party
• Sunday, Nov. 26 - 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, Nov. 26 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points area. Call Guy Sunter at 727-215-9092 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11.

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.

Town of South Vinemont 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner
Saturday, Nov. 18, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Vinemont School lunchroom. Dine in and carry out. One plate per person.

Winter Wonderland at Sportsman Lake Park
• Check out a variety of still and moving light displays, then hit the concessions stand for a warm cup of hot cocoa or a photo op with Santa Claus!
• The attraction is open 5-9 p.m. Nov. 17-19 and Nov. 24-Dec. 29 (closed Mondays and Tuesdays until Dec. 13). It will transition to a drive-through only experience Dec. 26-29. Opening ceremonies will be Friday, Nov. 17 at 5 p.m.
• Admission is $10 cash per vehicle. Attractions include the Christmas train ($5 per person), horse and carriage rides (select nights at $5 per person), snow machine, photo booth, hot chocolate and additional Christmas entertainment.

Cullman High School Class of 1963 60-Year Reunion
Saturday, Nov. 18, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Stone Bridge Farms, the first building on the left. The cost is $ 30 per person, payable at the door. (Pay in cash, please.) Prior to this, at 4, there will be a guided tour of the recently remodeled Cullman High School, for those who are able to attend. Please call Nancy Drake Weissend at 256-734-0696, to let her know if you will be attending, as well as any questions you may have.

Christmas at the Grotto
The spirit of Christmas has returned to the Ave Maria Grotto. Visit and enjoy Brother Joseph's creations, completely decked in lights. The attraction will be open every Friday and Saturday, some Sundays, and Dec. 26-27 beginning Friday, Nov. 24. Friday, Dec. 15, and Saturday, Dec. 16, will be even more magical as food trucks, kids' rides, wagon rides and even Santa Claus! It's an experience you won't want to miss!

Dates
• Nov. 24-25, 30 – 5-9 p.m. (kids' rides)
• Dec. 1-2 – 5-9 p.m. (kids' rides)
• Dec. 8-10 – 5-9 p.m. (kids' rides)
• Dec. 14 – 5-9 p.m. (kids' rides)
• Dec. 15-16 – 5-9 p.m. (food trucks, kids' rides, wagon rides, Santa Claus)
• Dec. 21-23 – 5-9 p.m. (kids' rides)
• Dec. 26-27 – 5-9 p.m. (kids' rides)

Admission
• Adults - $10
• Seniors - $8
• Military/veterans/first responders - $7
• Teens (13-17) - $8
• Children (5-12) - $7
• Children younger than 4 - free
• Wagon rides on Dec 15,16 - $5
• Kids' rides every night of event - $3

Pleasant View Singing
We will have our last singing of the year, Sunday night, Nov. 19, at 5 with Refined. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278, approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. For more information call 256-796-5986 or 256-338-9202.

Cullman Chapter of The National Association of Retired and Active Federal Employees Meeting
Monday, Nov. 20, at the Golden Corral Buffet. This is due to the rescheduling of our BCBS speaker. Meeting will begin at noon, with a Dutch lunch prior to meeting. All members and nonmembers are welcome and urged to attend.

8th Annual Veterans Thanksgiving Dinner – Free!
Monday, Nov. 20, from noon-6 p.m. at the Brandin' Iron in West Point. For local veterans and their families. We encourage you to invite every veteran you know!

Fairview Lions Club Turkey Shoot
Thursday, Nov. 23, Thanksgiving Day, at 7 a.m. at the Clinton Barbee Park (old pool field) on Wesley Avenue in Fairview. Shots are $5 a shot, turkeys, hams and bacon. We will also be drawing for a camo Charles Dale 12-gague pump shotgun and case to be given away that day. Tickets available at the shoot. Tickets are six for $5 or $1 each. Bring your favorite gun; shells will be provided. You do not have to be present to win. 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.

Weihnachtspyramide/Christmas Pyramid Lighting
Friday, Nov. 24, at 6 p.m. near Depot Park. The Weihnachtspyramide will be on the grounds of the Cullman County Museum.

Christkindlmarkt
• Immerse yourself in a German winter wonderland at Cullman's Christkindlmarkt at Depot Park. Every Thursday to Sunday, from Nov. 24 to Dec. 23, indulge in rich flavors of traditional German Christkindlmarkt Cuisine. Experience ice skating, carousel rides and cherished moments with Santa.
• Our market's heart lies in its authenticity, from carefully handpicked vendors to the preserved centuries-old tradition that best exemplifies true German craftsmanship. Treasure offerings from revered German manufacturers like Christian Ulbricht, Dregeno Seiffen, Engstler, Graupner, Knox, Richard Glässer, Ino Schaller, and Richard Sellmer—where each item is a testament to legacy and meticulous artistry.
• Hours are Thursdays 4-9 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sundays 1-8 p.m. www.cullmanchristkindlmarkt.com

Christmas in Cullman Parade & Tree Lighting
Gather round the Warehouse District Friday, Dec. 1, as Cullman residents don their holliest jolliest best, boasting decked-out cars and trucks, each hoping to be better than the last and hoping to bring home bragging rights of first-place float.
• The parade begins at 5 p.m. and will travel north on First Avenue through the Warehouse District to Depot Park, where "The South's Largest Christmas Tree Lighting" will begin just after the parade, with Taylor Hicks and James Spann. Enjoy the Christkindlmarkt, ice skating rink, Christmas carousel and Kinderplatz Santa's Village!

34th Annual Cullman County Christmas Parade
Saturday, Dec. 2, at noon. The parade will travel from Wallace State down U.S. Highway 31 to Hanceville Fire Station No. 1. www.facebook.com/hancevillecivitan

Town of South Vinemont 2nd Annual Christmas in the Park
Saturday, Dec. 9, from 4-6 p.m. at the Vinemont walking trail/Art Park, 88 Ridgeway St. Santa Claus, cookies and hot chocolate.

Meal (from Front)

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Local nonprofit Unsheltered International is dedicated to helping unsheltered and unhoused individuals and connecting resources to the people who may need them most. As part of the organization's community outreach, it will partner with local food truck The Street Kitchen to host a free Thanksgiving meal for Cullman County families in need on Wednesday, Nov. 22, at 6:30 p.m. at Temple Baptist Church.

"Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and we are ready!" said Unsheltered International President and Founder Travis Sharpe.

"Our staff has planned a special Thanksgiving meal and preaching service for this coming Wednesday at 6:30 p.m."

The meal will be held in Temple Baptist Church's gym, with the message prior to the meal.

Said Sharpe, "I will be speaking and presenting the gospel, so please pray that many will be receptive to the gospel message."

The holiday season can be lonely for some. Seniors, single adults or individuals with no support system could potentially spend a large chunk of the holidays with no other meaningful interaction.

Sharpe lamented, "The plan is to be a blessing to people who otherwise wouldn't have a Thanksgiving meal with family or friends."

Sharpe said he created Unsheltered International to not only put needed resources into the hands of the community's most vulnerable, but also to spread the gospel to anyone who needs to hear and is open to a message.

Showers, food and assistance with clothing and hygiene items are just a few things Unsheltered International offers to its local clients.

Outreach Specialist Savannah Smith said, "Our local ministry here in this area includes emergency services for the homeless and our new project called The Village, a tiny-home community that we are currently developing."

Temple Baptist Church is located at 30 County Road 1184.

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ACES: Guide to cooking the Thanksgiving turkey

Justin Miller
Contributor

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. — At Thanksgiving, the turkey is the star of the dinner table. However, it does no good if it is frozen, burned to a crisp or makes your guests sick. Safely cooking the perfect turkey takes time and planning.

Thawing takes time

If the plan is to pull out a frozen turkey the day before Thanksgiving and have it ready in time — think again. Properly thawing a turkey takes time.

Janice Hall, an Alabama Cooperative Extension System food safety and quality expert, said while it may take a while, thawing your Thanksgiving bird in a refrigerator is the safest way.

"The general rule of thumb is to allow 24 hours of thawing in a refrigerator per 5 pounds of turkey," Hall said. "If you are cooking a 15-pound turkey, you need to start the thawing process at least three days before you plan to cook it."

Hall recommends placing the turkey in a pan and placing it on the bottom shelf of the refrigerator. The pan will help prevent cross contamination as the bird thaws.

"It is extremely dangerous to thaw meat at room temperature," Hall said. "The food temperature danger zone is from 41 to 135 degrees Fahrenheit. Thawing a turkey at room temperature would create a perfect environment for harmful bacteria to grow."

Cook safely no matter the method

Roasting is an established method for cooking a turkey. However, in recent years, other methods have gained popularity. Hall said no matter which method you choose, you must cook a bird to the correct internal temperature.

"Turkeys must be cooked to an internal temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit," Hall said. "To check the temperature, you need to have a food thermometer. Insert the thermometer into the thickest part of the turkey, either the breast or the thigh." Turkey and dressing go hand in hand at Thanksgiving. However, instead of cooking it inside the bird's cavity, Hall recommends cooking the stuffing/dressing in a separate pan. This will ensure that the dressing is cooked to 165 degrees Fahrenheit.

A quick cooking alternative

Need a quicker way to cook your turkey this year? Hall said when you are pressed for time, the best way to cook a turkey is by pressure cooking. "One Thanksgiving, I realized that I didn't have room in the oven to cook two turkeys and a ham, so I thought to use my electric pressure cooker," Hall said.

When using this method, Hall starts by cutting the turkey in half and submerging it in chicken broth. She then adds celery, bell pepper, onion, poultry seasoning, garlic cloves, salt and pepper and sets the cooker on high for 50 minutes. "Oh, my goodness. It was absolutely amazing," Hall said. "It was so tender, flavored all the way through and far better than the one I cooked in the oven. Everyone raved over it."

More information

For more information on food safety, visit the Food Safety section of www.aces.edu or contact the food safety and quality agent serving your area



Students learn leadership skills at annual Youth Leadership Conference

Tanner Hood
Alabama Farmers Federation

COLUMBIANA, Ala. — The 2023 Alfa Youth Leadership Conference helped 87 high school freshmen and sophomores from across Alabama develop crucial life and ag advocacy skills at the Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana Nov. 13-14.

The two-day conference was hosted by the Alabama Farmers Federation and began with students networking with other young people from around the state. Later, character development sessions were hosted by professional speakers Noah Galloway and Rhett Laubach.

Galloway, a veteran, double amputee and Purple Heart Recipient, shared his story of tragedy to triumph. Using his mantra "no excuses," the Birmingham native taught students the importance of never giving up while always finding a way to make their lives and others' better. His parting message to the group was, "Don't be average. Be exceptional."

"One thing (Noah) showed me is no matter if I have thoughts going through my mind like 'You can't do this,' I actually can do it," said Addy Kirkland, a sophomore at Rehobeth High School in Houston County. "'Don't ever give up on yourself,' is what I took away from it."

Laubach continued the effort by teaching students to develop leadership characteristics through high-energy and high-impact workshops. Laubach, a professional trainer and presentations coach, guided students to understand their strengths and acknowledge and overcome their weaknesses to be effective leaders.

Lincoln County High School sophomore Cristen Haynes said the speakers were intriguing and pushed them outside their known limits to use skills they didn't know they had.

"Through engaging us, it was easier for us to develop and demonstrate the qualities we were learning," the Talladega County native said.

"Breaking us into groups and interacting with students across the state made us uncomfortable, but it was a good opportunity to build our way out and use those skills. It was the most inspirational and motivating conference I've attended."

Students also enjoyed outdoor activities and team-building exercises with 4-H staff, heard from a panel of young farmers about future careers and opportunities in ag, and learned the importance of leadership in ag advocacy from Federation Young Farmers Division Director Hunter McBrayer.

"Our future lies with our young people," McBrayer said. "We want to develop future leaders who know how to interact with others, work for the common good and promote a better society for not only agriculture but everything.

"This conference gives us the opportunity to educate and develop exceptional students who can shape their communities, state and country."

The highlight of the conference included a session where students practiced the skill of service and assembled wooden toys to send to patients at Children's of Alabama Hospital this holiday season.

Bullock County sophomore Rose Ryan-Ulver said leading included giving back to others, and this project was a fun way to help those who are less fortunate.

"As a leader you have to serve others," said Ryan-Ulver.

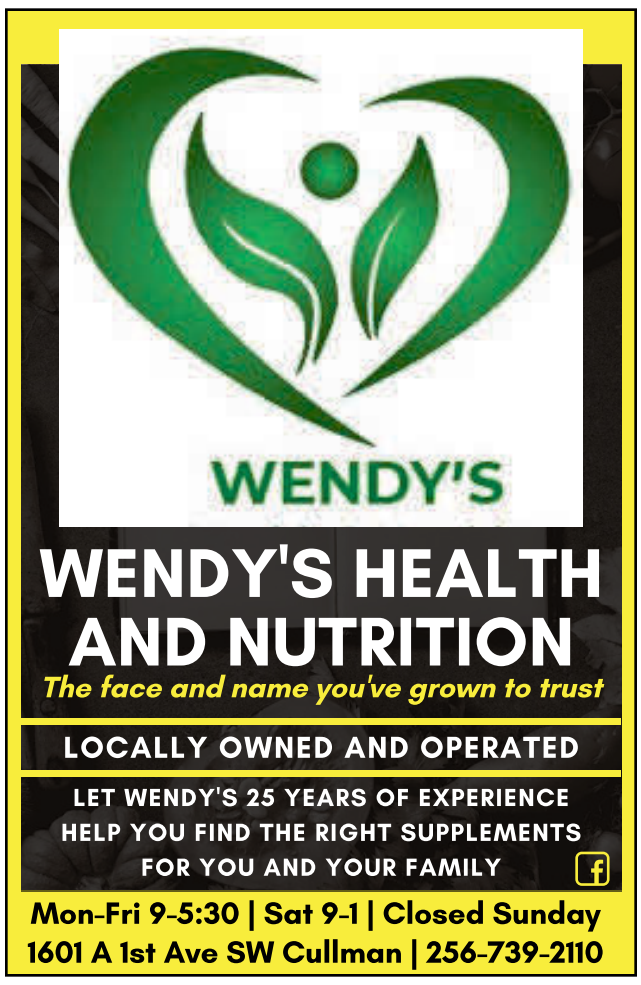
"You can help people, even out of your circle, if you take the time to appreciate the smaller things and give them something to look forward to."

The Alfa Youth Leadership Conference is sponsored by Alabama Ag Credit and Alabama Farm Credit.



ALABAMA FARMERS FEDERATION

Cullman County students Kinzey Sizemore, Missy Williams and Bradley Woods attended the Alfa Youth Leadership Conference Nov. 13-14 at the Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana. The conference teaches students how to advocate for agriculture, identify their potential and step into leadership roles. The event is for ninth and 10th graders. Sponsors are Alabama Farmers Federation, Cullman County Farmers Federation, Alabama Ag Credit and Alabama Farm Credit. Sizemore attends Fairview High School, and Williams and Woods attend Holly Pond High School. From left are Alabama Farmers Federation's Matthew Durdin, Sizemore, Williams and Woods.





Repairs begin to make Gulf State Park Pier whole again

David Rainer
Ala. Dept. of Conservation and Nat. Resources

GULF SHORES, Ala. — Lamar Pendergrass had a dream several years ago when he became the South Region Operations Supervisor for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (ADCNR) State Parks Division.

Pendergrass's goal was to restore and upgrade the Gulf State Park Pier in Gulf Shores with durable materials that would stand up to the salty environment of the Alabama Gulf Coast. He accomplished that goal with one day to enjoy the work. Just as one of the Gulf of Mexico's premier piers was set to reopen in 2020 after a $2.4 million renovation, Hurricane Sally made a direct hit on the Alabama Gulf Coast, and the pier was significantly damaged. A 200-foot section near the octagon on the end of the pier collapsed.

"When I first took this job, one of the major projects for me was the renovation of the pier itself," Pendergrass said.

"I met with (ADCNR) Commissioner (Chris) Blankenship and Deputy Commissioner (Ed) Poolos and walked the pier. I told them it wasn't going to do anything but get worse. Because of the saltwater conditions and the sun beating down on it, it was in need of repairs and upgrades."

Commissioner Blankenship is the Lead Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) Trustee for Alabama. He worked with the other NRDA Trustees to acquire the $2.4 million in funding to totally renovate the Gulf State Park Pier in 2020

Pendergrass added, "We went with ipe (pronounced ee-pay) wood for the decking and railing, which was more expensive but a lot more durable.

"About the time we got ready for the reopening, here came Sally, which put us where we are now. The concrete pilings that hold the decking and boardwalk up, once they started collapsing, it was kind of a domino effect out to the octagon. Basically, we have an open gap of about 200 feet from what we call the nub to the octagon now."

Pendergrass now has a new dream that will hopefully be fulfilled by late summer 2024. Bids to repair the hurricane damage came in much higher than expected, and ADCNR had to go through a lengthy process to get the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to agree to provide funds for the repairs.

The job was awarded to MD Thomas Construction, which had done the previous renovation, at $13.6 million.

Because of the extensive work to be done, the pier will be closed for the duration of the repairs. The pier closed at 5:30 p.m. Sunday.

"The parking lot will also be barricaded because we have to treat this as a construction zone," Pendergrass said. "The pier area will not be an access to the beach for anyone. There will be no public restrooms here.

"MD Thomas started mobilizing on Monday with plans to have a barge moved into the pier area when the weather allows. From that point, we just hope to see work beginning and the pier to start to take shape again."

While the pier is closed, park visitors can access the beach at Cotton Bayou, Alabama Point, Shell Beach and Beach Pavilion, and the Romar Beach access will soon be open with improvements.

Pendergrass said the first task for the contractor will be to remove the concrete pilings that collapsed and have been underwater since the hurricane. Pendergrass hopes the removal of the debris will take a couple of months, but he knows the weather will be a significant factor in the timing.

"In addition to taking away what's down, they are going to be repairing some of the standing pilings that had a little bit of damage," he said. "They will send divers down to do repairs on those as well."

Although the octagon survived Sally, Pendergrass said the improvements were pretty much gone.

"From what I've been able to tell, the octagon was pretty much stripped," he said. "The deck seems to be intact. There is also an elevator out there that we really have no idea what shape it's going to be in. Once the repairs are made out to the octagon, we'll have to evaluate what we have and start making the deck panels. A lot of the handrail and decking on the octagon are going to have to be replaced or repaired.

"The entire lighting equipment for that 200-foot section and the octagon will have to be replaced. There's a lot to do, but we're very optimistic about when we'll be able to open back up."

One angler who was taking advantage of the last few days of fishing at the pier said he was "excited" about being able to fish the entire pier sometime in 2024 after being limited to the area just past the nub. He was taking advantage of what he called a wolfpack of bluefish cruising past the pier and said he had been able to catch many of the usual species hooked on the pier with the exception of tarpon.

"For the most part, I think everybody is excited," Pendergrass said. "They waited to hear the information and are probably a little disappointed that it didn't come sooner. When you're dealing with a government bureaucracy, things don't move as well as we would like. We're just proud to get this project started.

"I know the fishing on the pier changed after Sally. The anglers weren't able to target some of the usual species. This season, I know that sheepshead was one of the primary fish we saw being caught out there. Recently, there was a big run of sheepshead on the pier, and they were pulling them in as fast as they could put something down to catch them. There's also been a lot of redfish caught and several good flounder. We even had red snapper caught, which surprised a lot of us, and several were legal (16-inch minimum) size."

Although Gulf State Park Pier is known for its fishing, it also provides educational opportunities and has abundant traffic from sightseers. Pendergrass said that 34,100 fishing passes were issued in 2023, while 82,000 sightseeing passes were sold.

Pendergrass said the decision to stick with ipe wood for the railings and deck panels was a no-brainer because of the way the South American sustainably sourced wood has fared on the portion of the pier that was reopened after Sally.

"We're very satisfied with the way the ipe has held up as far as the foot traffic it has received," he said. "People were saying that ipe would sink and not float, but we found most of the panels after the hurricane. If the pier had been intact, we could have probably put 90 percent of the pier back together with the panels we found. We have a substantial amount of salvaged ipe if we need it."

Commissioner Blankenship said he also was excited to get the work started to restore Gulf State Park Pier.

"The pier provides quality recreational fishing for thousands of anglers each year," Commissioner Blankenship said. "A walk out on the Gulf State Park Pier is a time-honored tradition of locals and visitors alike. A trip to the Gulf is not complete without experiencing the sights from the pier. When the work is completed, anglers and other park visitors will have full access to one of the premier fishing and sightseeing destinations on the Gulf Coast."

Pendergrass added, "I do want to say that I appreciate everybody's patience, not only the residents of Alabama but also those who come to visit to use and fish the pier. We do hope for a quick turnaround. In a perfect world, we're looking at eight months. I think if we can reopen in August, which is a more realistic date, we'll be happy, and I know the people who fish it will be happy.

"What I said between three and four years ago still goes. Once the repairs are completed, the people of Alabama will again have a pier that they can be proud of."



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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
NOVEMBER 18, 2023

PREP BASKETBALL

Fairview Aggies, Lady Aggies collect wins over Curry

Sammy Confer
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FAIRVIEW, Ala. — The Fairview Aggies and Lady Aggies welcomed the Curry Yellow Jackets to Joe Shults Gym for their home openers Thursday night and both varsity squads ended up rolling to dominating wins over Curry 57-19 and 85-21, respectively.

Fairview 57 - Curry 19 (Varsity Girls)

Jayla Gorham scored the first six points of the game for Fairview as they got off to an early 6-0 lead. Curry scored the next five points to cut it to 6-5 more than halfway through the opening period, but a free throw by Peyton Defoor gave the Lady Aggies a 7-5 lead. Lexi Collins drilled a trey from the left wing late in the quarter to push their lead to 10-5, and Fairview took a five-point lead into the second period.

Gorham continued her red-hot shooting in the game, putting in the first two baskets of the second quarter, to give the Lady Aggies a 14-5 lead. Baskets by Defoor, Collins, Darby Nichols, and Davis Stidham pushed their lead to 22-6.

Nichols scored the next five points to make it 27-6, then later on, it was Stidham's turn to get red-hot before the half concluded, scoring their final six points of the first half, as the Lady Aggies took a commanding 33-11 lead into the locker room.

Fairview continued to add onto their lead to start out the second half, as Nichols put in the first two baskets for the Lady Aggies, then a pair of Gorham free throws gave them a 39-13 lead. Reagan Dunkin and Gorham each added a basket of their own, as the Lady Aggies went into the final period up, 43-17. Nichols scored the first five points of the quarter to increase Fairview's lead to 48-17, and it was a running clock after that, as the Lady Aggies ended up getting the win over Curry 57-19.

Nichols led the way for Fairview (1-1) with 17 points. Gorham wasn't too far behind with 16 points. Stidham added eight points. Collins and Defoor each finished with seven points, and Dunkin chipped in with two points.

Fairview 85 - Curry 21 (Varsity Boys)

Fairview started very strong on both sides of the ball to start out the game against Curry. Fairview scored the first 16 points of the game, as five players found the scoring column during the run. Curry knocked down a free throw for their first point of the game with two minutes left to go in the opening period. Kobe Payne put in a basket in the paint, then later on, Blake Rickard scored the final five points of the period, as the Aggies took a 23-2 lead into the second period.

The second quarter saw Gavin Pace start out scorching hot from the field, scoring 11 of the first 13 points, to push Fairview's lead to 34-4. Rickard put in a basket down low, then Cade Yeager and Rickard each added a three to make it 43-8.

A basket by Payne and a trey by Colt Fletcher gave the Aggies a 48-8 lead at the half. The second half was more of the same, as the bench players saw a lot of playing time and helped widen Fairview's lead to 72-17 going into the final period. A hot clock was issued for the final quarter, and the Aggies ended up cruising to an 85-21 win over Curry.

All but one Fairview player found the scoring column in the game. Pace led the way for the Aggies (1-1) with 17 points. Colt Fletcher added 11 points. Jac Dunn, Payne, and Rickard each ended up with 10 points, and Landun Smith added eight points.

The Lady Aggies will be participating in the Brewer Encore Thanksgiving Tournament on Monday. Both varsity squads will be playing Nov. 28 at Hanceville.



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Fairview's Gavin Pace (1) led the Aggies with 17 points in their 85-21 win over Curry Thursday night.

Jordan Lee makes legendary return to Bassmaster Elite Series

Emily Harley
B.A.S.S. Communications

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Former back-to-back Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic champion Jordan Lee is headed back to the Bassmaster Elite Series in 2024. Lee will return to the Elites via a Legend's spot in the field, which opened when Larry Nixon announced his retirement.

In just five seasons competing in major B.A.S.S. events, Lee, of Grant, Ala., amassed more than $1.1 million in earnings through wins in the 2017 and 2018 Bassmaster Classic and dominant performances in both the Elites and the St. Croix Bassmaster Opens, notching 21 Top 10s and 36 Top 30 finishes.

"It is great to welcome Jordan back home to the Bassmaster stage, where he built such a fantastic career spanning from college to the historic back-to-back Classic victories," said Lisa Talmadge, tournament director for the Elite Series.

The former Auburn University angler, who was an early star in the Strike King Bassmaster College Series presented by Bass Pro Shops, is ready to get back to the biggest stage in fishing.

"This is really exciting," Lee said. "I'm really looking forward to the challenge of being back on the Elites. I know, from a competition standpoint, there are a lot of young guys on the Elite Series that are young, hungry and eat, sleep and breathe this sport.

"When I started my career at B.A.S.S., I didn't really know what was going to happen, but winning those Classics changed my life.

"To this day that's what people know me from. I still have people bring it up and talk about it pretty consistently."

The storied Classic stage is also a big part of the reason Lee felt coming back to B.A.S.S. was the best thing for his career.

"The two Classic wins are what most people still remember me for even to this day," he said.

"Those two wins were definitely the highlight of my career. The atmosphere of the Bassmaster Classic is unreal, and I don't think anyone can argue what the Classic means to the sport of bass fishing and what it can do for an angler's career.

"If I'm able to get back to the Classic, I know it's going to put a huge smile on my face seeing all the fans, my family and just being back on the big stage. That's what everyone dreams about, and I'm hoping I can get back there."

Another driving factor that made the five-time Bassmaster Classic qualifier desire a return to B.A.S.S. was the unconditional fan support that he's felt from Bassmaster fans.

"I'm really looking forward to getting back to the B.A.S.S. fans," said Lee. "I've always been appreciative of the fans. Honestly, the fans are what keep you going when things get tough. I don't take it for granted at all."

Anglers earn one Legends point for each Bassmaster Classic victory and one point for each Progressive Insurance Bassmaster Angler of the Year title. According to Elite Series rules, up to two Legends qualifiers can be added to the Elite field size per season. When compared with the other anglers who inquired about a Legends exemption, Lee had the most points based on his two Bassmaster Classic titles. No spots are being cut from the 2024 Elite field to make room for Legends qualifiers.



B.A.S.S.

Two-time Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic champion Jordan Lee will be competing on the Bassmaster Elite Series in 2024.

Board (from Front)

eventually he or she would be out of salary range.

Board member Drew Green posed the question of possible flexibility in salary assuming a highly qualified candidate applies, given the Master of Library and Information Studies degree and experience required for the role.

Bullard replied, "I don't think they're going to want to go much higher than that, given my discussion with them, given that they've started the past directors with experience at that rate."

After a brief discussion of whether the commission would be responsible for posting the position, given the County's recent move to place library employees back on the County payroll to participate in certain employment benefits, Bullard suggested that the board also post the position on a hiring platform like Indeed, whereby the commission could share the posting versus posting the position on the County employment page. This would bypass the Cullman County Human Resources Department, which will not be participating in the hiring process. "We're in an urgent situation, being without a director at the end of the month," stated Green, "It'll be a more positive reflection on the County to have a director, and not have that position open."

Board member Brenda Scott offered the contingency plan for Max Hand, previous library director, to step in as interim director pending a permanent hire for the position. The board discussed this and decided to reach out to Hand, with Scott confirming that she had reached out to Hand about this contingency plan before the meeting. A special-called meeting was set for Nov. 27 for the board to discuss this plan.

Board rescinds disassociation letter to Friends of the Public Libraries of Cullman County

The board rescinded a disassociation letter written in January to the Friends of the Public Libraries of Cullman County. The concern and cause for the letter, according to Green, was that the Friends had no accountability to the library.

"We're the name being used to raise money. We should have some influence on how that money is raised and spent," said Green.

New board member Jill Meggs said she believes, as a member of the Friends, that they would be willing to have those discussions. "It's complicated because they are an autonomous group, and they're affiliated with this organization. But, I think legally, if you have a fundraising arm like that, you can't have legal control over it. I think we would just have to come together and have those discussions," explained Meggs.

Green posed the issue of financial audits and accountability, and Meggs said that through the shuffle of prior administrations, certain documents became lost, causing strain for the current Friends administration.

"I'm OK to try this longer if there is an agreement that we have better communications. And as soon as its feasible, to get a report regularly," decided Green.

Library forfeits $25,000 collection development grant amid director uncertainties

In the last year, the library received a $25,000 grant from Alabama Public Library Service to develop the collections in the main branch and branches throughout the county. Given that Harrington has stepped down, and amid uncertainties about the hiring of a new director, the grant has been forfeited. The board will reapply during the next fiscal year to ensure a smooth transition with the next director.

"We have chosen to forfeit that collection development grant for this year, and it can be resubmitted in fiscal year 2025, with just a couple of updates to numbers," explained Harrington. "That will hopefully make it easier for the next director to not have a half-completed grant hanging over their head."

Harrington explained the bottom line impact, given that the budget had included the $25,000, saying, "The grant was $25,000, about $5,000 per branch. We've had grants we've had to forfeit in the past for one reason or another, but APLS is amazing at granting it just a year later."

The board also:

- Tabled the review of financial reports as the board is waiting for most recent report
- Appointed Meggs chair of the board; Tanya Allcorn was appointed vice chair; Rusty Turner was appointed treasurer; Green was appointed interim secretary (secretary duties are typically performed by the director)
- Approved a backpay request from Harrington; Harrington assumed the director position and had not been paid for the duties performed, maintaining her assistant director pay during that time
- Approved adding new treasurer Turner to the library's bank account and removing Harrington
- Received a complaint from resident Shirley Arnett alleging the board violated communications bylaws by allowing Scott to attend its last meeting by phone; the board decided that while Scott did vote, there were enough members physically present at the last meeting to qualify as a quorum, and the board stood by those meetings. The board ratified the actions of the last meeting to ensure no further confusion.

The library board will meet again on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 4:30 p.m.; the meeting will be held in the back room of the main library located at 200 Clark St. NE.

No. 22 Alabama overwhelms South Alabama in 56-point victory

Steven Gonzalez
UA Athletics

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — The No. 22/22 Alabama men's basketball team overwhelmed the South Alabama Jaguars 102-46 Tuesday night in Coleman Coliseum. It marked the third consecutive 100-point game for the Crimson Tide to open the 2023-24 campaign, the first time that has occurred since 1956-57.

Mark Sears led four Alabama (3-0) players with a game-high 17 points, while freshman Sam Walters added 16 off the bench, Nick Pringle (12) and Mohamed Wague (10) also contributed double figures as all 13 UA players who saw action scored at least two points.

The Jaguars (1-2) were led by Maxwell Land scoring 15 points.



UA ATHLETICS

Alabama's Mark Sears (1) goes for a layup during the Crimson Tide's 102-46 win over South Alabama Tuesday night.

Head Coach Nate Oats postgame comments

"That was a lot more like what we are trying to get on the defensive end. I thought our effort was significantly improved from everybody on the team. Thought some guys really stepped up ... I think I think we've gotten 23 threes up every single game. We'd like to get a few more off as long as we're shooting it. But we've been pretty efficient. Offensively, our guys had us down for 1.52 points per possession which is about as good as you're going to see anywhere.

"This was not a super high possession game, I think we had us down for 67 possessions, so not that many possessions to score 102 points. I thought we played hard no matter what the score was. Overall, I am happy with our effort. We need to get one more great defensive game against Mercer Friday night going into that Thanksgiving tournament in Destin."

Team stats

• Alabama has now won 18 straight games at Coleman Coliseum and has won by double-digits 14 times during the streak

• The 46 points allowed by the Tide defense was the third time in the Nate Oats era that an opponent failed to reach 50 points

• Alabama finished the contest shooting 62 percent (34-55) from the field and 52 percent (12-23) from beyond the arc and 73 percent (22-30) from the charity stripe

• In comparison, the Jaguars shot 23 percent (14-60) from the floor, 17 percent (5-29) from beyond-the-arc, and 62 percent (13-21) from the line

• Alabama dominated in nearly every statistical category, including outscoring South Alabama in the paint 44-12 and holding a 52-14 edge in bench points

• Alabama won the battle of the boards 49-26

• UA had 21 assists on 34 made field goals

First half

• After trailing early, 13-7, Alabama would go on to outscore USA 40-10 to take a 47-23 lead into the locker room

• The Crimson Tide held the Jaguars to three of their last 13 field goals headed into the locker room

• UA shot 63 percent (17-27) from the field, 58 percent (7-12) from deep, and 50 percent (6-12) from the line

• Alabama held a 23-13 edge on the boards and a 7-0 lead in fast break points

• Mark Sears led the game at half with 13 points, nine of which came from the three, contributing an additional four assists and three rebounds

Second half

• The Crimson Tide continued to dominate, outscoring the Jaguars 55-23 over the final 20 minutes

• Alabama's defense was equally dominant, limiting South Alabama to just 15 percent (4-27) from the floor and beyond the arc (2-13)

• Nick Pringle scored 10 of his 12 points in the second stanza on a perfect 5-5 shooting

• After hitting only 6-12 free throws in the opening half, UA finished the game by connecting on 16-18 from the charity stripe

Up next

• Alabama will open play in the Emerald Coast Classic Friday night when it hosts the Mercer Bears Friday night in Coleman Coliseum

• The game will tipoff at 7 p.m. and will air live on SEC Network+

For all the latest information on the team, follow AlabamaMBB on X, Instagram and Facebook. General athletic news can be found @UA_Athletics on X and Instagram and Alabama Athletics on Facebook.

Auburn races past Notre Dame 83-59 in Legends Classic

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — Playing on the big stage in the Big Apple, Auburn used balanced scoring and fast starts in each half to defeat Notre Dame 83-59 Thursday in the Legends Classic at Barclays Center.

"The second half was the best we've looked in the second half in a while," Auburn coach Bruce Pearl said of the Tigers' 44-26 advantage. "I think the guys are definitely locked in. We did what we were supposed to do tonight. We played great second half defense. It's a good win for our league."

Auburn will play St. Bonaventure Friday in the championship game. The Bonnies beat Oklahoma State 66-64 in Thursday's first game.

Aden Holloway and Johni Broome each scored 15 points to lead five Tigers in double figures. Jaylin Williams added 11 points while Tre Donaldson and Chris Moore each scored 10.

Holloway and Donaldson combined for 10 assists with only two turnovers.

"Outstanding point guard play. Aden and Tre have done a great job all year long," Pearl said. "They've had great competition all summer and fall. We're going to have a good point guard out there at all times. We shared the ball well."

Leading 39-33 at the half, the Tigers opened the second half with 13 consecutive points, including a 4-point play from Holloway.



STEVEN LEONARD/AU ATHLETICS

Auburn defeated Notre Dame in the Legends Classic 83-59 Thursday night.

Moore's putback put the Tigers ahead 54-34 at the 16:20 mark of the second half. Broome's 3-pointer gave Auburn a 24-point lead.

Auburn dominated the boards early in the second half, outrebounding Notre Dame 10-1 in the opening minutes to overcome a first half rebounding disadvantage.

The Tigers shot 53.4 percent for the game while holding Notre Dame to 33.9 percent shooting. Notre Dame was 0-for-13 on 3-pointers in the second half and just 2-for-26 for the game, a 7.7-percent clip.

"Holding Notre Dame to 22 percent away from our bench like that, the guys took pride in it," Pearl said of Auburn's second half defense.

Auburn raced out to a quick double-digit lead thanks to a 9-0 run that included three Broome buckets and a Holloway 3-pointer.

Donaldson's steal and 3-pointer, followed by another Donaldson jumper, extended the lead, which reached 14 points on Williams' 3-pointer.

Holloway's 3-pointer gave Auburn its biggest lead of the half at 34-19 with 3:51 to play before Notre Dame closed the half on a 14-5 run while hitting 5 of its last 6 shots.

While Auburn shot 53.8 percent from the field and 50 percent from 3-point range in the first half, the Fighting Irish missed their first 11 3-pointers before making their last two.

Notre Dame stayed in the game by grabbing nine offensive rebounds and scoring 11 second-chance points while outrebounding Auburn 21-13 in the half before the Tigers got the best of the boards in the second half.

The Tigers (2-1) and Bonnies tip off Friday at 6 p.m. on ESPN2 and the Auburn Sports Network.

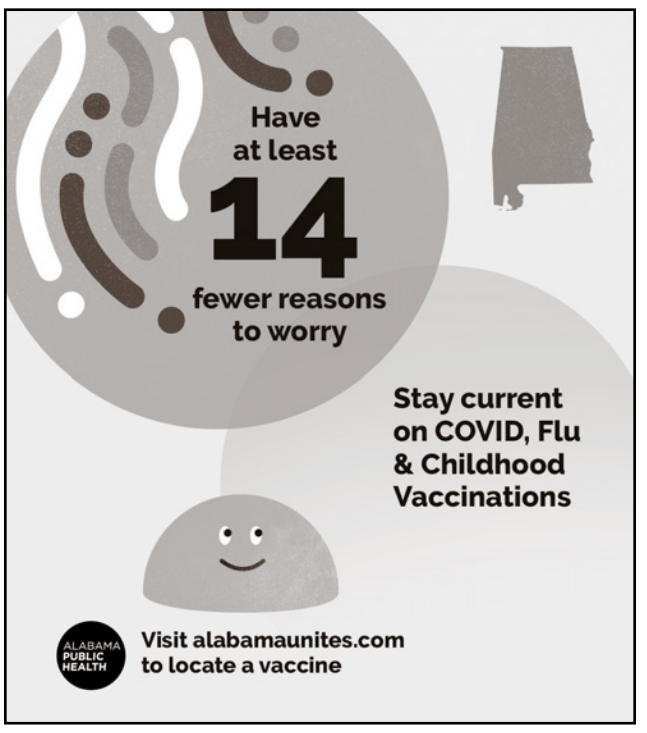
"We have an opportunity to win a championship tomorrow," Pearl said. "Let's see if we can keep getting better."

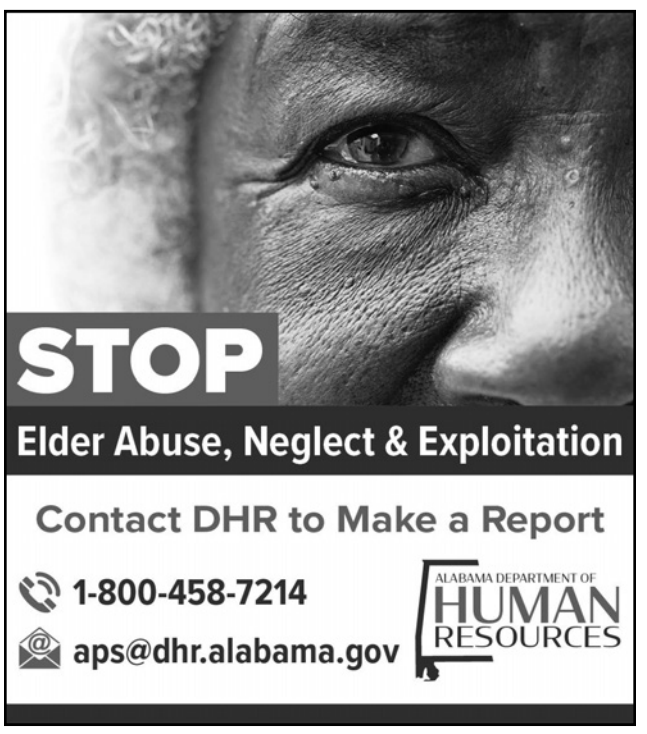
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Festival (from Front)

Phyllis Hain
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — It's fall and the trees have our full attention! Phyllis Hain, volunteer consultant for the Cullman Tree Commission, stated, "As my mom would say, they are just 'showing out,' flitting around in the cool breeze, all dressed up in yellow, orange and different hues of brown."

The Cullman City Tree Commission has seized this opportunity to enjoy and promote the wonder, beauty and the natural value of Alabama's trees during the upcoming Christmas holiday season.

What better way to pay attention, than to declare the month of December a time to feature the iconic Christmas tree with a festival of its very own?

The Cullman Tree Commission, under the leadership of Chairman Barry Slatton, has gained the support of all schools in the city of Cullman as well as Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism (CPRST), the Cullman Rotary Club, Cullman Savings Bank, Frazier Christmas Tree Farm and many others offering up their assistance to make this a joyful and memorable community event.

The schools have agreed to take on the challenge of transforming a 7.5-8-foot freshly cut, Alabama-grown Murray Cypress into a joyful presentation of creative art! School staff and students will select a theme, and then coordinate their talents to create a unique display that best compliments their chosen theme. The decorated Christmas trees will be exhibited for all to enjoy at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center (CWAC), located at 1636 Field of Miracles Drive SW in Cullman.

The Festival of Trees is FREE and will be open to the public for viewing during CWAC's regular business hours. Display begins Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023. Viewing hours are Sunday 1-6 p.m., Monday-Friday 4:30 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday 6 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Cullman Tree Commission and the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center cordially invite everyone to come by during this Christmas season to enjoy the 2023 Festival of Trees! Our hope is for it to bring all of our citizens a sense of community, peace, love and joy.

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CASA volunteers needed for local children

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers are needed. Volunteers "are appointed by a judge to recommend the best possible outcome for an abused or neglected child's future. Whether this means helping to make a connection with adoptive parents or safely reuniting the child with parents or relatives, the ultimate goal of the CASA volunteer is to help ensure that every one of these kids can live in a safe, permanent home."

Cullman County CASA Case Manager Candice Lingo said, "Volunteers help to be the eyes and ears for the judge on the cases we are appointed. We often bring an outside perspective to the case."

Individuals who choose to volunteer will be partnered with a child and simply be that child's "voice."

There are requirements, and although the list is long and seems daunting, Lingo said time isn't a prohibitor for volunteering.

"It can seem overwhelming, so some are worried about starting to volunteer because they do not think that they can give the time; it is really only about 12 hours a month per case," she said.

A support system is always in place, for guidance or sounding board. "Of course, they have me to help and be a support."

Volunteers can expect to meet with children at least once a month.

They must also complete an evaluation of the parent home or the home of anyone interested in getting placement of the child.

As the case comes on the docket, the volunteer will assist in locating resources for the child and their families, giving the judge presiding over the case a written recommendation based on the facts of the case.

Lingo said most of the meetings and visits are at the discretion of the volunteer, explaining,

"A lot of communication is through email and phone, and other than court, most meetings are scheduled at the volunteer's discretion."

Volunteer applicants must also be 21 or older, have reliable transportation and pass a criminal background check, as well as a background check by the Cullman County Department of Human Resources.

A 30-hour training course is also required; however, that is broken out into weekly classes.

The CASA program has seen a huge increase in the number of cases in the last few years.

Said Lingo, "Our program is growing.

|We went from serving 30 or so kids a year to over a hundred. Today, we have almost 150 kids in our program."

To become a volunteer advocate, contact Cullman County CASA at 256-739-1111 or cullmancountycasa@msn.com.

Cullman County CASA is located at 402 Arnold St. NE. Hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Find out more at www.cullmancaringforkids.com/casa.html.

LEGALS

PB ADT BK 67 PG 676 - 11/03/2023 11:08 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF C. M. M.
A minor child. **CASE NO.: AD2023-071**
D.O.B. 07/05/2012

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: JEFF DAVID MASSEY AND UNKNOWN FATHER OF A CHILD C. M. M., BORN JULY 5, 2012 TO REBECCA LYNN KIMBRIL MEFFORD

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

DONE THIS 3rd DAY OF November, 2023.

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

Patrick Caver
Attorney for Petitioner
1210 Highway 31 NW
Suite E
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
WILMA EDMONDS) CASE NO PC 2023-203
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: NICK LINDSEY, KALEENA NICOLE QUICK AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES

The Petition of Richard Lindsey to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Wilma Edmonds, deceased, has been set for hearing on the **30th day of January, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.**

All persons are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Done this the 16th day of November, 2023.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper

Pamela E. Nail
Attorney for Petitioner
200 Second Avenue, SW
Cullman, AL 35055

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.

2006 Audi A4, Vin.#WAUAF78E26A192646
2007 Chevrolet Aveo, Vin.#KL1TD56657B071615
2010 Chevrolet HHR, Vin.#3GNBABDB2AS621108
2004 Chevrolet Tahoe, Vin.#1GNEC13Z64J320458
2015 GMC Terrain, Vin.#2GKALMEK0F6391653
2010 GMC Terrain, Vin.#2CTFLHEY0A6213798
2007 Honda Accord, Vin.#1HGCM56307A014194
2009 Hyundai Genesis, Vin.#KMHGC46E09U043920
2015 Jeep Renegade, Vin.#ZACCJABTXFPB32239
2001 Mercury Cougar, Vin.#1ZWFT61L715611895

These vehicles will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Mullins Body Shop, LLC, 11042 US Highway 31 South, Cullman, Alabama 35055, on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

WALKER BROTHERS LTD, *
PLAINTIFF, *
VS. * CASE NO. CV 2023-900303
CHRIS BURGESS and CANDACE BURGESS, *
DEFENDANT *

NOTICE

The Defendants, Chris Burgess and Candace Burgess, must answer the Complaint to Quiet Title filed by Walker Brother LTD on or before the 26th day of December 2023, or, thereafter, a judgement by default may be rendered against them in case number CV-2023-900303 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County Alabama.

DONE this the 24th day of October, 2023.

Lisa McSwain
LISA MCSWAIN, Circuit Clerk

Plaintiff's attorney:
J. Bradley Wilson
Baggett & Wilson, LLC
206 Ninth Street SW, Suite 102
Cullman AL 35055

PB WIL BK 120 PG 75 - 11/15/2023 04:22 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO.: PC2023-367

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ELLEN M. THOMAS, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of Ellen M. Thomas have been granted to Teresa T. Campbell on the 15th day of November 2023, by the Hon. 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.

Teresa T. Campbell
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Sharon H. Barrett
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorneys for the Personal Representative
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721
sherry@smithandsmithllp.com

PB WIL BK 120 PG 107 - 11/16/2023 01:10 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF DANNY ELWIN MCAFEE, Deceased. **CASE NO.: PC2023-369**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to DEBORAH EDGE MCAFEE as Personal Representative of the Estate of DANNY ELWIN MCAFEE, deceased, on the 16th day of November, 2023, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

DEBORAH EDGE MCAFEE
Personal Representative

Joy M. Howard
Attorney for Petitioner
Post Office Box 517
Cullman, AL 35056-0517

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

PB ADT BK 67 PG 679 - 11/03/2023 11:16 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF C. D. M.
A minor child. **CASE NO.: AD2023-072**
D.O.B. 07/05/2012

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: JEFF DAVID MASSEY AND UNKNOWN FATHER OF A CHILD C. D. M., BORN JULY 5, 2012 TO REBECCA LYNN KIMBRIL MEFFORD

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

DONE THIS 3rd DAY OF November, 2023

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

Patrick Caver
Attorney for Petitioner
1210 Highway 31 NW
Suite E
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

Restaurateurs, ranchers and foodies gather for inaugural Taste of Cullman event

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Up and coming chef Elijah Russell tops a sample of 412 Public House's wonton nachos with a delectable house-made sauce on Monday evening, Nov. 13, 2023, at the inaugural Taste of Cullman homegrown food event.

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Dedicated restauranteurs and chefs, local ranchers and growers and those who just love a good bite to eat gathered at Wallace State Community College on Monday evening, Nov. 13, to attend Wallace State Culinary Pride's inaugural "Taste of Cullman" homegrown food show. Attendees paid $10 at the door to sample popular dishes from some of Cullman's hottest eateries and cafes, learn more about sourcing meat and produce locally and network with others interested in boosting the local restaurant economy.

The event was laid-back, with community-style dining tables in the middle, and strangers turning into friends as guests compared herbal and spice notes in the dishes.

Among the dozen or so tables handing out samples were local mainstays like 412 Public House dishing up crispy wonton nachos, Hele Bowls handing out fresh and colorful grain bowls and Augusta's serving its signature Hawaiian ribeye and shrimp and grits, along with newcomers The National and Blue Ridge Cattle Co. Guests sampled dishes, asked thoughtful questions and learned more about the local food-based economy.

The event was a partnership between Wallace State and the North Alabama Agriplex, but was largely spearheaded by Chef Aaron Nichols, head of Wallace State's culinary arts department, who wanted a chance for local restauranteurs, ranchers and growers to meet and mingle – not only for tapas bites, but also to network and continue to bolster Cullman's ever-growing restaurant industry.

"The main purpose of this was to bring the farmers of Cullman to the restaurants of Cullman," said Nichols, explaining the gap that can sometimes be present between producers and growers and the restaurant industry.

"We have a duty in our industry to produce locally sourced ingredients, and give our guests the best ingredients we possibly can – and that comes from locally sourced items," he said.

Nichols said it benefits not only the guests at restaurants and eateries to have fresh food on their plates, but also the rancher and grower, stimulating the economy on both sides.

"Restaurants get to advertise that they're locally sourced, and they're supporting the farmer as well," he nodded.

Nichols addressed another reason for hosting the event.

While Wallace State continues to attract students from outside the area, and for good reason, it means that many students are not locals and may not know what Cullman has to offer.

"We had students who didn't know about certain businesses in Cullman. That really broke my heart!

"So I wanted to showcase what all Cullman had to offer in one place and allow guests to come try everything at one time," he smiled, saying shaking hands between industries is crucial to the success of culinary arts development, especially after graduation.

"People don't get out anymore!" he laughed. "This was an opportunity to get out and for my students to meet the restauranteurs."

The event also served as a fundraiser for The Link of Cullman County, with the $10 admission charge benefiting the nonprofit's free Thanksgiving meal.

Nichols said that by giving his students some "humble pie," it'll motivate them to keep giving back.

BOOK REVIEW

'Blessing of the Lost Girls' by J. A. Jance

Cathy Lay Mayor
Tribune Contributor

"Blessing of the Lost Girls" is J. A. (Judith Ann) Jance's latest book. As the title indicates, this novel is about missing and murdered Native American women. Few people realize the problem of these missing and murdered women. While a work of fiction, the fact is many missing and murdered American Indian and Alaskan Native women never receive national attention. In 2021 there were more than 5,000 unsolved cold cases of Indigenous women. Murder is the third-leading cause of death of Indigenous women. This novel helps bring attention to this problem.

New York Times best-selling author J. A. Jance has written over 60 mystery novels since 1985. I have read every one of her books and highly recommend them all.

Her first series is the J. P. Beaumont series, which features a Seattle police detective. Second is the Sheriff Joanna Brady series set in Cochise County, Arizona. Another involves the Walker family set in Arizona, with influence from the Tohono O'odham Indians.

Her fourth is about Ali Reynolds, a former news anchor, with some books set is Los Angeles and some in Arizona.

Occasionally Jance has characters from the different series working together to solve crime. I and many of her fans enjoy seeing our longtime favorite characters join together.

"Blessing of the Lost Girls" combines Dan Pardee of the Walker family, who is an agent with MIP (the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Task Force), Sheriff Joanna Brady and Brady's daughter, Jenny. Dan is the son of a murdered Native American woman, which gives him a special interest in the problem of these missing and murdered Native American women.

While this novel is part of a long-term series, the reader will not have trouble joining in the story.

Jance usually begins her novels with the discovery of a dead body. In this book, she begins with the name and details of a serial killer.

I usually do not like a mystery that begins this way. But this novel is a testament to the mastery of Jance. She is able to maintain the suspense of the novel and the interest of the reader.

Pardee is assigned to the cold case of Apache descendent Rosa Rios, who disappeared three years ago.

He encourages Rosa's mother to submit Rosa's dental records to the crime database.

A match is made to an unidentified body that was found in Cochise County. Dan contacts Sheriff Brady. Soon, they realize details of the murder match several other unsolved crimes.

Dan and Joanna believe Rosa was a victim of a serial killer. One common denominator is that several of the victims had connections to the rodeo circuit. Sheriff Brady's daughter, Jenny, is part of the rodeo circuit and has potential evidence for the case. Jenny, a criminal justice major, gets involved in the hunt for the killer.

Much of the book is told from the serial killer's chilling perspective. While the thought process of a serial killer is difficult to read, the details are not graphic and add to the suspense of the novel.

Jance includes some of the Tohono O'odham folklore at the beginning of many of the chapters.

Jance was a librarian on the Tohono O'odham reservation when she was younger. She likes to bring Native American folklore to her readers.

While J. A. Jance has not received any of the acclaimed mystery writer awards, her work is immensely popular. She has over 21 million copies of her books in print.

I love her characters and have followed them over the years through their hardships and joy. I am always excited to see a new book added to a series. I highly recommend all of her novels.

Cathy Lay Mayor grew up in Cullman and graduated from Cullman High School in 1976. She says when she writes book reviews, she tries to remember what Mrs. Gilbert taught her in 11th-grade English. She lived in Dothan for more than 30 years and is married with three adult children and six grandchildren. She retired to Panama City, but still calls Alabama home.

COLUMN

Common scents

Joe Hobby
Contributor

My wife Carol has been strongly suggesting (I call it nagging) that I visit my doctor and get the once over. I told her that even though it's been six months beyond my usual check-up time, I feel fine. She responded that I would never let my car go six months past its oil change date, even if it was running great. I hate it when she uses logic and common sense on me.

So, after I made an appointment, I went to the doctor's and checked in. Shortly after filling out the same forms I always fill out when I'm there, a nurse escorted me to the exam room. The instant I walked through that door I smelled it: the tart, medicinal odor of isopropyl alcohol. My heart began to race, and a tense feeling came over me. That's because this scent reminds me of my childhood visits to the doctor's office. Usually I was sick, which meant there was a good chance I was going to get a scary, painful injection. And decades later, one whiff of that alcohol conjured up those same feelings of dread I had as a little kid.

It's all in the nose. Apparently, the section of the brain that processes odors is very close to the part of the brain that houses our memory. In fact, experts have determined that of all our senses, smell is the one most likely to evoke memories. I think we can all relate. Gasoline, fresh rain, fireplaces, a mowed lawn, smoke in a barbecue restaurant, baked cookies - we all have smells that transport us to events in our past, both good and bad. Some smells can even be triggers, like the smell of burning cigarettes to someone who has stopped smoking.

It can be the most obscure scent that brings back a memory. Whenever I open a bottle of Coppertone suntan lotion, I am swept back in time to Panama City. I can see the waves, and feel the wet sand between my toes as my mom slathers me all over. During the holiday season, the scent of a live Christmas tree evokes wonderful childhood memories of shaking packages and playing with toys on the living room floor. Once when I was in an elevator, a lady standing beside me had on a bit too much perfume. I didn't mind because it was the same fragrance that greeted me when I opened the door to my grandparents' house. The smell of English peas reminds my wife of a childhood meal that she hated - but was forced to eat. Of course, certain odors evoke other responses. Occasionally, when my wife and I are in the car, she will sniff the air, turn to me with a look of disgust, and say, "Ugh! That reminds me of a dirty public restroom!" I just laugh and tell her it's just another trip down memory lane.

On the opposite end o f the spectrum, a particular scent can bring back memories that are especially poignant. When my good friend John died unexpectedly, I went back to his house after the funeral. Nicole, his adopted 4-year-old daughter, crawled in my lap, put her arms around my neck and whispered, "You smell just like my Daddy."

I wiped tears out of my eyes, and whispered back, "And I hope I always do."

Here's a piece of advice, y'all. Take time to smell the roses - and everything else. You never know what kinds of long-forgotten memories will come back to you.

Even if it is a doctor's office.

Joe Hobby is a barbecue-loving comedian from Alabama who wrote for Jay Leno for many years. Find more of Joe's stories on his blog: https://mylifeasahobby.blogspot.com. Follow him on Facebook at Joe Hobby Comedian-Writer.





Obituary Announcements: Nov. 16-17

Carol Fannin, 90
Carol Fannin, age 90, of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023. Carol was born in Heber Springs, Arkansas on Aug. 23, 1933, to Luther Floyd and Mary Magdalene Hudson Williams. Carol is preceded in death by her husband Kenneth Fannin; brother Frank Williams; and grandchildren Caleb and April Allred and her parents. A visitation for Carol will be held Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Mt. Olive at Providence Primitive Baptist Church, 50 County Road. 1428, Vinemont, AL 35179. A celebration of life funeral service will occur Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, at 1 p.m., 50 County Road 1428, Vinemont, AL 35179. An interment will occur Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, at Mt. Olive at Providence Primitive Baptist Cemetery, 50 County Road 1428, Vinemont, AL 35179. Survivors are daughters Mary Holcombe, Susan (Greg) Allred, Laura (Anthony) Hale; son Aubrey (Neita) Fannin; brother Luther Kelton Williams; grandchildren Emily (Cody) McCluskey, Christy (Sonny) Keeble, Ryan Hale, Adam (Allison) Hale, Jennifer (Joe) Lee, Seth Allred, Rachel (Bryan) Pirkey, Will (Megan) Allred, Zach Allred and Chloe Fannin, 12 great-grandchildren and a host of other family. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.mossservicefh.com for the Fannin family. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Euell Franklin Bartlett, 88
Funeral service for Euell Franklin Bartlett, age 88, of Vinemont, will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Greg Aldridge and Keith Bartlett officiating; interment in New Hope #1 Cemetery. Visitation will be from noon until 2 p.m. prior to the service. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Bartlett passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, at Woodland Village Health Care. He was born March 7, 1935.

Mary Joyce Hampton Watts, 65
Mary Joyce Hampton Watts, age 65, of Cullman, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023, at her residence. She was born Nov. 6, 1957, to Afton Thomas Hampton and Vera Lillie Hampton. She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Camellia Hampton; and brother, David Hampton. Survivors include her son, Jesse Watts; daughter, Lori Watts; brothers, William Hampton, Bobby Hampton, and Thomas Hampton; and sister, Sandra Roberts. A Celebration of Life service will be held Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, at First Baptist Church of Fairview at 4 p.m.

Robert John Schweighart, 77
Robert John Schweighart, age 77, of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023. Robert is survived by his wife, Kattie Powe Schweighart; his son Robert John (Sherri) Schweighart II; his daughters Leonette (Dave Nuttle, Sabrina Black, Amy (Gary) Day, Lana (Jason) Wren; his brother Jack Schweighart; and his sisters Sr. Agnes Schweighart, Betty Katona, and Joan Allen; eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Robert was preceded in death by his parents Floyd and Mary Hartman Schweighart; and his sisters Rosemary Kondor and Gene Boskoski. A memorial visitation for Robert will be held Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. A mass of Christian burial will occur Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue, NW, Cullman, AL 35055. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.mossservicefh.com for the Schweighart family. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Wanda Knighten, 65, of Hanceville
Funeral services for Wanda Knighten, 65, of Hanceville, will be 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 20, 2023, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Garden City Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mrs. Knighten was born Aug. 2, 1958, in Winston County, Alabama. She passed away Nov. 16, 2023, in Birmingham, Alabama.

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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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Hey buddy, that doesn't belong to you

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Have you ever gone to get something that belonged to you only to discover it wasn't there? Sometimes that may simply be because you have forgotten where you put it. That seems to happen to me much more often now than it once did. I know why, but I'd rather not say. Sometimes we can't find what we are looking for because someone has taken it...or taken us!

One of life's more frustrating experiences is to find ourselves on the losing end of thievery. Last Thursday morning, I went online to check my banking account. I love online banking because it allows me to look at my account on a regular basis. I remember the days when I wrote checks but sometimes forgot to record them. Then, when I remembered, I couldn't always remember the amount. With online banking, I can see every check or debit, and I don't have to rely on my senior-adult memory to bail me out! For the life of me, I couldn't remember making the debit for almost a thousand dollars that showed up last Thursday. I had never heard of the bank to which it was paid. Jean didn't know anything about it, so I picked up the phone and called my bank. They gave me a name and asked if I knew him. He had signed his name to a check to pay a bill, but he used my routing and account numbers. I guess he didn't know that the eighth commandment said, "Thou shall not steal."

I spent most of that afternoon at a local branch of my bank. They were most helpful and kind as we closed my account and opened a new one... complete with a whole new set of numbers. Of course, there are many loose ends, such as direct deposits and automatic drafts, that had to be switched over.

Have you ever asked, "Does anyone still do the right thing these days?" Well, actually, some do. Saturday, two days after the bank heist, I went to Full Moon Barbecue to pick up dinner. Baby back ribs, carrot cake, and college football makes for a great Saturday. As I gnawed on bones, I had given no thought to the desert I had ordered. Considering the kind of week I'd had, when I looked in the bag, I wondered if someone had stolen my carrot cake. I called to restaurant to report my missing cake. I fully expected an apology, but I did not expect what came next. The receptionist put the manager on to speak to me. I figured he would tell me I could come back and they would give me another piece. Since that would take me 30-40 minutes round trip, and we were minutes away from the next kickoff, I would not be interested. Much to my pleasant surprise, the manager asked, "Would you like me to bring you another piece?" Almost before I could say, "Is he for real?" he was ringing my doorbell. He not only brought me a scrumptious piece of carrot cake, he brough one for Jean too! He asked if there was anything else he could do for me, and then handled me his personal business card before he left.

On Thursday afternoon, my bank restored my one-thousand dollars. On Saturday, two-pieces of carrot cake, and a manager who went the extra mile, restored a bit of my faith in humankind. I felt like a thousand bucks! There are still good and honest people in this world, that still want to do the right thing. Thank you!

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

HISTORY

Files from yesteryear: 1900, 1950

From the files of 1900

M. Dickerman has purchased the sawmill, belonging to W. Turney, near Vinemont.

Doctor W.A. Barclift of Hartselle is having a cottage erected on the bluff, overlooking the Vinemont railroad station and will use it as a summer home.

Swiss and Limberger cheese always to be had at Al Richter's. Adv.

The streets are constantly crowded with cotton wagons.

Mrs. C.J. Brown entertained a few friends on Tuesday evening.

W. Thomas Green of Joppa has entered the Polytechnic College.

Miss Hattie Gibson left this week for an extended visit to friends in Morgan County.

A.M. Weatherford has been at work putting electric lights in the courthouse, this week.

Mrs. M.W. Howard stopped in Cullman, this week, on her return from Kentucky, where Mr. Howard has been making campaign speeches.

John F. Knight went to Birmingham on Wednesday to meet Mrs. Knight, who has just returned from Canada. They will reside here.

From the files of 1950

Philip G. Hartung has been elected president of the State Board of Pharmacy. He owns Peoples Drug Company.

A.C.E. Grafton of Route Four, Cullman has peanuts he grew measuring 7 ½ inches around, the oblong way. The seed came from Florida. He feeds the "gobblers" to his hogs.

Those yelling for the Bearcats on Friday night included Helen Hamilton and Kenneth Speegle, Doris Lessman and Kermit Robinson, Gwen Hart and Elwin Robinson and Jeanette and Bobby Joe Blalock. The game was at Scottsboro.

Dwight McSwain leaves the Bearcat football team to enter the Army on October 19.

Cullman defeated Scottsboro, 14 to 6. Coach Tilrow Morrison attributed the upset to the blocking of Asa Blalock, Dahlke and Cook.

Charley Dewberry, age three, was killed at Liberty Grove, when he fell into a neighbor's boiling pot of water, where they were killing hogs.

Mr. and Mrs. Fonzie Gregory, Mr. and Mrs. Oran Holmes and Lowell Holmes were baptized at the John R. Holmes pond last week.

The little son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Aldridge of Piney Grove severely cut his leg on a pile of sawdust. It required several stitches.

Mr. and Mrs. E.E. Bontrager have a new daughter, Barbara Kay, born on September 26.

Mrs. Ray Benefield of Hulaco has a new electric range. It is a present from her daughter, Lucille of Arab.

John Bishop of Berlin has a mule for sale.

Jack Mann, age 22 and Vida Faye Hamrick were recently married.

There was a foot washing held at Spring Hill Church last Saturday night.

Mrs. Lonnie Rice of Hanceville rode the Greyhound bus to Birmingham last Monday.

POET'S CORNER

Psalms 100 | KJV

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

NOV. 18

I	W	U	K	S	Q	U	A	S	H	S	C	L	I	Q	U	E	U	R
T	E	Q	U	I	L	A	M	F	M	L	A	I	G	R	A	V	E	S
H	I	G	H	B	A	L	L	I	P	A	R	K	C	V	D	K	O	A
A	E	S	P	R	E	S	S	O	O	U	R	G	E	N	E	V	A	K
N	N	C	O	R	D	I	A	L	S	S	N	C	I	R	I	S	H	I
I	A	L	C	O	P	O	P	W	S	C	L	A	R	E	T	H	M	E
S	J	C	Q	T	G	P	A	L	E	O	E	L	I	X	I	R	P	S
E	U	A	O	N	O	G	F	X	T	T	K	D	W	C	E	U	M	M
T	L	Z	O	L	S	K	I	Q	R	C	H	Y	S	O	N	B	U	A
T	E	C	K	I	A	X	Z	B	O	H	K	R	I	E	L	R	S	S
E	P	U	S	T	T	K	Z	B	K	U	U	K	V	A	S	S	C	H
R	O	S	E	E	C	O	K	E	I	C	D	E	R	Y	C	P	A	K
M	A	A	L	A	L	S	N	A	R	A	S	M	A	C	O	N	T	H
C	I	M	S	C	Y	A	P	I	V	V	T	K	I	H	C	C	E	W
K	I	L	A	E	R	I	G	O	C	A	O	F	T	A	O	W	L	B
G	E	D	K	P	L	E	R	E	R	T	U	I	O	T	A	R	Y	E
T	J	C	E	F	E	H	A	T	R	T	T	X	D	P	E	K	O	E
W	I	N	E	R	K	U	M	M	E	L	E	M	D	M	E	A	D	R
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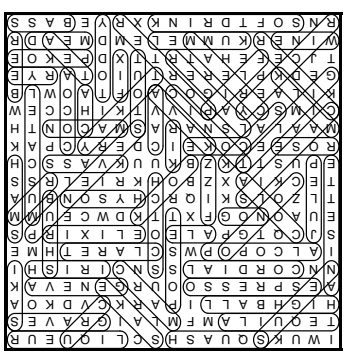
Alcopop
Ale
Anisette
Bass
Beer
Bock
Cassis
Cava
Cha
Cider
Claret
Cocoa
Coke
Cola
Congo
Cordial
Cream
Cru
Elixir
Espresso
Fix
Fizz
Flip
Geneva
Gimlet
Graves
Highball
Hyson
Irish
Julep
Kava
Kir
Kummel
Kvass
Lager
Liqueur
Macon
Marc
Mead
Milk
Muscatel
Negus
Nog
Pekoe
Porter
Posset
Rickey
Rose
Rum
Rye
Sack
Sake
Saki
Scotch
Seven Up
Shrub
Smash
Soft drink
Squash
Stout
Tea
Tequila
Toddy
Tokay
Tonic
Wine

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

NOV. 18

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

ANSWERS:



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

Balloons over Broadway: CCPS students create their own balloon parade

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade got a first-grade twist recently, as students at Cullman City Primary School created their own mini-balloon floats as part of an innovative Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) project.

Thanks to support from the Cullman City Schools Foundation, Cullman City Primary School first graders were able to use STEM kits connected to the nonfiction book "Balloons Over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy's Parade," which tells the true story of how the first parade floats were developed.

First-grade teacher Amanda Henry Stidham said students started out by creating a simple sketch, drawing or physical model to illustrate how the shape of an object helps it function as needed. Students were tasked with creating their own parade balloon, taking into account it needed to be able to stand upright so it could function and be seen as if it were in a "real" parade.

"Students created their own balloon to hoist in the air at CCPS, which connects back to the story of why (original Macy's Day Parade balloon designer) Tony Sarge used helium. He wanted all paradegoers to enjoy the show," Stidham explained.

"Students were engaged in every aspect of STEM in this project. Science: the exposure to matter of gasses; Technology: working online to gather information and ideas of what to create for their balloon character; Engineering: how to create a stable base to hold up the balloon; and Mathematics: measuring, calculating, counting, adding and subtracting materials as needed."

Stidham said students were incredibly proud to show off their balloons, showing them off to their siblings and former teachers at school.

"Students wanted to take their balloon home and watch the parade on Thanksgiving Day at their own house holding their balloon," Stidham said.

"It made a big impact on students, and they were able to discuss in detail why the parade was important. My favorite question this week was if they could create another float!"

Stidham said students blew her away with their innovative designs. She noted some of the most creative included: student Davis Dean created a basketball float and acted as part of the float as a basketball player dunking the ball; student Genesis William created a Pokémon character float; two friends, AJ Lynn and Marina Perez, teamed up to create a float of Disney characters from Lilo and Stitch; and student Landon Corley created a Sonic the Hedgehog float and made it continually rotate as it was moving.



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

First-grade students at Cullman City Primary School create their own balloon floats as part of a STEM project.

Funds (from Front)

the commission gave it to me to deal with," he laughed.

Freeman shared that while the commission allocates funding each year for the association and departments, It was not possible this time.

"Out of general budget, it was just impossible. With state ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds, we were able to allocate, at the State's approval, $100,000 to go towards the association," Freeman said.

After attending monthly meetings, and touching base with several departments across the county, Freeman and the members came up with solutions.

"There was a lot of departments that didn't have thermal imagers, and we had a lot of requests over the years for specialty tools. For a majority of the people countywide, thermal imaging cameras was a priority. You know, those are utilized for structure fires, missing persons and so on," said Freeman.

"Then search and recovery on the lake – they had asked us two years in a row for help on that. We were able to get with them, apply for some bids and was able to purchase them a Kongsberg system, which is a drop-down sonar."

He continued, "Some of the money that was left over we were able to allocate towards HAZMAT. We set some money aside in an account at the commission that HAZMAT can purchase equipment out of."

He smiled, "It's something I was proud to be a part of, and represent the commission on, because it benefits all 26 (volunteer) departments across the county and not just one or two."

Toby Bates, officer of the association and chief of the Logan Volunteer Fire Department, shared that the equipment purchased because of this grant will not only serve the local community, but also the region and state.

"There's several departments around the lake that has lake coverage. For the past few years, we haven't had the ability to get out on the lake, especially for drowning victims. We've had to call outside agencies to bring their sonars in," said Bates.

"It takes them a day or two to get here, and then they can only be here for a limited time, all while we're sitting here with a drowning victim in the water and we can't do anything. With the lake here in Cullman County, we felt like it was our responsibility to find the equipment to do what we could to help."

Logan, Crane Hill and Trimble VFDs previously pooled their resources to raise $150,000 for a boat and sonar, but the particular sonar the commission was able to acquire is a much-needed piece of equipment to work around the deep timber in the lake, said Bates, who explained that the two work best in tandem and are often used by search and rescue teams in Daphne, Alabama.

"That's going to help us tremendously because anytime we call outside resources, those are the two pieces of equipment that they bring," he said.

Bates said the equipment will help locally, and now local departments can help in other counties as well, if needed, recovering drowning victims.

"Not only is it going to cover Smith Lake, but any surrounding lakes in the state of Alabama, we'll be able to take that equipment and assist," he nodded.



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