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Kicking Cancer dancers donate over $2K to Bosom Buddies

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — After their yearly dance workshop and social, dancers and organizers of "Kicking Cancer in Cullman" donated proceeds to the Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation – a fitting beneficiary, since many dancers, including instructor Sherry Boatright, are breast cancer survivors themselves.

"I'm a breast cancer survivor, and the exciting thing to me has always been that all of our instructors that day are breast cancer survivors. So that makes it special for me," said Boatright.

Judy Grissom, who accepted the donation on behalf of the Bosom Buddies, said, "We're so grateful to these ladies; they add so much charm, beauty and grace to our Little Pink Dress program when » PAGE 12



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Dance instructor Sherry Boatright, front left, and Active Adult Center administrator Stephanie Neal, front right, give a donation to Judy Grissom of the Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation, front center, with dozens of Kicking Cancer in Cullman dancers showing their support.

'It's been years in the making': Cullman's Christkindlmarkt officially opens



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CPRST Executive Director Nathan Anderson is joined by sponsors, parks and rec team members and dignitaries from the City of Cullman and Cullman County to cut the ribbon on Cullman's Christkindlmarkt Friday morning, Nov. 24.

Nick Griffin
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman's Christkindlmarkt is officially open the for the holiday season and a crowd gathered at the newly renovated Depot Park for Friday morning's opening ceremony. Cullman's Christkindlmarkt is the South's largest German-inspired Christmas Market, featuring an ice-skating rink, Christmas Carousel, Christkindl Express train ride, over 40 vendors and more.

Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism Executive Director Nathan Anderson was excited to see years of work and planning come to fruition Friday.

"This is something we've been dreaming about for years and to see everybody's hard work from the research and planning phase all the way to the execution and building of the site and the programming details, to see it come together is absolutely incredible," Anderson said. "The total package makes us one of the best in the south. So, to have something so special, the largest and most authentic Christkindlmarkt in the South is incredible to have in Cullman."

Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs was ready to open the gates and let people see what they've been working on. He said one of the things he's most pleased with is the authenticity of the German elements at the market.

"Obviously we are super excited to get to this point. We've been building towards this grandiose thing we have this year and lots of work has gone into it, but this will bring lots of folks to town so we just can't wait," Jacobs said.

"Cullman was settled by Germans so we've tried to maintain part of our German heritage, and this is a very authentic Christkindlmarkt that you would find in Germany in any large town or small town.

"So, bringing these extra pieces in to say, 'This is where we came from' is just exciting and we're glad to be able to do it."

Before cutting the ribbon, Anderson spoke to the crowd gathered for the grand opening, thanking everyone who helped with the project for their years of work and support.

"It's been years in the making. We've » PAGE 2

Cullman Ballet Theatre School to perform 'The Nutcracker' Dec. 2-3

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'Industry Comes to Wallace State' gives students chance to network with area employers

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ACES: Amid industry, environmental struggles Christmas tree prices remain relatively steady



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Alabama DHR: 741 foster care adoptions finalized in FY 2023

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FEMA cautions holiday shoppers against online scams

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Christkindlmarkt (from Front)

kind of been dipping our toe in the water with this for the last several years but after this past year we saw enough, and we knew we could do it.

"The city council and mayor helped us get the park renovated which is beautiful and functional for events," Anderson said.

"We love it and there have been far too many people to mention that have been involved with this, from our own park and rec team to a lot of friends that know how to hold a hammer and drill and helped us put this together.

"Every City department has been involved in this at some point in time so thank any of them from street to water and sewer, police, fire we've had them all involved."

Anderson continued, "Seventy-five percent of the booths you see are occupied by locals, so it's going to have a real authentic look, but you need to know that our locals made that happen.

"I want to thank our Christkindlmarkt Committee as well, and we have several German members, so you can thank them for all the little details down to the wood shavings.

"I promise you every little detail in here, that maybe you'll notice or maybe you won't, was well thought out and planned out."

Jacobs also shared a few words before the ribbon cutting, praising everyone's hard work in making the market as authentic as possible.

"So, one thing I figured out, don't listen to social media because they tell you all kinds of things that are not correct about this or negative about this, and 99% of it is positive, but if you've been to Europe or you've been to Germany and been to a Christkindlmarkt, this is it, I promise you," Jacobs said.

"And like Nathan said, it didn't happen overnight. We have been to several in the United States, we've been to Germany thanks to REHAU and them telling us places to go to come up with this, and lots and lots of work went into it. We're not quite finished but we're close enough to open it up."

Cullman's Christkindlmarkt is open Thursdays from 4-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sundays from noon-8 p.m.

For more information, visit www.cullmanchristkindlmarkt.com.

Theatre (from Front)

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Ballet Theatre School is gearing up for its third annual "Nutcracker" performance Dec. 2-3 at Hartsell High School.

Owner and Instructor Elaine Willingham excitedly shared what sets their performance apart.

"My mindset when I started my school was to teach the kids the other story ballets," she explained. "You name a story ballet, I've done it. I stayed away from 'Nutcracker' all these years because I'm between Huntsville Ballet Company and Alabama Ballet Company, both professionals, and everyone does 'Nutcracker.' Everybody who doesn't even like ballet, knows about 'Nutcracker!'" she exclaimed.

"There's a lot of Nutcrackers going on, all over Alabama, not just in Cullman. We're the oldest premier ballet company and school in Cullman. I just don't want people to forget that.

"A lot of people, it's not their world, they don't even realize we've got this stuff here."

Willingham said while she loves her performance space near the school, this year's performance is moving to a fresh space just north of the county line in Hartselle.

"I needed more seating space," she explained, saying while her current space seats 140 people, given past attendance, she's expecting a much larger turnout than that can accommodate.

"But even with more seating, a challenge was presented that the school took head-on.

"The only drawback is they don't have the space for digital projections. So, we're doing it the old-fashioned way!" she exclaimed.

Willingham said dancer Graciella Thomas and Liam Lanier have stepped up to combine their artistic talents to create a beautiful set in candy color accents.

"A traditional set means a traditional set transition, which opened up another role for a talented dancer from the school.

"I added a whole new section this year. We've never had a snow queen, but I added it," Willingham smiled. "I have some beautiful sets on wheels that are being made for the land of the sweets, a live tree that we have grown. I mean, it's a learning experience having to go back to that and never being in that theater before."

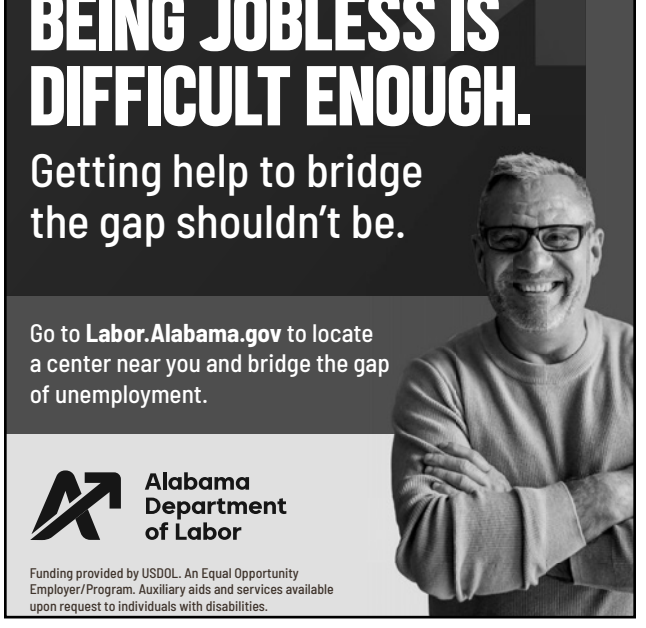
She noted another change attendees can expect: a full performance, instead of a medley of popular excerpts of the story.

"The big thing we're doing differently from other performances is we're doing the whole story. There's a full Act 1 and Act 2. We're doing all of Tchaikovsky's music, minus one little pas de deux," she smiled, explaining the whole performance is about two hours including a 15-minute intermission.

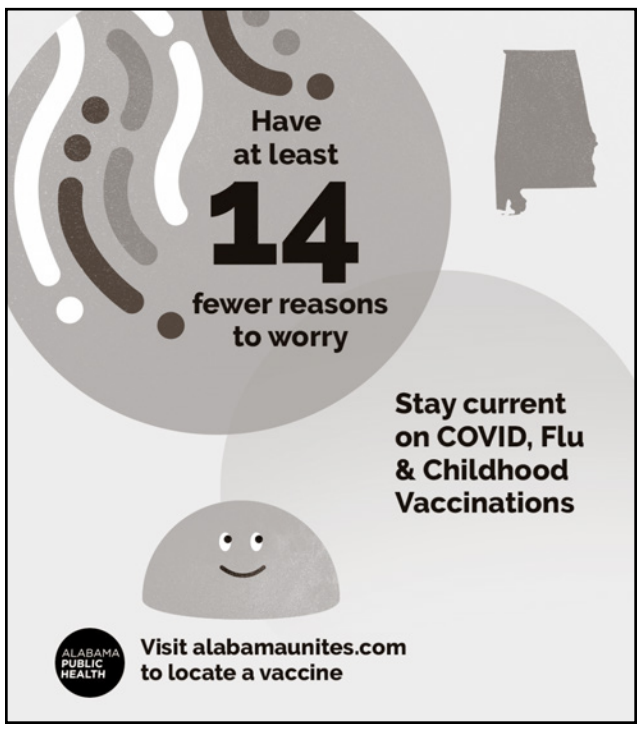
"I've loved it, it's really been neat!" said Willingham, noting they've been working on "The Nutcracker" since August.

Cullman Ballet Theatre School will present "The Nutcracker" at Hartselle High School Theater on Saturday, Dec. 2, at 6 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 3, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at https://30651.danceticketing.com/r/events.

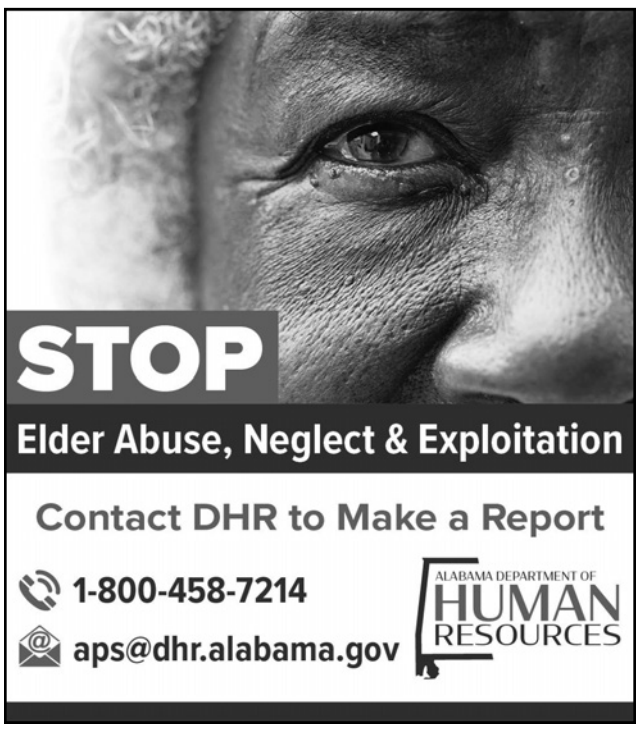












COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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. 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.

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. 25-Dec. 29 (closed Mondays and Tuesdays until Dec. 13). It will transition to a drive-through only experience Dec. 26-29.
• 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.

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. 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. 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

Christkindlmarkt
Immerse yourself in a German winter wonderland at Cullman's Christkindlmarkt at Depot Park. Every Thursday to Sunday, through 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.

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FEMA cautions holiday shoppers against online scams

Staff Reports
Contributor

ATLANTA — The holiday shopping season is a prime time for hackers, scammers, and online thieves. While millions of people will be online looking for the best gifts and Cyber Monday deals, hackers will be looking to take advantage of unsuspecting shoppers by searching for weaknesses in their devices or internet connections or attempting to extract personal and financial information through fake websites or charities. Their goal is simple: compromise your data, insert malicious software, steal your identity and take your money.

FEMA urges every shopper to protect themselves online with a few simple ways to avoid becoming a victim of cyber-crime.

Here are some common-sense ways to protect yourself online:

- Implement multifactor authentication on your accounts to make it much less likely you'll get hacked.
- Update your software and your apps. Better yet, turn on automatic updates.
- Think before you click. Most successful cyber-attacks start with a phishing email.
- Use strong passwords, and ideally a password manager to generate and store unique passwords.
- Don't connect to unsecure public Wi-Fi, especially to do your banking or shopping.
- Don't click links or download attachments unless you're confident of where they came from. If you're unsure if an email is legitimate, type the URL of the retailer or other company into your web browser, as opposed to clicking the link.

Use safe methods for purchases

- Use a credit card as opposed to a debit card. There are laws to limit your liability for fraudulent credit card charges, but you may not have the same level of protection for your debit cards.
- Check your credit card and bank statements for any fraudulent charges. Immediately notify your bank or financial institution and local law enforcement.
- Be wary of emails requesting personal information. Attackers may attempt to gather information by sending emails requesting that you confirm purchase or account information. Legitimate businesses will not solicit this type of information through email.
- If you believe your personal or financial information has been stolen, report it right away to your local police and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). There's information on the FTC website, www.identitytheft.gov, about how to report.
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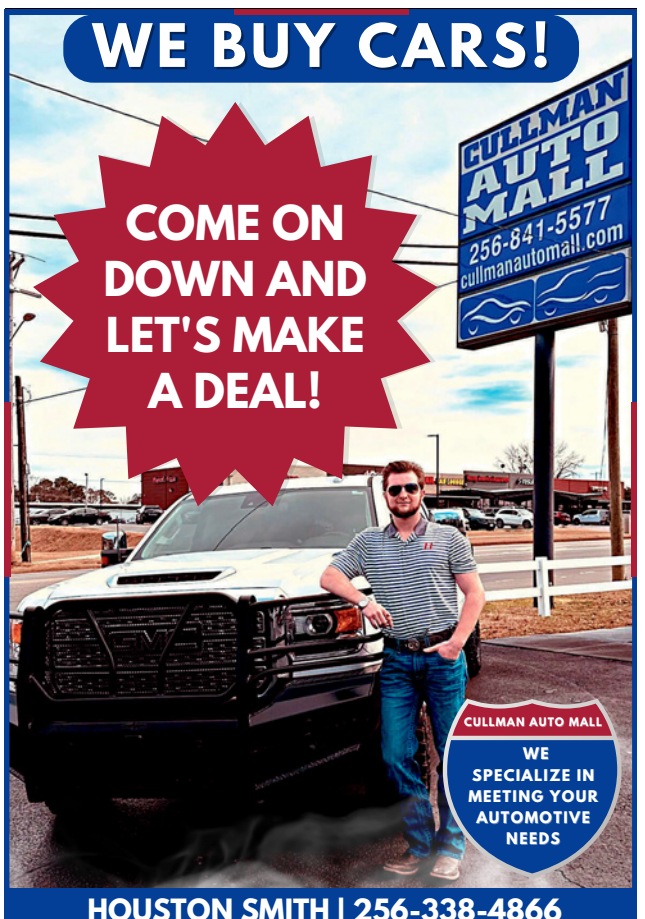
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PREP BASKETBALL

Cullman downs Albertville 73-56 to win Mike Dean Turkey Shootout

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman was back on the court at Bearcat Arena Wednesday night to battle the unbeaten Albertville Aggies Wednesday night and the 'Cats handed the Aggies their first loss of the season to claim this year's Mike Dean Turkey Shootout championship. The Bearcats led 38-30 at the halftime break and outscored Albertville 35-26 in the second half to wrap up a 73-56 win. Cullman Head Coach Stu Stuedeman is pleased with the way his team is playing offensive end right now but wants to see the 'Cats maintain their consistency on the defensive end of the court.

"Our plan offensively is fantastic. The ball is moving and popping, we're making open threes with confidence, we're making layups, we're getting paint touches and we're really playing well as a team offensively," Stuedeman said.

"Day three of a tournament your defense is going to slack probably due to fatigue, but it can't, especially when you're playing against a team like them that can really shoot the ball and exploit you. We've got to be better on the defensive end. We've been pretty solid all season until tonight and we've got to be better at that to be the team we want to be."

A basket by Colton Echols and a pair of Sam Duskin free throws gave Cullman an early, 4-3 lead and after Albertville drained a three on the other end, Jake Dorough laid one in to tie the game at 6.

Duskin knocked down back to back three-pointers to put the Bearcats in front 12-8 midway through the first and after Jake Dorough basket, Duskin's third trey of the opening period made it a 17-10 game. Gray Hopper scored inside to give Cullman a 19-12 lead and Jake Dorough split a pair of free throws in the final seconds of the first to put the 'Cats ahead 20-16 going into the second.

Brodie Bannister buried a three to start the second quarter and give Cullman a 23-16 lead and a quick pair of Duskin buckets made it a 27-16 game midway through the period. Jake Dorough and Evan Wilson both got shots to fall later in the period, but the Aggies put together a scoring run to trim the lead to 33-30 at one point late in the second. Duskin scored to build the lead up to five and Jake Dorough converted an and-one play in the final minute of the half to put the Bearcats on top 38-30 at the break.

Baskets from Jake Dorough and Sam Duskin stretched the lead to 42-30 early in the third and then it was Kase Nixon's turn to get hot. Nixon drilled back to back three-pointers to add to Cullman's lead and Echols followed with a three of his own to make it a 51-35 game. Wilson laid one in and then knocked down a three from the top of the key to give the 'Cats a 56-35 advantage late in the third and Echols scored in the final 20 seconds of the period to put Cullman ahead 60-46 going into the final frame.

Jake Dorough drained a three and Echols scored inside to extend the lead to 65-51 early in the fourth and Wilson got another tough basket in the paint to make it 67-51 with five minutes to play.

A pair of Duskin free throws stretched the lead to 69-54 and Nixon found Wilson under the basket with a nice pass for an easy score to make it 71-56 with just under three minutes on the clock. Echols hit a pair of free throws with 1:30 remaining to give the Bearcats a 73-56 lead and those would be the final points of the night, capping off a 73-56 victory and a Mike Dean Turkey Shootout championship for Cullman.

Stuedeman was happy to get the win, but he was also excited to see a good crowd of black and gold supporters turn out during a holiday break.

"It means the world to us. Everyone is on Thanksgiving break, and we still have 1,500-1,700 people in the gym supporting these guys. I think it's a testament to who our players are. They're great kids in the community, they're great in the schoolhouse and they're just good people so people want to come watch them. We're very thankful for our fans, they're the best in the state bar none."



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman Bearcats defeated Albertville 73-56 Wednesday night to win this year's Mike Dean Turkey Shootout.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Duskin led the 'Cats with 21 points in the win, followed by Dorough with 17. Echols and Wilson each added 11 points. Duskin, Wilson, Echols and Nixon earned all-tournament honors and Dorough was selected as tournament MVP.

The Bearcats will travel to Corinth, Mississippi to compete in this year's Lighthouse Classic Saturday.

The Kick Six, 10 years later: 'A great moment for Auburn'

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. — Chris Davis was convinced the 2013 Iron Bowl was headed to overtime, even as he stood near the back of the end zone one second away from making history.

"I knew he was going to miss the kick, but I thought it was going to be out of bounds," Davis recalled, 10 years later. "As it was falling to me, I knew it was going to be short and I was going to be able to field it. The rest is history."

Davis also made the play before The Play, knocking T.J. Yeldon out of bounds after a 24-yard run on what appeared to be the final play of regulation with Auburn and Alabama tied 28-28.

Anyone who saw it in person or on TV knows what happened next. A video review put one second back on the clock. Auburn called timeout and replaced Ryan Smith with Davis as the Tigers' returner, his cleats planted barely inbounds.

Leading up to the game, Davis shared on social media his desire to impact the Iron Bowl on special teams after averaging 18.71 yards per punt return during the season, including an 85-yard touchdown in Auburn's blowout win at Tennessee.

"I wanted to do that since I first got here," said Davis, a standout kick returner at Woodlawn High School in Birmingham. "For a lot of people back home, that wasn't anything big to them. They knew I could do that. They'd seen me do that my whole life. For the coaches who gave me the opportunity to do it, it meant a lot to me."

Two weeks earlier, Auburn's remarkable turnaround season seemingly crescendoed with the Prayer in Jordan-Hare – Nick Marshall's deflected 73-yard touchdown pass to Ricardo Louis on fourth-and-18 to give the Tigers a 43-38 win over Georgia.

"I watched that firsthand from the sideline," Davis said. "I think his play was better than the Kick Six because I was able to sit back and watch it."

Two weeks later, football fans around the world watched Davis field Alabama's errant 57-yard field goal, cut to his left and race down the sideline on what is officially listed as a 100-yard missed field goal return.

Everyone who witnessed it has a story to tell. Davis has heard them all.

"I think everybody would be able to tell you what they were doing," Davis said. "I've heard everything. That was a proud moment. That's something that will live on forever.

"I've heard about people picking their kids up, throwing them in the pool, falling off the couch, breaking TVs. I've heard everything you can think of."

Auburn's 34-28 win over top-ranked Alabama clinched the SEC Western Division title and earned the Tigers a trip to Atlanta to play Missouri in the SEC Championship, which Auburn won 59-42.

For Davis, who played professionally and has also coached, the Kick Six forever endeared him to Auburn people and opened doors to a lifetime of opportunities.

"Because I get to come back and do things like this," Davis said while waiting to record his part in Auburn's 2023 kickoff video that plays immediately before home games. "That play will be played in this stadium forever.

"That's why a lot of athletes play the game, to be remembered. I just so happened to make that play in that time at that moment. That moment was for me, after everything I'd been through. I'm very appreciative of that."

A decade later, the 2013 SEC champion Auburn Tigers reunite this weekend on the Plains.

"It's still hard to explain 10 years later. I'm just glad to be a part of it," Davis said. "I feel great about my role but that play wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for the other 10 guys on the field doing their part to lead me to the end zone so hats off to them.

"It means the world to me. The Kick Six basically changed my life. That's something that I'll be remembered down here on Auburn's campus forever, and that's why I played the game."

"I feel great about my role but that play wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for the other 10 guys on the field doing their part to lead me to the end zone so hats off to them."

In their own words...

In addition to Davis, the 10 Auburn Tigers who also played a role in the Kick Six are Gabe Wright, Angelo Blackson, LaDarius Owens, Cassanova McKinzy, Jonathon Mincy, Jermaine Whitehead, Ryan Smith, Dee Ford, Kris Frost and Robenson Therezie.

Kris Frost

"I was rushing from the left side. From that distance, we knew it would be a line drive kick. It was all about trying to get to the holder's point. My responsibility was to take up the last gap between me and the last guy on the line of scrimmage on Alabama's team. Therezie was outside of me, so if I could take those two blocks, then Therezie could pinch off the edge.

"We were so focused on our responsibility, I didn't even know Chris was back there to return the kick. When the ball was snapped, we came off the edge, they got the ball off really quickly. The moment I turned around, I knew it wasn't going to go all the way. Before I knew it, when the ball dropped, it dropped right to Chris' hands. Then it was like, 'Oh, man this is on.'

"It wasn't something we practice; it wasn't something we had rehearsed at all. We all knew the rules of the game. That was a big pat on the back to our coaches for having us prepared to act right in a situation that now is such a staple in college football today and something that's practiced so much.

"When he caught the ball, my goal was to instantly find a block. By the time Chris got to the 30-yard line, I had seen who I was going to block and was narrowing on him. All I could think about was not getting a block in the back penalty. The best I could do was to get in the way. I knew he didn't see me so I just had to bump him. I didn't have to do anything heroic, just get in his way. Once he slid by me, it was unreal.

"It was just pandemonium. I think I started crying before we got to the end zone. I put my helmet down, laid on top of Chris and before I knew it, we were all getting crushed under this pile and we're all screaming. It was this crazy moment of happiness. It was a party like no other. I think it took me an hour to get back to the other side of the field where our locker room was. It was a great moment for Auburn."

Jermaine Whitehead

"It was one of those plays that we never really practiced. We saw it a little bit on film, never thought we'd actually have a chance to do it. We blocked a field goal earlier in the game and Ryan Smith was trying to return that one, so we knew we had a chance to block it, or they were going to miss it because it was a long field goal and Alabama had struggled kicking all year.

"We came up with a plan to let the D-line rush. I was a middle guy, 15 or 20 yards away from the ball, trying to set up like a punt return once we did get it. We were hoping they didn't see Chris in the back or didn't think we had the wherewithal to try to run it back.

"We called the timeout to try to freeze the kicker. All our coaches said was, 'Set a wall.' A lot of us had played special teams before so we got the picture of what we wanted to do. My job was to take the first hit off of him, not get any penalties and let him get a chance to get to those big old linemen and we knew he would beat them running.

"I didn't even make it to the end zone. I was so shocked. I saw the fans running on the field. I was at midfield amazed and stunned at what had just happened. I looked to the Alabama sideline and got a chance to see Nick Saban drop his head. That was one of my favorite memories of my college career.

"It's something to remember to this day. It was a great feeling. It's one of those things I like to brag about and say we beat Alabama in one of the most memorable ways ever."

Jonathon Mincy

"I was playing corner, so I was the safety of the defense. I was the corner on the line and Chris was far back. My job was to be aware of any kind of fakes.

"As soon as the ball was hiked, I started looking at the ball to see if the field goal was made or not. All I can remember seeing was Chris catching it. In that moment, I was like, 'Oh wow, we've got a chance here,' because I was always a fan of the things he was able to do with the ball in his hands.

"Once I saw him take off, I saw most of our defense get in line to get ready to start the wall. I remember seeing Robenson Therezie leading the way for him. All I could do was start backpedaling and put my hands up. An indescribable feeling.

"As soon as he crossed the goal line I went and tackled him. I was so happy for him to have that spotlight. Later on, Chris said, 'You know I'm mad at you for tackling me because everybody jumped on top of me.' I said, 'Man, I'm sorry. I was just happy.'

"During the timeout, I remember the coaches telling Chris, 'If you get an opportunity then take it.' He was one of those guys who didn't like the spotlight, didn't talk much, but he was able to show his play on the field. The spotlight found him so he could never run from it again."



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Carson Garrett led Hanceville with 14 points in its 67-34 win over Ardmore Monday night.



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Hanceville's Braxton Broad finished with six points in the Bulldogs' 67-34 win over Ardmore Monday night.

PREP BASKETBALL

Hanceville tips off Thanksgiving Tournament with 67-34 win over Ardmore

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — This year's Hanceville Thanksgiving Tournament tipped off Monday and after Vinemont and Cold Springs lost their games to Mortimer Jordan and Dora, the Hanceville Bulldogs closed out the night with a 67-34 win over Ardmore.

Hanceville 67 - Ardmore 34 (Varsity Boys)

Eli Clements knocked down a pair of free throws to put Hanceville on the scoreboard first, then a steal and a fast-break layup by Konnor Helms gave them a 4-0 lead. Another Helms steal would lead to a fast-break layup by Noah Jones to make it 6-0. A free throw by Ardmore cut it to 6-1, but another steal later led to a layup by J.T. Davis as that pushed their lead to 8-1 almost halfway through the opening period. A steal and a layup by Braxton Broad made it 10-3, then later on, a basket each by Davis and Jones pushed their lead to 15-3. The Bulldogs took a 15-5 lead into the second period.

Hanceville continued to add onto their lead in the second quarter, scoring the first eight points, as baskets by Clements, Jones, and Carson Garrett increased their lead to 23-5 early in the second period. The Tigers cut it to 23-9 with 3:36 remaining in the first half, but a pair of free throws by Jones, plus a layup by Peyton Twilley, made it a 27-9 game. A rebound and putback by Broad gave them a 29-9 lead. Five straight points by Garrett, plus a basket in the paint by Helms, and a pair of Garrett free throws, pushed their lead to 38-11 at the half.

A free throw by Jones and five straight points by Garrett gave the Bulldogs a 44-13 lead in the third quarter. A trey by Noah Douglas made it a 49-15 lead for Hanceville, and baskets by Broad, Davis, and Twilley increased their lead to 55-23 going into the final period. The fourth quarter was run under a hot clock, and Hanceville would go on to roll past Ardmore, 67-34, to move on to the next round.

Garrett finished with 14 points to lead the way for Hanceville (2-1). Jones added 11 points. Twilley ended up with eight points, while Helms, Broad, and Davis each collected six points in the contest.

PREP BASKETBALL

Hanceville drops Thanksgiving Tournament game against Dora 54-49

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — This year's Hanceville Thanksgiving Tournament resumed at Lane Horton Gymnasium Tuesday and to get the day started, Vinemont knocked off Ardmore and Cold Springs took care of business against Falkville. To close out the night, Dora was able to edge Hanceville in a tight game 54-49.

Dora 54 - Hanceville 49 (Varsity Boys)

Dora drilled a three to get their scoring started, but Braxton Broad hit one of his own from long-range to tie the game up at three. Broad put in a pair of free throws to give Hanceville a 5-3 lead with 5:17 remaining in the first period. Both teams traded threes for a few possessions. After a Dora trey gave them a 12-11 lead, Eli Clements put in a basket in the paint, then later added a pair of free throws to give Hanceville the lead right back at 15-12. Dora drilled four straight free throws to give them a 16-15 lead going into the second period.

Jones' and-one gave Hanceville an 18-16 lead early in the second. A rebound and putback by Carson Garrett, followed by a fast-break layup by J.T. Davis, pushed Hanceville's lead to 22-16. Five straight points by Dora cut it to 22-21 almost halfway through the second period, then later on, they put in a shot from long-range to give them a 24-23 lead.

A steal and a layup by Davis, followed by a floater by Broad, gave Hanceville a 27-24 lead. A rebound and putback by Noah Douglas made it a 29-25 game late in the first half, but another Dora three made it a one-point game. Both teams traded free throws to end the first half, and Hanceville held a slim 31-30 lead at the break.

A pair of baskets by Dora gave them a 34-31 lead, but an and-one by Garrett tied the game up at 34 with 4:39 remaining in the third period. An 8-2 run by Dora gave them a 42-36 lead with less than two minutes to go in the quarter. Jones and Clements each split their free throws to cut it to 44-38 going into the final period. An and-one by Dora pushed their lead to 47-38, then they added a free throw to make it a 48-38 game.

A free throw by Jones and a pair by Konnor Helms cut it to 48-41, then after getting a huge steal, Helms put in a floater to make it a five-point game almost halfway through the final quarter. Dora, though, answered right back with another and-one to make it a 51-43 game.

A free throw pushed their lead to 52-43. Hanceville looked to make a big comeback late in the game. Jones banked in a floater to cut it to 52-45, then later on, Broad drilled a big three from the top of the key to make it a 53-48 game with 1:20 remaining in the contest. Unfortunately, though, they didn't get any closer after that, as Dora held off Hanceville at the end 54-49.

Broad led the way for Hanceville (2-2) with 12 points. Jones added 11 points, and Helms ended up with seven points.



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Hanceville's Noah Jones posted 11 points in the Bulldogs' 54-49 loss to Dora Tuesday night.

PREP BASKETBALL

Lady Raiders collect 67-22 win over Dora at Wallace State Thanksgiving Classic

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – The Good Hope Lady Raiders were back in action Tuesday afternoon competing at this year's Wallace State Thanksgiving Classic and after taking a tough loss at Clements Monday night, Good Hope bounced back with a 67-22 win over Dora. The Lady Raiders led 40-9 at the halftime break and cruised to a 67-22 victory in the second half.

A three-pointer from Heather Tetro gave the Lady Raiders an early, 3-2 lead and Good Hope's next seven points came from Jolee McHan, stretching the lead to 10-4 midway through the opening period. Ivey Maddox followed her up with three straight shots from three-point range, making it a 19-4 game in the final minute of the first and Maddox laid in one more basket before the end of the quarter to put the Lady Raiders in front 21-4 at the start of the second.

Ava McSwain knocked down a three to start the second quarter and baskets from Charly Johnson, McHan and Heather Tetro extended the lead to 30-6.

McSwain scored the next five points for Good Hope to make it a 35-6 game and after another bucket by Maddox,

McSwain drained a three-pointer just before the end of the period to give the Lady Raiders a 40-9 advantage at halftime.

McSwain stayed hot when play resumed in the third quarter, knocking down two more threes and scoring the first eight points of the half for Good Hope to make it a 48-15 game.

Baskets from Johnson and McHan added to the Raider lead and Maddox and McSwain both turned steals into easy buckets in the final minute of the third to help build a 58-18 Good Hope lead going into the fourth.

Heather Tetro and Lexi Marshall each scored early in the fourth quarter to make it a 62-18 game and McSwain tacked on five more points in the final minutes of the contest to wrap up a 67-22 win for the Lady Raiders.

McSwain led Good Hope with 26 points in the win, followed by Maddox with 15 and McHan with 13.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Ava McSwain (2) led Good Hope with 26 points in its 67-22 win over Dora Tuesday afternoon.

Alabama DHR: 741 foster care adoptions finalized in FY 2023

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Governor Kay Ivey on Friday announced that the Alabama Department of Human Resources finalized 741 foster care adoptions in fiscal year 2023.

The announcement comes just before Ivey's proclamation of National Adoption Day, which was observed on Nov. 18, 2023. The month of November is also recognized as National Adoption Month.

"I am extremely proud that Alabama has been able to place so many children in permanent homes," said Ivey.

"I appreciate the tireless and dedicated work of the Department of Human Resources and our state's numerous private partners. I also sincerely thank our foster families and adoptive families for giving these children loving, forever homes."

In FY 2023, 69% of children who left foster care returned home to family members or their parent(s).

While most children in Alabama's foster care system do return to their families, there continues to be a need for loving, caring adoptive families.

"We are proud to have found permanency for these 741 children and youth that deserve forever families," said Alabama Department of Human Resources Commissioner Nancy Buckner.

"We could not have accomplished this without our partners in the permanency and adoption process, especially the judges, adoptive parents and foster parents.

"However, we must remember that the work is not done.

"We still have children that are waiting for a permanent family. Our staff and others work diligently every day to give these children the permanency they need.

"Always remember that there are no unwanted children, only unfound homes."

Currently, there are approximately 6,000 children and youth in Alabama's foster care system and 196 that need forever homes.

For information regarding the adoption process in Alabama, visit www.dhr.alabama.gov/adoption.

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BOOK REVIEW

'Someone Else's Shoes' by Jojo Moyes

Cathy Lay Mayor
Tribune Contributor

Imagine working out at a gym and running late for a meeting. You grab your fake Marc Jacobs bag and dash to your co-worker's car. You pull out your shoes and they are not yours. Instead of your boxy black pumps, you find red crocodile skin, 5-inch Christian Louboutin heels and a Chanel jacket. Going back to the gym will make you late with the possibility of being fired. Sam Kemp sees no other alternative but to wear the shoes to work with a promise to find the owner tomorrow.

Nisha Cantor, a well-kept second wife, finishes her workout. Grabs her REAL Marc Jacobs handbag and is in horror.

Not only is this bag a knockoff, it is filled with someone else's tacky shoes and a cheap jacket. Nisha is too refined to wear someone else's shoes. She calls her wealthy husband for help. But he tells her the marriage is over and to figure it out. She goes in the gym's bathrobe and spa sandals to their 5-star hotel, but the staff and her husband's bodyguard will not let her in the elevator. She has no money, no clothes, her credit cards are canceled and her "friends" are no longer her friends. Nisha must use her ingenuity to find a way out of this mess.

Meanwhile Sam discovers the shoes are powerful! Her coworkers and clients see her with a different perspective. She makes her largest sale ever.

Returning home to her depressed husband, who will not get off the couch even to walk the dog, and her daughter who does not appreciate her. She thinks twice about returning the shoes immediately. Her friend Andrea, who is going through chemotherapy, tries to guide her about what to do about the shoes and her family.

After staying a few nights at a very cheap and trashy (by Nisha's standards) hotel. Nisha gets a job as a maid at the 5-star hotel where her husband and his secretary are staying. Nisha is befriended by a fellow maid, Jasmine. Jasmine offers to let her stay in her tiny apartment along with Jasmine's teenage daughter.

The novel is at times what some readers call "a Scooby Doo adventure." But it is also a novel of women empowering and lifting up other women. The supporting characters, Jasmine and Andrea, are delightful and prove to be true friends.

Jojo Moyes is an award-winning romance novelist, New York Times best-selling author and screenwriter. She is one of a few authors to win the Romantic Novelists' Association's Romantic Novel of the Year Award twice. Her novels have been translated into 46 languages, have hit the number one spot in 12 countries and have sold over 50 million copies worldwide. This is the first book of hers that I have read, but it will not be the last.

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.



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LEGALS

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 judgment by default may be rendered against them in case number CV-2023-900303 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County Alabama.

DONE this the 29th day of October, 2023.

LISA MCSWAIN, Circuit Clerk

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

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.
D.O.B. 07/05/2012
CASE NO.: AD2023-072

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, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

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.
D.O.B. 07/05/2012
CASE NO.: AD2023-071

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DONE THIS 3rd DAY OF November, 2023.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

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, 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

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, 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

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

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

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

‘Industry Comes to Wallace State’ gives students chance to network with area employers

Dalton Bright
Wallace State

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Students from Wallace State Community College recently got the chance to network with area employers and learn about various internship, apprenticeship and full-time job opportunities.

Industry Comes to Wallace State is an event hosted monthly by the college’s Center for Career and Workforce Development (CCWD.) The event series allows businesses in North Central Alabama to connect with WSCC students in programs that may be relevant to the roles they are hiring for. Recruiters from the United States Army National Guard, Oak Dental Partners, Blount County Communication District and Comfort Systems USA Mid-South were on hand to meet with students.

Anna Beard is the Diesel by Distance project coordinator at Wallace State. She assists with coordinating the monthly Industry Comes to Wallace career fair.

“It is like a mini career fair with employers from around the area. With whatever positions businesses are looking to fill, we will invite students from those programs to attend the event and network with potential employers,” said Beard.

Tables were set up in the Bailey Center Lobby for recruiters to display company materials and provide information to students. Recruiters got the chance to chat with students one-on-one and answer employment questions before sharing a presentation in the Bailey Center Auditorium.

Comfort Systems USA Mid-South, a commercial HVAC company, was the first to share a presentation. On top of traditional HVAC work, their company also provides a wide array of construction services including air duct and temperature control installation, refrigeration and hydraulic pipe maintenance as well as general plumbing. During their presentation, they shared that they helped complete the newly erected Tutwiler Dorm at the University of Alabama.

Ed Lynn has worked as a technical services manager at Comfort Systems USA for over 24 years. He shared that many of his colleagues are graduates of Wallace State’s HVAC program.

Comfort Systems USA recruiter Aaron Mickel said that career fair events like Industry Comes to Wallace State are not just important for his company, but for the trade industry as a whole.

“For every five people retiring from the trades, one person is filling vacancies,” said Mickel. “We need you all. Each person joining the trades now is going to be an important part of the future of the industry.”

Austin Booth, senior project manager at Comfort Systems USA, agreed with Mickel, adding that prospective trades workers can expect growth in their field.

“Being in the trades is hard work, but it is worth it. At the end of the day, you may come home sweaty and exhausted, but the potential in the trades is incredible. There are lots of companies that are paying great money for people who are interested in making a career out of the trades.” said Booth.



WALLACE STATE

Staff Sgt. Bradley Willingham of the Army National Guard speaks with students in the Bailey Center lobby.

“We do a lot of work here at Comfort Systems USA and we are always looking for driven individuals to join our team.”

Staff Sgt. Bradley Willingham was present to provide students with information about the GI Bill and recruit candidates to enlist with the Army National Guard.

“One of the main things that students are interested in when considering joining the military is education expenses covered under the GI Bill,” said Willingham. “We always try to have a big presence in colleges and universities, and Wallace State has always been one of the schools we get a lot of recruitment interest out of, so it is great to be up here and getting a chance to meet students.”

April Handy is the regional manager of Alabama at Oak Dental Partners, an organization based out of Alpharetta, Ga. that provides affiliated dental offices with business and administrative support.

“We have a whole spectrum of opportunities here. We are looking to hire everyone from front desk receptionists to dental hygienists. We have seven locations across Alabama, with three of those being in the Greater Birmingham area, and we would like to recruit for all of them,” said Handy.

Klara Bezhani is the talent acquisition manager at Oak Dental Partners. She said that she was interested in meeting with all students, not just those studying in dental programs.

“The sky truly is the limit, especially when you are working with a big organization. One day you could be a front desk worker, the next you could be an office administrator. We even encourage employees to pursue further education to become a dental assistant or dental hygienist.” said Bezhani. “Mrs. April was a hygienist and now she is a regional manager. Not only does she know the clinical part, but she also knows the administrative part. If you are hungry to learn, there is so much opportunity in the field.”

The next Industry Comes to Wallace State is scheduled for December 6 in the Bailey Center Lobby and Auditorium.

For more information about Wallace State’s Center for Career and Workforce Development’s Industry Comes to Wallace State or internship and apprenticeship opportunities for students, contact Bethany Campell at bethany.campbell@wallacestate.edu or 256-352-8372.

Wallace State Nursing hosts Let’s Pretend Hospital

Dalton Bright
Wallace State

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — For three days starting on Tuesday, Nov. 14, first graders from around Cullman County were welcomed to the 15th annual Let’s Pretend Hospital, hosted by Wallace State Community College’s Nursing program. With the goal of teaching children not to be afraid of a hospital setting, nursing students welcomed the youngsters to the event full of learning and fun alongside some of their favorite characters.

The halls of the School of Nursing and Center for Science were transformed into an interactive learning space, where nursing students donned vibrant costumes and engaged young visitors in a series of themed rooms. Nursing students performed skits as doctors, nurses and technicians to provide information and demonstrations to the children. The goal of Let’s Pretend Hospital is to help mitigate anxiety and prepare children if they must be admitted to a hospital, visit the emergency room or have an accident at home or school. While the first graders were there to learn more about hospitals, the nursing students also got to have some fun and spend time outside of the classroom with some of their instructors. The event also gives them more experience with interacting with pediatric patients.

Heather Ashley is a nursing instructor at Wallace State and is also the chair for Let’s Pretend Hospital. She has been a faculty member since 2017 and has been coordinating the annual week-long event since then.

“I coordinate everything between first graders, schools, volunteers and nursing students,” said Ashley. “We get to see all our area first graders, which is great. One of my favorite parts about Let’s Pretend Hospital is the big community involvement.”

The rooms of the hospital were each decorated with a fun theme and a cast of characters presented activities for the children. Each room had a different lesson to be learned. There were seven stations for the first graders to tour, including:

- A hygiene room, decorated with ″good” and “bad” germs to teach students the importance of handwashing and covering their mouths when they cough

- An X-ray room, featuring Elsa, Anna and Olaf from “Frozen” who taught them how to have healthy bones and that it doesn’t hurt to have an X-ray

- An operating room, decorated after the board game “Operation”

- A nutrition room, decorated after the book “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” where they learned to pick healthy food options

- An emergency room, decorated with a Dr. Seuss theme, where students learned how they would be treated if they ever visited the ER

- A room called “The Safety Zone,” where students were taught how to stop-drop-and-roll; the importance of wearing seatbelts, lifejackets and bicycle helmets; as well as how to be careful around medications that resemble candy

- A patient room, decorated like a jungle, showed the students things they could expect if admitted into the hospital, including how they can raise and lower the bed, summon a nurse with a push of a button and basic triage methods such as getting their blood pressure read



WALLACE STATE

First-grade students learn about germs and handwashing in the hygiene room.

Hanceville Fire and Rescue was also there, instructing students on the best ways to prevent fires and showing them ways that the department would help them if they ever got into an accident. They let the first graders explore the fire truck and they also demonstrated some of the equipment fire fighters use every day like oxygen respirators and a thermal camera to detect body heat through smoke.

“Hanceville Fire and Rescue have been amazing,” said Ashley. “They have been here every year for the past few years and for them to volunteer their time for the students is great. We really appreciate them.”

Air Evac Lifeteam 15 flew in a helicopter from the Cullman County Regional Airport and landed in the grass field across from the School of Nursing and Center for Science.

Upon landing, the pilots showed the first-grade students around the aircraft and how they perform medical procedures while in flight. They also shared the importance of teamwork.

The Wallace State Department of Nursing Education moved its facilities to the School of Nursing and Center for Science in 2014, which is where Let’s Pretend Hospital took place.

Here, WSCC nursing students have access to state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, including the Simulation Center that is often used by other WSCC Health Science programs.

Eight current Wallace State Nursing students attended Let’s Pretend Hospital when they were in the first grade, between the years of 2008 and 2012.

Levi Garner was in the first grade when WSCC held the very first Let’s Pretend Hospital in 2008, now he is a full-time nursing student with four semesters left until he graduates. This is his second year helping with Let’s Pretend Hospital. While usually in scrubs, on Tuesday he was dressed up as Captain America.

“I actually came to Let’s Pretend Hospital as a first grader. I remember how much fun I had when I was that age, so being here as a nursing student and helping put this on is special,” said Garner.

“My favorite part is getting to see all the kids have fun and learn valuable things. The kids seem to love it and all of us here have a blast too.”

In 2008, Ashley was one of the nursing students in costume.

This year, with eight students who once came to the event as first graders, Ashley said things feel like they’ve come “full circle.”

“I am a WSCC graduate, and this is my community. I feel like we strive for excellence here and there is no place I would rather be,” said Ashley.

The nursing program at Wallace State has twice been recognized as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education by the National League for Nursing, a recognition of not only its commitment to students but to the community through various programs.

For more information about the Wallace State Nursing program, visit www.wallacestate.edu/nursing, call 256-352-8199 or email nursingapplicant@wallacestate.edu.

Registration for the Spring 2024 semester is currently underway, with classes beginning Jan 8 for regular and Mini Term I and March 6 for Mini Term II.

Registration for Flex Start I courses will be held Jan. 13-19, with classes starting Jan. 15 and registration for Flex Start II courses will be held Jan. 20-26, with classes starting Jan. 22. Visit www.wallacestate.edu/register-now to apply and register for classes.

Prices (from Front)

Cole Sikes
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. — There is nothing quite like the scent of Christmas trees. These natural living room centerpieces are beloved and provide an aesthetic that fits the season. However, choosing the right tree and caring for it can be a daunting task. An Alabama Cooperative Extension System expert offers a guide to choosing and purchasing Christmas trees in 2023.

Industry hurdles

A 2023 survey from The Real Christmas Tree Board (TRCTB) — a national research organization funded by North American Christmas tree growers — indicated that 25% of TRCTB members would be increasing prices by five to 15% in 2023. This is a decrease from last year when approximately 71% of members increased their wholesale prices by the same percentages.

Input costs from labor, fertilizer, equipment and other expenses have increased by 10% annually. More than half of TRCTB tree farmers indicate that this is the same situation for the 2023 growing season.

Today, even though Christmas trees are more expensive to grow, most farmers are choosing not to dramatically raise prices so families will have even more opportunity to pick out their perfect tree.

On the farm

Christmas tree shoppers could see a small price increase in both precut lot trees and farm-grown trees. This is because of the input that it takes to grow the best quality tree. Steve Mannard of Fish River Farms in Baldwin County said he sums up the 2023 growing season in one word.

"The best way to describe this year was challenging," Mannard said. "Cold temperatures in the spring caused certain trees to brown in the tops and the sides. Some trees even stopped growing in July due to excessive heat and flash droughts in summer. It was the most environmentally difficult year to work in my 42 years of Christmas tree farming."

Mannard said input costs have gone up substantially over the last two years. Fertilizer, chemicals and labor costs, especially, have been the most impactful to Fish River Farms' operation. However, the good news is Mannard's trees were resilient in the end.

"They are growing more normally now with our moderate temperatures," he said. "There may have been some lost growth, but we were blessed with resilient trees. We have a great crop for families this year."

Choosing your tree

Alabama Extension Commercial Horticulture Assistant Professor Jeremy Pickens said Christmas tree farms typically open the day after Thanksgiving. However, many choose to open earlier to ensure that families have plenty of opportunities to purchase a tree.

"If you want to get an Alabama-grown tree, then you should go early," Pickens said. "Growers are selling out earlier and earlier each year due to a rapid increase in demand."

The first step to purchasing a Christmas tree is to determine which species of tree is preferred in your home. Most lot trees are Douglas and Fraser firs, which have the classic Christmas tree smell combined with strong, robust branches for heavy ornaments. However, these species do not grow well in Alabama, meaning the firs you see on lots are delivered from cold-climate states.

More species consumers will find at choose-and-cut farms in Alabama include Murray cypress, Arizona cypress, Leyland cypress, Eastern red cedar and Virginia pine. These species typically have fuller foliage than Northern firs and have branches best suited for lighter ornaments. None of these trees are considered more valuable than the other.

To ensure your tree lasts through Christmas, Pickens suggests buying a fresh-cut tree from a local choose-and-cut operation or buy precut trees with their bases stored in water.

"Trees that were stored in water will last longer because they have been kept hydrated," Pickens said.

Caring for your tree

The best insurance policy for a healthy Christmas tree is always keeping the water reservoir full.

"I check my tree daily until I get a feel for its water use," Pickens said. "If you are unable to bend down to check, construct a dip stick. Just take any rod (broom handle, pool stick, fishing rod, etc.) and mark the depth of the water bowl on the side. Check the water level by dipping the stick in the water bowl to reveal a water mark. It's similar to checking your automotive oil."

Be sure to keep the dip stick vertical as possible when checking. This practice will ensure the most accurate water-level reading. If the tree is placed in an area exposed to heat (HVAC or fireplace), consider moving the tree away from heat sources or closing the appropriate vents. While not completely necessary, keeping the room temperature slightly lower and reducing direct sunlight exposure will also help the tree's need for daily water.

Disposal

When it is time to finally take down Christmas decorations, there are some appropriate options for tree disposal.

"Check with your local municipalities, as some have tree collection points," Pickens said. "These trees are often turned into mulch and sometimes the mulch is free."

A popular method of tree repurposing is to place them in ponds or lakes to serve as fish bed structure. Some people also use them to start a bonfire during the winter. However, everyone should heed caution when burning a dry Christmas tree, as the hot fire can get away quickly.

Worth the wait

After the long days on the Christmas tree farm performing hands-on care, tree farmers may wonder whether their season will provide.

"At this time of year, I always ask, 'Will anyone show up?'," Mannard said. "When I see the cars pull up and kids begin to run around, I know that this was worth all that hard work. It's a good feeling to know that people want your product."

Alabama Extension is instrumental in helping growers implement proven practices and methods. Pickens has a prosperous working relationship with farmers in the state. He serves as a representative on the Southern Christmas Tree Board and also performs fertilizer experiments on Mannard's farm.

"The most important part of Extension, especially if you're a new grower, is that they can help with unique technicalities that come with Christmas tree growing," Mannard said. "If you don't seek help, you may invest a lot of money and not sell a tree in the end. The first thing growers should do is get involved with their local Extension office."

Discover more

To find a farm or retailer, explore the location tool from TRCTB (www.realchristmastreeboard.com/find-a-retailer) and search using a zip code. Consumers may filter results by choose-and-cut farms, garden centers, home improvement stores and more. To learn more about Christmas trees, visit the Alabama Extension website, www.aces.edu.



ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

Obituary Announcements: Nov. 23-24

Charles Baker Davis, 74

Charles Baker Davis passed away at home on Nov. 20, 2023 after a three-year battle with severe COPD. He was born July 8, 1949, to Walter Reeder Davis and Vera Baker Davis. Known as Charlie to many of his friends, he was a 1967 graduate of Cullman High School. He then attended Jacksonville State University where he majored in business administration. He worked three years as a payroll clerk and bookkeeper for C.L. Hanks Construction, then spent over thirty years as a production scheduler at Nicholson File Company before retiring. Charles enjoyed spending time outdoors. He was once an avid golfer and went on many golfing trips and deep sea fishing trips with friends. His biggest regret the last few years was not being able to mow his yard or wash his car and truck, activities which he enjoyed. Charles was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Jan Davis Cole. He is survived by his niece, Lori Cole. A visitation for Charles will be held Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023, from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home, 1901 2nd Avenue NW, Cullman, AL 35055. A funeral service will occur Monday, Nov. 27, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel, 1901 Second Avenue NW, Cullman, AL 35055. An interment will occur Monday, Nov. 27, 2023, at Cullman City Cemetery, 812 Ninth Street SW, Cullman, AL 35055. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.mossservicefh.com for the Davis family.

Freida Stidham, 70

Funeral service for Freida Stidham, age 70, of Cullman, will be at 11 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 27, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Joe Garrett and Michael King officiating; burial at Center Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 27, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Stidham passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023, at Woodland Village Health Care. She was born, June 28, 1953, to Richard Weisheit and Roberta Weisheit. She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her husband, Randy Stidham Sr.; sons, Paul Stidham, Ricky (Terri) Stidham and Randy (Meagan) Stidham; daughter, Christy (Joey) Stephens; grand-children, Kaylee, Bryson, Davi, Hank, Gracie, Gavin, Gauge and Rhett Stephens; great-grandchild, Reid; sisters, Sandy Page and Paula (Danny) Kinkle; sisters-in-law, Debbie Yerkers, Patty Pollard, Cindy Shelton and Pam Fields; a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

My Thanksgiving prayer

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. Thanksgiving is the day when we, well, give thanks. This day certainly should not be the only day, or season, when we give thanks, but it absolutely should not be one when we don't give thanks. To be thankful, is to be full of thanks, but we may be full of thanks and others not know it. For that reason, we should give thanks to the people in our lives, and especially to God who gave us life. It is a holiday when we pause to give thanks to our creator for the many blessings he has given us. There is an old Christian hymn that says, "Count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done." Actually, I have been given more blessings than I can count. I have been blessed in ways that I haven't even realized yet. So, please allow me to offer up to God my thanksgiving prayer.

Thank you, God, for life. Thank you for choosing Oscar and Nell King to be the human instruments you used to accomplish that mission for me. Thank you, God, for loving me before I ever loved you or even knew who you are.

Thank you for sending your only begotten Son into this world to live for us and die for us that we might have life everlasting through him. Thank you for choosing Mary to accomplish that mission for him. Thank you for the Bible that tells us so.

Thank you for giving me, and a multitude of others, the gift of eternal life. Thank you for parents who taught and modeled for me what is right. Thank you that they believed in you, and taught me about you, so I could too. Thank you for the fifteen years I had with my father, and for the 47 years I had with my mother. Thank you for my two brothers and my sister. I especially thank you that I still have one brother here in this world. We will celebrate his 80th birthday next month.

Thank you for giving me the greatest wife I could ever have. Jean King has been by my side for 48 years. Counting the two years we dated prior to marriage, we've had half-a-century together.

Thank you for sending me the love of my life, and the best friend I have ever known. Thank you for all the numerous joys we've shared together, and for seeing us through the difficult times. Thank you for giving us a beautiful baby girl 36-years ago. Thank you that she grew into a beautiful woman, married a fine man, and gave us the greatest grandson in the world 14-years ago. Now, I know some of you other grands will disagree with that, but that's okay. He is the greatest in our world, perhaps like yours is in your world.

Thank you, God, for all the wonderful places you have allowed us to visit, live, and minister. Thank you for all the great friends we have made in those places. Thank you for the last sixteen years in Opelika, Alabama. Thank you for allowing Jean and me to retire and stay here.

Thank you for the churches you have allowed us to serve in through the years. Thank you for Lanier Baptist Church, where we serve now.

Finally, thank you for the gift of reading, writing, music, humor, woodworking, crafting, pickleball, racquetball, fishing, lemon pie, and barbecue! Thank you for life! Thank you, friends, for reading my writings each week! Amen!

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

HISTORY

Files from yesteryear: 1900, 1930

From the files of 1900

Miss Fannie Watts of Etha is attending music school at Holly Pond.

D.E. Jones is postmaster at Jones Chapel.

The sixth annual session of the West Cullman Singing Convention was held at Bethlehem West on August 3, 4 and 5.

J.M. Wilks presided. L.B. Cornelius acted as secretary. L.A. Worley was made chairman.

Reverend G.W. Chandler is teaching a singing school at Good Hope.

Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Hanlin and family returned Thursday from a visit to their old home in Indiana.

From the files of 1930

Probate Judge H.F. Mitchell has received Cullman County's allotment of new auto tags for 1931. The tags are yellow on a green background.

Jim Martin, 81, died at his home near Missionary Grove on Monday.

Cullman County High will open on August 25 with the following faculty members: M.H. Killingsworth, Virgil Collins, A.S. Johnston, J.H.S. Church, Sanford Clark, Pauline Neighbors, Minnie Harris, William T. Wilks, Nannie Lou Jenkins, Mary Nicholson, Ethel Rogers, Ruby D. Doyle, Susan Patterson, Freda Hartung, Thelma Goodwin and P.F. Bria.

Mrs. C.H. Bedingfield entertained at bridge on Friday afternoon.

Miss Lorene Fischer returned Tuesday from a three month tour of Europe.

Miss Sarah Lillian Ritcher has returned home after spending the summer with relatives in Birmingham.

Orus McMinn has recovered from a serious attack of malaria.

Miss Elizabeth Otwell who has been attending summer school at Boston, Massachusetts, has arrived home to visit her parents.

Mrs. Mary Julian of Blountsville is visiting Mrs. T.C. Holmes and Mrs. Clyde Stewart.

Miss Doris Bland left on Saturday for New Orleans for a visit with friends.

Miss Maggie Brown, who has been attending school at Jacksonville, has arrived home for a vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. Olin Brandon are spending several weeks in Arkansas.

Mrs. Gundy Schafer entertained with a picnic lunch, on Sunday, honoring Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Hayward and Mrs. John Schafer of Michigan.

POET'S CORNER

The Old Man | By: Randy C. Hale

The old man sat on a faded gray park bench with his brown dog, wanting to speak to someone
about his life.
Like the trips to the small woods
with his grandmother to clean out
the spring, or look for a cedar tree
at Christmas.
The sweetness of honeysuckle
blooms, the beauty of wild flowers
and how the frayed ends of the
black gum tree twigs made good
toothbrushes.

He wanted to talk about killing
snakes, catching crawdads and
picking fresh blackberries from
the thicket.
He had experienced and learned
much in his lifetime, he thought,
his blue faded cap shading the sun from his face as he sat and talked
to his loyal shaggy friend.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

NOV. 25

M	A	S	S	X	O	F	T	E	N	D	S	Y	D	N	R	X
A	O	B	E	L	F	G	R	F	A	M	A	W	A	Y	O	R
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E	M	O	T	I	O	N	A	L	E	N	U	O	O	S	A	A
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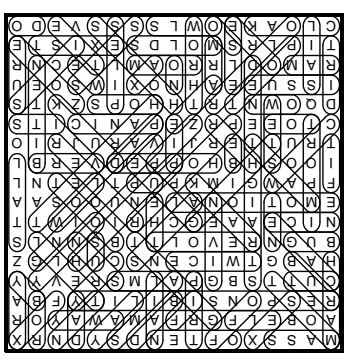
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

NOV. 25

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ANSWERS:



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

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WEDS 8-12 | SAT 8:00-2:00
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...IN THAT WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS CHRIST DIED FOR US. ROMANS 5:8

Dancers (from Front)

they come. But we're grateful for their participation in raising money, too, because this helps so many people in Cullman County: 100% of everything we get goes to the people of Cullman County."

Stephanie Neal of the Donald E. Green Active Adult Center said while she's honored the center is able to host the dancers, it means more to her that so many of them are breast cancer survivors, noting a "full circle" moment of coming out the other side of cancer.

"It touched my heart, because everything they raise stays in the county and helps people who are still battling it, going through it," she explained.

Boatright shared that it's no one-woman show; the dancers, along with several corporate and church sponsors like Traditions Bank and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, help by offsetting costs, maximizing the proceeds for Bosom Buddies. A final donation of $2,262 was given on Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023, to benefit cancer patients in the community.

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