

The Cullman Tribune

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WEATHER

57 35

SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

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SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Raiders race past Holly Pond in 2nd half 79-44, Lady Raiders pick up 65-30 win

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Ivey 'breaks ground' on Co-op broadband expansion

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Gov. Kay Ivey on Monday, Dec. 4, made a stop at the Cullman Electric Cooperative for a ceremonial groundbreaking to signify the beginning of a new broadband expansion project.

"Our presence in Cullman County today underscores our commitment to providing access to high-speed internet for every Alabamian. The remarkable strides made here, supported by the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund and Cullman Electric Cooperative, signify our dedication to connecting unserved residents," said Ivey.

"This milestone represents our journey towards statewide connectivity, demonstrating that when one community gains access, we all move closer to a more connected and

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CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Gov. Kay Ivey gave remarks and participated in a groundbreaking during the Broadband Tour Stop with Cullman Electric Cooperative Monday, Dec. 4, in Cullman.

Baileyton seniors see massive turnout at annual community Christmas celebration



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Siblings Etzio (left) and Killian (right) Bravo pose for a photo with Santa and Mr. Claus at the Baileyton Senior Center community Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

BAILEYTON, Ala. — With a line wrapped around the building and seemingly every child in Baileyton in attendance, excitement and anticipation built as the Baileyton Senior Center hosted its annual community Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023. Amid festive sweaters, a large, decorated tree and decorations hung about the center, kids of all ages ate dinner and visited with their community's seniors, all while keeping an eye on the stage in the corner of the center, stacked high with toys for every age and interest. Science experiment kits, balls for every sport, stuffed toys, music instruments and dolls lined the stage, waiting to be picked.

The man of the hour, Santa himself, along with Mrs. Claus, burst through the backdoor to raucous applause.

Kids lined up to get their photos taken with the ever-elusive Saint Nick and enjoy a bag of fruit and candy canes before finally hitting the stage to bring home a toy.

Baileyton Senior Center President Jim Fisher said it's a once-a-year celebration that the seniors love to put on, and the town has looked forward to, for over a decade.

"This has been going on 12 years now," explained Fisher, saying it's an opportunity for the town to come out and fellowship with the seniors of Baileyton, and for the seniors to give back to the kids in the community.

"There's nothing like this! You can come in, sit down, relax and eat," he said, gesturing to the massive swell of kiddos and families around him enjoying a hot meal with plenty of Christmas cookies for dessert.

Fisher said the festive season has all in Baileyton feeling merry and bright, as the town council stepped in to help the seniors accomplish the massive feat.

"Dewayne (Sumner) and Benny (Guthrie) has done a lot, and so has Wendell (Peterson)," Fisher said, noting a working relationship between the town and the seniors.

Town Councilman Sumner echoed Fisher's statements, sharing his excitement that the council and seniors are once again working in tandem for the benefit of the community of Baileyton.

"We're excited for the seniors to be able to move forward and continue helping the community, and the members of the council here are willing to support and help in any way we possibly can to better Baileyton," said Sumner.

Saying goodbye to 50 years of the round building at CMS



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

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Annual Lights of Love event set for Dec. 12



CULLMAN REGIONAL FOUNDATION

This year's Dr. Herman C. Ensor Lights of Love Ceremony is dedicated in honor of Danny McAfee and in memory of Cullman Regional Hospice patients.

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Tribune introduces Bedtime Storytellers Series



THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman County District Judge Chad Floyd reads "Jesus is Born in Bethlehem," published online on The Cullman Tribune and Cullman Today Facebook pages, on Saturday, Dec. 2.

» PAGE 6

RAKE IN THE SAVINGS WITH BILL'S DEALS!

Bill Smith

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 4

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 4, 2023. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Nov. 30

- domestic violence; CR 601
- harassment; CR 1435
- domestic violence; CR 469
- assault; menacing; CR 1725
- burglary; criminal mischief; Schwaiger Rd.
- theft of property; Hwy. 31
- criminal mischief; CR 1339
- robbery; CR 747

Dec. 1

- attempt to elude police officer; CR 842
- harassment; CR 940
- assault; elder abuse-neglect; CR 1101
- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 1838
- domestic violence; CR 162

Dec. 2

- domestic violence; I-65 NB at Exit 299
- criminal littering; Pondview Dr.
- harassment; CR 1545
- domestic violence; Twitty Ln.
- violation of protection order; CR 750

Dec. 3

- attempt to elude police officer; CR 842
- assault; Hwy. 67
- domestic violence; CR 1184
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 437
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; criminal mischief; CR 161

ARRESTS

Nov. 30 – Dec. 3

Baker, Jesse L.; 37
- FTA- driver's license not in possession

Benefield, Harley D.; 24
- FTA- operating vehicle without insurance

Cofield, Christian L.; 25
- public intoxication

Contreras, Samuel B.; 21
- DUI (alcohol)

Dinkel, Wesley K.; 43
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Fanning, Nathan D.; 39
- public intoxication; CR 39

Freeman, Shane A.; 32
- stolen vehicles-auto theft
- attempting to elude police officer

Glasscox, Tanner C.; 31
- Probation Revoked- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft

Goble, Phebe G.; 54
- possession of dangerous drugs

Ingram, Heather L.; 32
- FTA- speeding-no workers-construction zone (2 counts)

Jones, Jon N.; 45
- assault-domestic violence-3rd degree-harassing communications

Lance, Heather Shawn E.; 25
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Mahler, Matthew A.; 25
- public intoxication

Martin, Abraham J.; 46
- Grand Jury- obstructing justice use a false identity
- Grand Jury- forgery-checks
- Grand Jury- giving false information to police officer
- FTA- operating vehicle without insurance
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Neely, Zachary G.; 43
- FTA- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle (2 counts)
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia (5 counts)
- FTA- criminal trespass
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs (3 counts)
- FTA- larceny/theft-shoplifting less than $500

Nickens, Manuel D.; 55
- Probation Violation- sell/distribute cocaine

Rosato, Aaron V.; 36
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- DUI (alcohol)

Sutton, Demetrius J.; 33
- FTA- forgery-possessing forged instrument

Vickery, Gary W.; 78
- Grand Jury- insurance fraud (2 counts)

Wade, Jennifer M.; 29
- harassing communications

Weissend, Daniel N.; 43
- fraud-identity theft
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle
- larceny/theft-shoplifting less than $500

West, Ammie R.; 43
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

West Jr., William E.; 52
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Woodruff, Todd A.; 29
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Nov. 27
- theft of lost property-2nd degree; person; 2nd Ave. NE; ice skates; $1,600

Nov. 28
- leaving scene of accident; person; Town Square SW; damage to 2013 Honda; $500

Nov. 30
- forgery-3rd degree; theft of property-1st offense; Peoples Bank; forged checks

Dec. 1
- criminal mischief-3rd degree; person; 10th Ave. SE; damaged mailbox; $500
- domestic violence-3rd degree-harassment; person
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW
- theft of property-4th degree; person; Logan St. SW; cash
- theft of property-2nd degree; person; Olive St. SW; medication
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $142

Dec. 2
- domestic violence-3rd degree-criminal trespass; person; St. Joseph St. SW
- theft of property-4th degree; ABC Beverage; Cullman Shopping Center; alcohol; $50
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; Commerce Ave.; damage to 2018 Toyota Camry; $1,000

Dec. 3
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Hwy. 157
- theft of property-3rd degree; person; 3rd Ave. SE; phone; $629

ARRESTS

Dec. 1 – 3

Costantini, Anthony B.; 43
- FTA- DUI
- FTA- improper lane usage

Griffin, Jonathan B.; 40
- FTA- violation of protection order
- FTA- domestic violence-3rd degree

Headley Jr., David R.; 35
- FTA- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Marks, Parker G.; 18
- DUI

Heffner, Barbara K.; 25
- public intoxication

Douglas, Ethan N.; 20
- domestic violence-3rd degree

Westmoreland, Terena N.; 39
- FTA- resisting arrest
- FTA- giving false information to police officer
- FTA- theft of property-4th degree
- FTA- expired tag

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Falkville celebrates 25 years of Christmas in the Park

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

FALKVILLE, Ala. — The town of Falkville held its Christmas in the Park event on Sunday, Dec. 3, at Jack McCaig Park.

The Falkville Community Pride group- which hosts the event each year, said this is the 25th occurrence of Christmas in the Park—and it's grown in attendance every year.

Tina Rogers and Frances Rowe, two special individuals and members of Community Pride since the beginning, shared some of their favorite moments centered around the program.

"I love hearing David Halbrooks sing 'Oh Holy Night,'" Rogers said. "He has been with us for all 25 years and he is a staple in this program to me. Honestly, we love seeing everyone here, and we appreciate everyone who pours into this event."

Rowe agreed and shared that for her, it's the community-centered mindset that the event brings.

"It is so good to see so many people come out each year and be very supportive of the town, the program and all those who help," Rowe said.

"The feeling of the whole community coming together – that is the true sentiment of what we want to create here."

In years past, Community Pride handled the event fully, but now, Town of Falkville employees and many community members band together to get the park ready.

"We truly appreciate the mayor, town council and all Town employees for what they do," Rowe said. "We (Community Pride) handle putting the decorations together, but the Town has really done so much and truly assisted in seeing this program through. We are very thankful."



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Falkville's Christmas in the Park took place Sunday, Dec. 3.

Event (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Regional Foundation Dr. Herman C. Ensor Lights of Love Ceremony will be held Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. at St. John Evangelical Protestant Church's Christ Hall.

Giving a gift of love for $20, $40, $60 or more places a light on the Christmas tree at Cullman Regional as a tribute to someone special. These tax-deductible gifts help support the Foundation's mission of advancing health care services in the community.

Special acknowledgement cards are sent to those who have been honored and to the families of those being remembered.

"Special music during the program will be provided by Daystar Praise Team at which time individuals will be recognized," said Maria Stanford, Cullman Regional Foundation executive director. "This event is open to the public, and everyone is welcome to attend."

All community members and contributors are invited to the Dec.12 event for the presentation of the names of those being recognized this year. The program will also include special Christmas music by area artists.

This year's event will be dedicated to the memory of Cullman Regional Hospice patients and a special honor to Danny McAfee and his family. McAfee was a longstanding Foundation board member and was a great example of what it means to be a servant leader.

Cullman Regional Foundation President Emily Niezer Johnston remembered McAfee by saying, "The level of his commitment to the mission of the Cullman Regional Foundation is unsurpassed. He cared about our community and the citizens who make our community the success it is today. He spent countless hours working to improve the lives of others."

Donations may be contributed throughout the entire holiday season and gifts received by Dec. 11 will be included in the special ceremony. Contributions may be made in memory or in honor of someone special. Donate at www.cullmanregional.com/foundation/events or call the Foundation at 256-737-2565 for more information.

CMS (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — A unique, iconic piece of Cullman Middle School's history is set to be closed soon as an ambitious expansion of the downtown campus continues. But don't worry, the community will get one last chance to bid farewell to what has affectionately been called "the round building" for half a century.

With the round building set to soon be torn down and replaced with a classroom building at the heart of campus, Cullman Middle School is inviting former students and community members to take one last stroll through the round building's hallways on Dec. 10 from 3-4 p.m., just in case they're feeling nostalgic for their junior high years.

Construction on the round building started in 1972, and the space opened for student use during the 1973-1974 school year. The unique facility has served several different uses over the years. Initially, it was built without walls separating the classrooms, which was a common trend in 1970s school construction intended to encourage collaboration across different areas of study.

The space that is now the school's band room was once used as the girls' gym when the round building was first opened. The round building was used for sixth-grade classes until the mid-1990s, at which time sixth-grade students were shifted to the elementary campuses at East and West.

Once the round building is removed, the space will be used for the west wing of a new facility that will house several general education classrooms, as well as band and choir rooms, career tech classrooms, an art classroom and a self-contained special needs classroom.

"Although the round building is a unique part of our school's history, the new state-of-the-art facility and cutting-edge technology we're adding in its place will allow our dedicated team of educators to continue the academic excellence at CMS," Principal Jake Johnson said. "Cullman Middle School is not just a physical space; it represents a vision for education that is innovative and focused on nurturing well-rounded individuals."

As for the ongoing renovation project, the first phase of construction is on schedule for final inspection this month.

The teachers housed in the round building and the Family and Consumer Science (FACS) building will move into the new facility during the Christmas break, along with office and guidance staff. Once operations have moved into the first phase of the new facility, the round building and the FACS building will be demolished, and the second phase of new construction will begin.

The entire project is scheduled for completion, including the renovation of the campus' current main building, by January 2025. Once that work is complete, sixth-grade students are slated to return to CMS in the fall of 2025.

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, Dec. 2 - Men's breakfast and foundry outreach canceled
• Sunday, Dec. 3 - 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, Dec. 3 - 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, worship and communion! Message by Pastor Bobby Dodd, leadership meeting following service at 11.
• Tuesday, Dec. 5 - 7 p.m. 24x7: Homesteading, Prepping & Simple Living
• Wednesday, Dec. 6 - 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult Bible study of Romans. Free pizza for children at 6:30 p.m. Van runs in the 5 Points area at 6. Call 727-215-9092 for pickup.
• Friday, Dec. 8 - 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship & Testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Bring a dish, dessert or drink for a potluck meal at 6:15. Nursery provided!
• Saturday, Dec. 9 - Kids Loving Kids Christmas Giveaway 10 a.m.-noon
• Sunday, Dec. 10 - 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, Dec. 10 - 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, worship and communion and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11. Leadership meeting following service.
• Sunday, Dec. 10 - 5 p.m. Healing Service: Miracles, Signs & Wonders follow those who believe! Join us and invite others to join as well.

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. through 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
• 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

Festival of Carols
Come enjoy a night of holiday music where the Cullman Community Band and Cullman Women Sing will be showcasing a selection of our favorite Christmas band and choral pieces. We hope you will enjoy these songs as much as we have. The concert will be held in the Cullman High School auditorium at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5. The concert will not have an admission fee, but donations are always appreciated. We hope to see you there.

Wallace State Fine and Performing Arts Christmas Spectacular
Thursday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. in the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre. The free show is open to the public.

Berlin Volunteer Fire Department's Pancake Breakfast with Santa
Saturday, Dec. 9, from 7-10 a.m. at the Berlin Community Center, 3309 U.S. Highway 278. Plates include pancakes and bacon or sausage. Drinks provided for dine-in guests. No cost; donations only. All proceeds assist Santa with Christmas.

34th Annual Cullman County Christmas Parade
Saturday, Dec. 9, at noon. The parade will travel from Wallace State down U.S. Highway 31 to Hanceville Fire Station No. 1. www.facebook.com/hanceville-civitan

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.

Fairview Lions Club Christmas Parade
Saturday, Dec. 9, at 4:30 p.m. at Randall Shedd Park in Fairview. The parade will start lining up at 3:45-4 at the turnaround by the school and start at 4:30, ending at the park. Anyone is welcome to participate. We will have a tree lighting and sing carols. There will also be a reading of the Christmas Story, free hot chocolate and cookies. Bring the kids because Santa will be there. For more information. call Kita at 256-358-8805 or William at 256-385-5596.

FHS Theatre Presents "A Charlie Brown Christmas"
Friday, Dec. 9, at 6 p.m. in the Fairview High School auditorium. Tickets are $6, with proceeds benefiting FHS Theatre. Santa will also be in attendance, arriving early; $5 will buy a photo with him to commemorate the night.

Wreaths Across America
Saturday, Dec. 16 at 10 a.m. The Dripping Springs DAR chapter will have its Veterans' Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Cullman City Cemetery. There will be a short ceremony followed by placing wreaths on veterans' graves. The public is invited to help place wreaths.


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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
DECEMBER 5, 2023

PREP BASKETBALL

Fairview pulls away to top Cold Springs 77-46, Lady Eagles remain unbeaten with 35-26 win

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. — The Cold Springs Eagles were back home in their newly-built gymnasium Friday night battling their county rivals from Fairview and the Aggies and Eagles split their varsity matchups. The Lady Eagles overcame a slow start and held off a late push from the Lady Aggies to collect a 35-26 win and improve to 10-0 this season. In the boys' game, Fairview outscored Cold Springs 29-12 in the third quarter to pull away from the Eagles and return home with a 77-46 win.

Cold Springs 35 - Fairview 26 (varsity girls)

Both teams got off to a slow start in this one. An Ella Dickerson basket put the game's first points on the board and gave Cold Springs a 2-0 lead with three minutes remaining in the opening period, but Darby Nichols answered with a Fairview basket on the other end to tie the game at 2 and that was the score at the end of the first.

Kenady Graves drained a three to give the Lady Eagles a 5-2 lead at the start of the second and after a Jayla Gorham basket on the other end, Ella Bruer drilled a three to make it an 8-4 game.

Dickerson scored off a turnover to stretch the lead to 10-4 and Ciara Calvert split a pair of free throws to make it 11-4 midway through the second quarter.

Nichols drained a pair of free throws for Fairview to trim the lead to 11-6 with just over a minute to play in the first half but Malaya Taylor scored through a foul and sank the free throw to stretch the lead to 14-6.

Maci Brown added a free throw in the final 30 seconds of the period to put Cold Springs in front 15-6 at the break.

Dickerson scored inside and Nichols netted a pair of free throws to make it a 17-8 game early in the third but back to back buckets from Lexi Collins cut the lead to 17-12. Dickerson and Collins exchanged free throws to make it 18-13 midway through the period. After another Gorham basket trimmed the lead to 18-15, Bruer knocked down a three to keep the Lady Eagles ahead 21-15 but in the final 30 seconds of the third, Peyton Defoor drained a three to make it a 21-18 game going into the final frame.

Three-pointers by Calvert and Dickerson extended the Cold Springs lead to 27-18 early in the fourth but baskets from Gorham, Defoor and Davi Stidham cut the lead back down to 27-24.

Taylor scored a pair of buckets in the paint to give the Lady Eagles a 31-24 lead with three minutes on the clock.

Collins drained a pair of free throws to make it a 31-26 game with 1:30 to play but Brown sank four of her next six free throw attempts in the final minute of the game to secure a hard-fought, 35-26 win for Cold Springs.

Dickerson led the Lady Eagles with 10 points in the win, followed by Taylor with seven and Bruer with six.

Collins led Fairview with seven points in the loss and Nichols each finished with six.

Fairview 77 - Cold Springs 46 (varsity boys)

The opening period between the Aggies and Eagles was neck and neck. A quick basket by Cade Yeager off the tip gave Fairview a 2-0 start and Bryson Fletcher drilled a three-pointer to make it 5-0. A pair of baskets by Cole Bales and another bucket from Clayton Terry put the Eagles in front 6-5 but Blake Rickard scored in transition to put the Aggies ahead 7-6. Bales and Rickard exchanged baskets back and forth to tie the game at 11 midway through the first and Matt Williams laid one in to give Cold Springs a 13-11 lead.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Fairview's Blake Rickard led the Aggies with 21 points in their 77-46 win at Cold Springs Friday night.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cold Springs' Ella Dickerson led the Lady Eagles with 10 points in their 35-26 win over Fairview Friday night.

The score was tied back up at 15 later in the period and after Williams split a pair of free throws to give the Eagles a 1-point lead, Payne scored in the final 30 seconds of the first to give the Aggies a 17-16 lead going into the second. There were seven lead changes and three different ties in the first quarter.

A Kilgo free throw tied things up at 17 at the start of the second quarter but Rickard converted an and-one play on the other end to put Fairview back in front 20-17. Rickard exchanged buckets with Seth Ingram to make it a 22-19 game and after a pair of Jac Dunn free throws, AJ Wood laid one in to stretch the Aggie lead to 26-19 with five minutes remaining in the first half.

Trailing 30-21 ater in the second, Josh Winfrey drilled a corner three to trim the lead to 30-24 and after baskets by Payne and Fletcher on the other end, Winfrey knocked down another three just before the buzzer to make it a 32-27 game at halftime.

The Aggies came out aggressive to start the second half, putting pressure on the Eagles defensively and creating easy scoring opportunities.

A basket by Bales trimmed the Fairview lead to 36-30 early in the period but the Aggies responded with a 17-2 scoring to begin pulling away. Payne scored 11 of Fairview's 17 points during the run, helping the Aggies build a 53-32 lead later in the period.

A Kilgo three-pointer cut into the lead in the final minute of the third, but Trace Richardson scored with 15 seconds on the clock and Rickard laid one in at the buzzer to put Fairview on top 61-39 going into the fourth.

Buckets from Yeager and Carson Jones kept the Aggies ahead 65-42 early in the fourth quarter and Fletcher buried a three to make it 68-42 with just over four minutes to play.

Ingram continued to battle and score for the Eagles on the other end, but it wasn't enough to overcome the Aggie lead and Fairview went on to win it 77-46.

Rickard led the Aggies with 21 points in the win, followed by Payne with 17 and Fletcher with 13. Bales led the way for Cold Springs in the loss with 14 and Ingram finished with nine.

Cold Springs will be back home Monday to host Hanceville and Fairview will return home Tuesday night to host Guntersville.

Troy repeats as Sun Belt champions

Adam Prendergast
Troy Athletics

TROY, Ala. — Just when you thought he couldn't do anymore, Kimani Vidal rushed for a Troy-record five touchdowns to lead the Trojans to their eighth Sun Belt Conference title with a 49-23 victory over App State on Saturday at The Vet in the Hercules Tires Sun Belt Championship Game.

Vidal scored three times in a 28-point fourth quarter outburst by the Trojans (11-2), who won for the 10thstraight time and 22nd time in their last 24 games. Troy's eight Sun Belt titles are the most in league history and are tied for the fifth most nationally since 2006.

"Extremely proud of our team," head coach Jon Sumrall said.

"These guys — it's all about them. Grateful. Just thank God for everything they've done.

"They have changed me and helped make me better. I'm just glad they let us coach them. I could not be more proud of their accomplishments. They've had a heck of a year, and I am just extremely grateful for what they've done."

Vidal rushed for 233 yards on 26 carries and became the first player to ever rush for five touchdowns in an FBS conference championship game.

He scored twice in the second quarter to give the Trojans a 14-0 lead before going wild in the fourth quarter.

Troy broke the ice late in the second quarter on a 7-yard run Vidal touchdown out of the wildcat as teams battled rain throughout the game. The Trojan defense forced a 3-and-out on the ensuing possession, and four plays later, Vidal found paydirt again, this time from 36-yards out to give Troy a 14-0 lead.

App State (8-5), which saw its five-game winning streak overall and against Troy come to an end, answered with a 9-play drive capped by a 1-yard touchdown run from Kanye Roberts to pull within seven at the half.

Troy's defense got after App State quarterback Joey Aguilar all night long, sacking the Sun Belt Newcomer of the Year five times and holding him without a touchdown pass for the first time in eight weeks; he had five straight games with three or more touchdowns.

Javon Solomon set the Sun Belt Conference single-season record with his 16th sack of the year after recording two against the Mountaineers.

His 16 sacks are the most by a Trojan in the program's DI era and the most since 1980.

App State tied the game at 14-all on its opening drive of the season half, but Troy stormed right back down the field, capped by a 51-yard touchdown pass from Gunnar Watson to Chris Lewis.

The Mountaineers pulled within three, 21-17, on a 41-yard field goal before Vidal answered with a 2-yard touchdown, and on the first play of the ensuing drive, Don Callis stripped the ball from Aguliar's hand and returned it 10-yards for a touchdown to push Troy's lead out to 35-17.

Roberts rushed for 53 yards and a pair of touchdowns while Aguilar completed 28-of-39 passes for 275 yards.

Notable

• Since losing on a Hail Mary at App State in Week 3 last season, Troy is 22-2.

• Troy won its eighth Sun Belt Championship and 23rd all-time conference title; Troy's eighth Sun Belt title ranks alone as the most in Sun Belt history. Troy's eight conference titles are tied with Clemson for the fifth most in the country since 2016.

• Troy improved to 16-1 under Jon Sumrall when leading at the half; Troy led App State 14-10 at the break.

• Troy improved to 17-0 under Jon Sumrall when leading at the end of the third quarter; Troy led App State 21-17 heading to the fourth quarter.

• Troy has outscored its opponents 303-101 over its past nine games.

• Troy's victory was its 10th straight overall, the second straight season in which Troy has put together a 10-game winning streak.

• Troy's 11th victory marked the second time in program history it won 11 games in consecutive seasons (1995, 1996).

• Troy has won 69 games since the start of the 2016 season, the 16th most nationally.

• Troy has won 23 games since the start of the 2022 season, the fourth most nationally.

• Kimani Vidal rushed for a Troy program record five touchdowns in the victory; it was the most touchdowns ever in an FBS conference championship game. He is one of just three players this season to rush for five touchdowns in a game -- Ollie Gordon (Okla. State), Avery Johnson (Kansas State).

• Kimani Vidal moved to second nationally with 1,582 rushing yards on the season after rushing for a Sun Belt Conference Championship Game record 233 yards on 26 carries. The previous record was 117 yards by Emani Bailey of Louisiana in 2021.

• Kimani Vidal topped the 200-yard mark for the third time this season and for the fifth time in his career; he is responsible for five of Troy's 11 all-time 200-yard rushing games. He has three of the top 15 single-game rushing totals this season.

• Kimani Vidal's five rushing touchdowns moved him into a tie for third all-time in rushing touchdowns in program history with 33.

• Kimani Vidal has now rushed for 14 touchdowns this season, the fourth most in Troy history.

• Gunnar Watson passed for 192 yards, pushing his season total to 3,333 yards, the sixth most in a season in program history.

• Troy has won 18 straight games when rushing for 100-plus yards and 20 of the last 21 games when topping the 100-yard mark. Additionally, Troy has won 21 straight games when rushing for 200-plus yards.

• Kimani Vidal's seventh 100-yard rushing game this season is a new Troy single-season record, while his 14 career 100-yard rushing games are tied with DeWhitt Betterson for the most in program history.

• With his 51-yard touchdown pass to Chris Lewis, Gunnar Watson became the third Troy quarterback of all time to surpass 10,000 passing yards for a career.

• Troy entered the weekend ranked 12th nationally averaging 9.83 points in the fourth quarter; the Trojans scored 28 points in the fourth quarter against App State.

• Troy recorded five sacks in the game and now has 25 in its last four games; the Trojans 20 sacks in their last three entering the weekend were five more than anyone else in the country. Troy moved to fourth nationally with 44 sacks this season.

• Javon Solomon added two more sacks pushing his season total to 16.0 on the year, which is now the most in the country. His 16 sacks are a Troy Division I record and are the most by a Trojan since Kenny Craik's school record 20.0 in 1980. He also forced two fumbles in the game.

• Javon Solomon's 16 sacks are the most in a season in Sun Belt Conference history.

• Javon Solomon's two sacks marked his seventh career game with multiple sacks, the most in Troy's DI history ... he entered the week 38th nationally since the start of 2000.

• Dell Pettus had a career game with a career-best two sacks for loss, plus a sack and 11 tackles (one off his career-high). Pettus moved into 12th place all-time in Troy history with 313 career tackles.

• Troy recorded 10 tackles for loss in the game. The Trojans have four-plus TFLs in all 13 games this season and 10 games with six-plus TFLs. It marked the third time in the last four games Troy had 10-plus stops behind the line.

• Don Callis recorded a strip-sack – the first sack of his career – and returned the fumble for a 10-yard touchdown, also the first of his career. It was Troy's third defensive touchdown of the season, marking the fourth straight season it has had three-plus defensive scores.

• Troy forced a pair of turnovers in the game. The Trojans entered the weekend tied for first with 187 forced turnovers since the start of the 2016. Troy's 51 games with multiple turnovers since 2016 led the country.

• Troy held App State to 383 yards of total offense; the Trojans have held 20 of their last 22 opponents to fewer than 400 yards.

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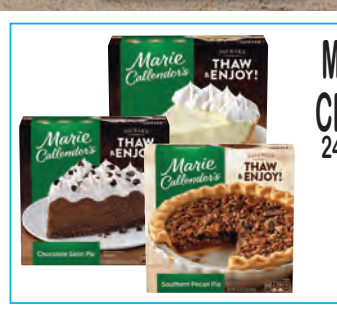
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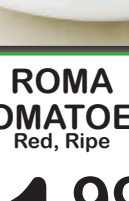


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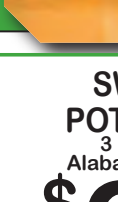
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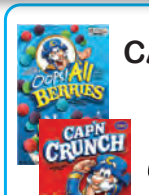
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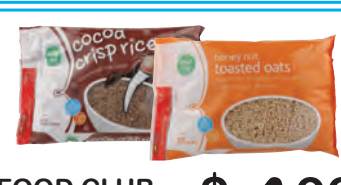
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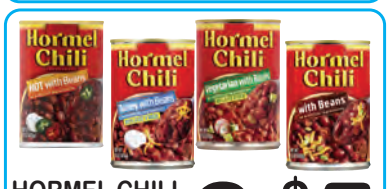
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PREP BASKETBALL

Raiders race past Holly Pond in 2nd half 79-44, Lady Raiders pick up 65-30 win

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. — The Holly Pond Broncos hosted the Good Hope Raiders in a couple of big county games on Friday night. The Lady Raiders picked up a 65-30 win over the Lady Broncos, while a big second half by the Raiders was key as they pulled away from the Broncos 79-44.

Good Hope 65 - Holly Pond 30 (Varsity Girls)

It was a defensive battle to start out the game for both teams. Ava Thomas knocked down a shot to put Holly Pond on the scoreboard first, but Heather Tetro put in a floater to tie the game up at two early on. Ivey Maddox broke the tie with a free throw, then a rebound and putback by Jolee McHan gave Good Hope a 5-2 lead. A driving layup by Madison Butts cut it to 5-4 with 1:35 left to go in the first period. The Lady Raiders got a three from Bailey Tetro to make it 8-4, then a steal and a layup by McHan pushed their lead to 10-4 going into the second period.

A pair of baskets by Bailey Tetro and a pair of free throws by Ava McSwain widened Good Hope's lead to 16-4 early in the quarter. Maggie Nail knocked down a shot to cut it to 16-6 with a little over five minutes to go in the first half. Later on, Ellie Burks put in a long jumper to trim it to eight at 17-9 almost halfway through the second quarter. Good Hope quickly pushed their lead back to double digits, as a pair of free throws by Charly Johnson, a steal and a layup by Emma Thompson, and a trey from the right wing by Maddox, made it a 24-9 game. Five straight points by Heather Tetro increased the Lady Raider lead to 29-11, but Thomas knocked down a jumper before the half ended to make it a 29-14 game at the half.

Butts drilled a trey to cut it to 29-17, but McSwain and Maddox countered with a three of their own to push their lead to 35-17. Emma Earl put in a jumper to cut it to 39-23 with a little over three minutes to go in the third period, but the rest of the period belonged to Good Hope. The Lady Raiders went on a 13-2 run to end the quarter, with 11 of those points coming from the Tetro twins, as they took a 50-25 lead into the final period.

A trey by Heather Tetro, a made basket by Maddox, and an and-one by Bailey Tetro gave the Lady Raiders a 58-27 lead in the fourth quarter. A hot clock was run for the rest of the period, and Good Hope would go on to get the win over Holly Pond 65-30.

Heather Tetro finished with 18 points for Good Hope (7-1). Bailey Tetro added 15 points. Maddox ended up with 12 points, and McSwain collected seven points. For Holly Pond (4-3), Butts led the way with nine points. Thomas finished with six points and Nail added five points.

Good Hope 79 - Holly Pond 44 (Varsity Boys)

Each team traded baskets to start the game, but Holly Pond quickly broke the early tie on a layup by Sawyer Olinger. Kollin Brown started the game on fire, collecting 10 of the first 12 points for the Broncos, as they jumped out to a quick 12-2 lead. Tyler Cone stopped the bleeding with a layup, then later on, Tucker Malin drilled a long-range shot to cut it to 14-7. K'mal Bell added a pair of free throws, then a layup by Weston Hancock made it a 14-11 game with a little over a minute to go in the first period. Carson Ryan drilled a trey to give Holly Pond a 17-11 lead.

Another Malin three made it a three-point game, but Olinger put in a layup on the other end to give the Broncos a 19-14 lead going into the second period.

Layups by Ryan and Brown pushed the Holly Pond lead to 24-16, but Malin put in a layup to make it a 24-18 game. A steal and a layup by Cone, followed by a made shot by Hancock, trimmed the deficit to just two at 24-22. Asher Thrift put in a long-range shot for the Broncos as that gave them a 27-22 lead late in the second period, but after that, it was all Good Hope. Haynes put in a layup, then Cone finished the first half strong, scoring the final six points, as Good Hope took a 30-27 lead into the locker room.

Haynes put in a couple of quick shots for Good Hope to start the third period, as their lead swelled to 34-27.



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Good Hope's Tucker Malin led the Raiders with 26 points in their 79-44 win at Holly Pond Friday night.

The Broncos cut it to 34-30 on a trey by Nik Goodwin, but the Raiders countered with a 10-0 run, with one of the baskets coming on a dunk by Cone. Cone scored the first six points during the run, and Malin and Haynes each put in a basket as well, as Good Hope pushed their lead to 44-30 almost halfway through the third period. A trey by Brown cut it to 44-33, and later on, a free throw by Olinger, and two each by Brown and Jackson Wilkins made it a 46-38 game. The Raiders finished the quarter strong, going on a 10-2 run, as they got five points from Malin, a three by Bell, and a layup by Haynes, to make it a 56-40 game going into the final period.

A trey from the right wing by Olinger cut it to 56-43, but the Raiders went on another run to break the game wide open. Good Hope hit five treys during their 22-0 run, with Malin knocked down a trio of treys and Dakota Overton added a pair, to give them a 79-43 lead. The Raiders would go on to take the game over Holly Pond, 79-44, as they outscored the Broncos, 49-17, in the second half.

Malin led the way for Good Hope (5-3) with 26 points and put in six treys. Cone added 20 points, and Haynes put in 14 points. For Holly Pond (4-3), Brown finished with 18 points, and Olinger added 12 points.

Good Hope's varsity girls will travel to take on Plainview Tuesday, while the next game for both varsity squads will come on Thursday as they will host West Point. Holly Pond will travel to Bremen to take on Cold Springs Tuesday night.

80 YEARS ANNIVERSARY 1943-2023

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

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LEGALS

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City of Cullman
Zoning Board of Adjustments

On Monday, December 18th 2023, at Cullman City Hall Auditorium at 5:30 P.M., at the regular meeting of the City of Cullman Zoning Board of Adjustments, a public hearing will be held to allow affected parties to voice their concerns related to the following items:

1. Variance request on setbacks at 609 6th Street SE
2. Variance request for a sign at 1908 Cherokee Avenue SW

For further information, contact Brian Landreth or Amber Duke at the City of Cullman Building Department at 256-775-7203.

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Expansion (from Front)

prosperous Alabama."

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) Director Kenneth Boswell; Cullman Electric Cooperative CEO Tim Culpepper; Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman; Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview; and Rep. Tim Wadsworth, R-Arley shared the podium with Ivey during the event.

"I want to make sure everyone understands exactly why we're here," Gudger remarked.

"Today marks the celebration of a partnership; a partnership between the State of Alabama and the Cullman Electrical Co-Op which benefits Cullman County and Winston County in expanding internet to unserved individuals, businesses and communities to the tune of nearly $7 million."

Each speaker addressed the possibilities and opportunities that will be made available with the acceptance of almost $7 million in grant and matching funds that are solely committed to broadband expansion projects throughout Cullman and Winston counties.

The funds acquired for the expansion project are expected to reach well over 1,300 families, giving them access to high-speed broadband internet, a much-needed resource in more remote parts of Alabama.

"A primary mission of mine in the Alabama Legislature is to ensure that every single Alabamian will have access to high-speed internet," said Shedd.

"I was proud to discuss the progress we have made so far in my district, and I look forward to continuing our work to make sure that all Alabamians can take advantage of the 21st century technology that is critical to everyday life.

"These investments we have made through programs like the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund have already brought high-speed internet access to tens of thousands of households and businesses, with tens of thousands more on the way."

The Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund (ABAF) has had over $82 million invested by the Alabama Legislature into various projects and expansions around the state; more than 72,000 Alabama residents will be able to connect to the internet from their homes through broadband service.

These funds give internet service providers the ability to expand their service coverage areas, connecting local businesses, individuals, schools and libraries to broadband internet service.

"Alabamians interested in learning more about what the state is doing to expand high-speed internet access are encouraged to visit the Be Linked Alabama website, a hub of internet expansion information and news.

"It includes the Alabama Broadband Map, county profiles and dashboards and statewide broadband news," said a media release from Ivey's office.

"Be Linked Alabama represents the state's united effort to expand access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet.

As Alabama works toward achieving the goal of high-speed internet access for all, the statewide initiative is coordinated by ADECA and brings together partners from across the state, including Governor Ivey, the Alabama Legislature, internet service providers, research institutions, utility companies, community leaders and the public."

Series (from Front)

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Tribune's "Bedtime Storytellers Series" is officially underway online with a stacked list of readers made up of beloved community members. At 8 p.m. every evening, followers of The Cullman Tribune and Cullman Today can tune in to hear stories read by readers from the likes of Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry and Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs, as well as a host of other familiar faces on schedule to lend their voices to tales both classic and modern.

The initiative aims to expand interest in literacy among young residents of Cullman, and in a digital age of iPads and YouTube sleep mixes, Cullman Tribune Publisher Noah Galilee said the series came not a moment too soon. "We started the bedtime storytellers series as a way to bring the written word and spoken text back to children and adults in a world relying so heavily on YouTube to talk their children to sleep," said Galilee, explaining that while it might seem ironic to use an online platform to bring the community back to written text, the familiar faces and voices will spark an interest anew in young readers.

"The difference is having people participate who are known by the children," he said, "To us, that's a huge difference." He shared that once the idea was floated around, it was met with a formidably positive response from the community.

"We were overwhelmed with the response from teachers, both city and county, county superintendent (Shane) Barnette, Sheriff Gentry, Mayor Jacobs and a host of other elected officials and community leaders. I am grateful to each of them for giving up some time to help tell Christmas stories," smiled Galilee, referencing the holiday and Christmas-themed stories being told in December to kick off the Bedtime Storytellers Series.

The Bedtime Storytellers Series will continue into the new year, airing at 8 p.m. on The Cullman Tribune and Cullman Today Facebook pages. Below is a list of readers and the books they have chosen to read.

- Anna Anderson - "The Crippled Lamb"
- Cayla Grace Murphy - "Little Wolf's First Howling"
- Cheyenne Sharp - "I'm So Glad You Were Born"
- Chad Floyd - "Jesus is Born in Bethlehem"
- Dale Greer - "A Charlie Brown Christmas"
- Danielle Shelton - "The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey"
- Elizabeth Shaddix - "How to Catch an Elf"
- Garlan Gudger - "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer"
- Hilary Nix - "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Sleigh"
- Janet Chandler - "Room for a Little One"
- Kerry Watson - "If I Were Saint Nick"
- Kimberly Lindsey - "The Kissing Hand"
- Margaret Guthrie - "Grumpy Monkey"
- Matt Gentry - "Jingle Bells"
- Melanie Harris - "Dasher"
- Nathan Anderson - "Mooseltoe"
- Paige Clabo - "The Little Engine that Could", "Have Fun Molly Lou Melon"
- Richard Orr - "Falling for Rapunzel"
- Robin Winton - "The Night Before Christmas"
- Shane Barnette - "You are Special", "The Boy Who Changed the World", "Pete the Cat"
- Theresa Kelly - "Gifts of the Heart"
- TJ Franey - "'Twas the Evening of Christmas"
- Tonya Cupp - "Absolutely Positively Andrew"
- Woody Jacobs - "Santa's Underwear"

LEGALS

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF: M.C.S., A Minor Child. CASE NUMBER: JU 2023-000224.01

NOTICE

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

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Father of M.C.S., born 03/06/2019 to Sarah Kristina Corbin, respond to the Petition by the 2 day of January, 2024, or thereafter a judgment may be rendered in favor of the Petitioners.

Contact may be made: Attorney for Petitioners: Tonya C. Palmer, 1939 Main Ave. S.W., Cullman, AL 35055, (256) 246-9600 or Clerk of Court: Lisa McSwain, 500 2nd Ave. S.W., Cullman, AL 35055.

DONE this 15 day of November, 2023.

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

STATE OF ALABAMA, CULLMAN COUNTY
I, Lisa McSwain, Clerk of Circuit Court in and for said County and State, hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy as the same appears of record in this office.
Witness my hand and official seal, this 27th day of November, 2023.
Clerk of Circuit Court

FILED IN OFFICE
NOV 15 2023
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY

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JUVENILE COURT OF
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
LISA MCSWAIN, CLERK

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF: M.C.S., A Minor Child. CASE NUMBER: JU 2023-000224.01

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

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

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Father of the child born on or about 03/06/2019 to Sarah Kristina Corbin, respond to the Petition for Adoption filed by Benny Joe Trussell and Sandra Trussell by the 2 day of January, 2024, or thereafter a judgment may be rendered in favor of the Petitioners.

It is Further **ORDERED** that notice be published once a week for four consecutive weeks in the *The Cullman Tribune*, a newspaper of general circulation in Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE this 15 day of November, 2023.

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

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Fire Marshal gives Christmas safety tips

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – With the holiday season in full swing, and Christmas trees and lights adorning nearly every home and business, local first responders want to provide tips to keep everyone safe.

Cullman Fire Marshal Chris Chaffin said between 2012-2016, there were approximately 170 home fires per year across the U.S. that started with Christmas trees.

"Personally, my family and I don't use live trees," Chaffin said. "We forget to water it, and trees are known to get really dry without it. We also love candles; they are great for ambience, but somebody always forgets to blow it out. So that's another thing to be aware of."

Another things Chaffin wanted to reiterate was chimneys/fireplaces and their purpose.

"One thing that is consistent after Christmas Day is Christmas wrapping paper being everywhere," Chaffin said. "Many people will think they can put that wrapping paper and Christmas boxes in the fireplace to burn, and chimneys are not made for that. It can be very dangerous for your home. Please discard your materials in the trash or recycle your wrapping paper and your boxes."

Chaffin submitted the following information for consideration:

"Between 2012-2016 U.S. fire departments responded to an average 170 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. These fires caused an average of four deaths, 15 injuries and $12 million in direct property damage annually. On average, one of every 45 reported home fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in a death, compared to an average of one death per 139 total reported home fires. Two of every five (40%) home Christmas tree fires started in the living room, family room or den."

- Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 43% of home Christmas tree fires
- In one-quarter (27%) of the Christmas tree fires and in 80% of the deaths, some type of heat source, such as a candle or equipment, was too close to the tree
- More than one-fifth (22%) of Christmas tree fires were intentional
- 42% of reported home Christmas tree fires occurred in December and 33% were reported in January

Picking the tree

- If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified or identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant.
- If you choose a live tree, select one with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out and is a fire hazard.

Placing the tree

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2 inches from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least 3 feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit. Be sure to add water daily.

Lighting the tree

- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use. Replace any string of light with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of strands to connect. Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.

After Christmas

- Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage or placed outside against the home.
- Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.
- Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service. Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Winter holiday safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Two of every five home decoration fires are started by candles. Nearly half of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

Facts

- U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 800 home structure fires per year that began with decorations, excluding Christmas trees, in 2012-2016. These fires caused an annual average of two civilian fire deaths, 34 civilian fire injuries and $11 million in direct property damage.
- 10% of decoration fires were intentional.
- The decoration was too close to a heat source such as a candle or equipment in two of every five (42%) fires.
- More than one-fifth (21%) of the decoration fires started in the kitchen. Fifteen percent started in the living room, family room or den.
- One-fifth (19%) of the home decoration fires occurred in December.
- Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 43% of home Christmas tree fires.
- Two of every five (40%) home Christmas tree fires started in the living room, family room or den. Three-quarters of the fatalities and two-thirds of the associated injuries resulted from fires started in this area.
- The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas, New Year's Day and New Year's Eve.

Holiday decorating

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.
- Extinguish candles when you leave a room or the home or go to bed.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

Holiday entertaining

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

Lastly, Chaffin advised residents to check their smoke alarms and change the batteries if necessary.

"We are limited in number, but we (Cullman Fire Rescue) have smoke alarms we can provide if necessary," Chaffin said. "Also plan to get a fire extinguisher if you don't have one. Also have a fire plan if something happens. Always (call) 911 for any safety calls."

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 2-4

Margie Ann Pigg, 77
Margie Ann Pigg, age 77, of Vinemont, passed away Friday, Dec. 1, 2023 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. She was born Jan. 10, 1946, to Maggie Mae Johnson and Richard McBrayer. Margie was a lifelong homemaker. As she would sit on her front porch and enjoying nature, where she could often be heard singing "I can almost see the lights of home." Margie will be remembered for her love and devotion to her husband "Rock" and her family. Funeral service will be held at Nichols Funeral Home in Addison Tuesday at 2 p.m. Burial will be in Sardis Baptist Cemetery, Sardis Community. Brother Rodney Ridgeway will officiate. Margie is survived by her husband of over 62 years, Olen Roscoe "Rock" Pigg; daughters, Marsha Darlene Alvis, Melissa Ann Downs and her husband Mark, and Shana New; sons, Rockie Dewayne Pigg and his wife Stephanie and David Lamar Pigg; sisters, Hazel Sanford and her husband Ray and Dorothy Johnson; and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents Richard and Maggie Mae McBrayer; six brothers; three sisters; and grandchildren "Little" David Pigg and Ashley Tyson. Memories and condolences may be shared at www.nicholsfuneralhomes.com.

William J.C. Smith, 74
William J.C. Smith, of Joppa, Alabama, passed away on Dec. 1, 2023, at the age of 74. Mr. Smith was born to William Hershel and Ruby Patterson Smith on Dec. 22, 1948, in Cullman County, Alabama. Mr. Smith is preceded in death by his parents as well as his sister, Margie Smith Jenkins. Those surviving Mr. Smith include his wife of 54 years, Patricia White Smith; sons, Mike Jenkins (Darla), Joey Smith, Jason Smith (April), Nicholas Smith (Nicole); grandchildren, Aaron Jenkins, Zane Whisenant, Zane Miller, Sadie Smith, Landun Smith, Lyric Smith; great-grandchildren, Grayson Miller, and Hudson Smith. Graveside services for Mr. Smith will be held at Simcoe Methodist Church Cemetery at 3 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023, with Tony Thomas officiating. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Smith family.

Thomas Ray Hobbie Jr., 45
Memorial service for Thomas Ray Hobbie, Jr, 45, of Madison, is incomplete at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Tommy was born Nov. 22, 1978, to Thomas Ray Hobbie, Sr. and Linda Bridges Hobbie. He passed from this life on Dec. 2, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Sherry Hobbie. Survivors include his children, two sons, Thomas (Trey) Ray Hobbie III and Lane Wyatt Hobbie; a daughter, Crimson Kantinia Hobbie. Tommy loved serving his country in the United States Marine Corp. He loved Alabama football and was a great running back for Meek High School. He was always smiling and had a wonderful sense of humor. Most of all, he loved his sweet kids. He will be missed everyday by all who loved him. Visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Nancy JoAnn Brown Schnur, 66
Funeral service for Nancy JoAnn Brown Schnur, age 66, of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Rev. Delbert Freeman officiating; interment in Cullman Heritage Cemetery. Visitation will be from noon until 2 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Schnur passed away on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023, at Cullman Regional. She was born April 1, 1957, in Frankfurt, West Germany, to Joe Donald Brown and Susanna Brown. She was a great aunt to her nieces and nephews. She loved gardening with daylilies and daffodils, and she loved to decorate for the holidays. She was preceded in death by her father, Joe Donald Brown. Survivors include her husband, Charles Schnur; mother, Susanna Brown; sister, Wanda (Rodney) Pruet; brother, David (Brandi) Brown; brother-in-law, Donald (Kathy) Schnur; sisters-in-law, Mary Posey and Peggy Sue (Van) Zsherwood; dear friend, Riva Sotherland; pets, Dodo, Katie, Bama, and Spud; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Shannon Lee Armstrong, 47
Memorial service for Shannon Lee Armstrong, age 47, of Cullman, will be at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. prior to the service. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Armstrong passed away on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023, at his residence. He was born Dec. 4, 1975, to Terry Lee Armstrong and Kathy Whitaker. Survivors include his mother, Kathy Whitaker; children, Cathryn (Anthony) Faulkner, Tyler (Rosemary) Armstrong, and Brittney Armstrong (fiance, Kody Johnson); fiancée, Carol Porter; granddaughters, Tessa Nicole Johnson and Haizleigh Armstrong; brother, Kevin (Tonya) Armstrong; grandmother, Willow Hue Chambers; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Catherine Marie Burch, 73
Catherine Marie Burch, 73, passed away on Friday, Dec. 1, 2023. Mrs. Burch was a member of St. Peter Catholic Church. She was a very devoted mother and grandmother to her children and grandsons and cherished by her husband. Mrs. Burch is survived by her husband of 52 years, Edward Allen Burch, two children Jeffrey Allen Burch (Gretchen), Emily Marie Crocker (Champ), one sister, Donna Marie Essary, four grandsons, Jasper Allen Burch, Ryder Allen Burch, Henry Francis Crocker and Charles Edward Crocker. Mrs. Burch was preceded in death by her mother and father Hugh and Elizabeth Essary, one sister, Barbara Heffner. The visitation will be held at Memorial Park Funeral Home on Monday, Dec. 4, 2023, from 5 p.m. unti 7 p.m. The funeral mass will be held at 10 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023, in the chapel at Our Lady of Perpetual Catholic Church. Interment will be in Memorial Park Cemetery.

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



Inaugural Festival of Trees underway at CWAC

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The lobby of the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center (CWAC) was full to the brim on Saturday, Dec. 2, as the Cullman Tree Commission unveiled its new endeavor, the inaugural Festival of Trees. Students from five local public schools and four local private schools came together and donated their time and creativity to decorate the trees.

Tree Commission Chairman Barry Slatton addressed admirers and school representatives at the Festival of the Trees opening ceremonies, sharing the heritage and history behind Christmas trees before relinquishing the mic, saying, "I'd like to give a brief history of the trees. They were first brought into German homes in the 1500s. By the 1600s, the decoration of the trees in German homes very much spread into that country and spread into England. It came to America in the 1850s; the national holiday of Christmas was established by the President of the United States at the time, Ulysses S. Grant in 1870."

Phyllis Hain, volunteer consultant, excitedly said, "We hope these trees will be able to be enjoyed this entire holiday season. That's why we wanted to set up early; this will be a free display so all children from the schools can come and admire their trees."

City schools were invited to come to CWAC and "sponsor" a Christmas tree, decorating their tree to the style becoming of the students it would represent; many of the ornaments that adorn the freshly cut 7-foot tree were handmade by those same students.

The nine greenery giants were farmed and harvested in Alabama soil, just a drive down the road. Frazier Christmas Tree Farm in Albertville, is the master behind the gargantuan sprigs.

West Elementary students chose "Alabama Math" as their theme because Alabama Crimson Tide plus Auburn Tigers equals a rivalry. Students, faculty and staff got creative and employed the STEM program's 3D printer, constructing Alabama and Auburn ornaments. Each team's gear and colors are placed on opposite sides of the tree. Streamers and pom-poms balance on the boughs, with glittery and sequin netting in hues of orange and blue to crimson and white.

"The Sweetest Time of Year" was a tree of CandyLand proportions, decorated and sponsored by Cullman High School. Giant lollipops and sugary sweets hang from the branches, drawing in any sweet tooth in the room. Cupcakes and ice cream cones rest atop the pink and silver wrapped gifts around the base of the Cullman High School's contribution.

Cullman Christian School selected "The Names of Jesus" to embody its school's community. A pirouetting angel circles the highest point of the tree, declaring His name on a banner behind her. The many names of Jesus are emblazoned on wooden ornaments, the correlating verse written just below. Angels and a nativity scene rest throughout the sentimental and gorgeous display, made with burlap and tulle ribbons, leaving each visitor in awe.

"Play, Create, Inspire" was the motto that East Elementary followed when preparing their school's contribution to the Festival of Trees, laden with student-made ornaments that truly showcase each artist's creative streak. Black and gold ribbon and tulle encircle and weave in and out of the boughs, creating a spectacular sight to see.

With salt dough ornaments rolled, cut and stamped with the school's logo, Cullman City Primary School's tree is decorated to the theme of "Bearcats." Over 100 hand-cut Bearcat and angel ornaments hang and magnify the simple beauty of soft lights and green needles. Students from CCPS have been pouring their love and holiday spirit into making these adornments.

A small wooden trolley, driven by Santa himself, surrounds the skirt of Cullman Middle School's tree, the "Holly Jolly Christmas Trolley." CMS' festive tree is an explosion of traditional Christmas colors; ornaments and baubles of red and green give the tree a sweet, pure Christmas feeling, enveloping the simple joys of this time of year.

Hundreds of nativity scenes and yarn animals make themselves at home on Sacred Heart's tree, themed "Away in a Manger." Each hanging nativity scene is a personal contribution from each student involved. A tee skirt filled with a zoo of handprint manger animals flock to the sides of the display, toward the nativity depicted at the base of the moving display.

St. Paul's Lutheran School students chose "Life at St. Paul's" to depict their lives at the private school. Popsicle stick frames hold classroom pictures filled with smiling students and caring teachers. The school's colors of blue and silver weave in and out of the décor, adding a sparkling touch.

"Hark the Herald" was the anthem that was decided upon by the last tree sponsor in the 2023 Festival of Trees. St. Bernard Preparatory School decorated its tree in many shades of gold, angels and holy scrolls on every branch. Soft lights and gold ribbon make the care and love embedded in this tree apparent.

Hain said to Saturday's gathered crowd, "I think these trees represent the true reason for the season, and that is, of course, the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Alabama is blessed with such an abundance of natural God-given resources and God has charged us to be good stewards and take care of our resources. The Cullman Commission on Trees is doing exactly that."

The Festival of the Trees is open for viewing the entire month of December. The trees and decorations are housed in the wellness lobby at CWAC, located at 1636 Field of Miracles Drive SW. These beautifully decorated trees are available for viewing during CWAC's operating hours and at no cost to the community.



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman Tree Commission awarded participating schools a certificate of thanks at the opening ceremony of the Festival of Trees, happening through December at CWAC.

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