

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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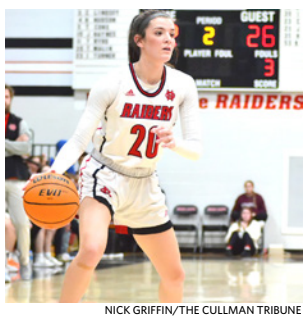
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SHOWERS THEN CHANCE THUNDERSTORMS

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NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Raiders race past Warriors 88-67, Lady Raiders pull away from West Point 65-49

» PAGE 6

Holly Pond Robotics Team ends spectacular 1st season

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. — Students at Holly Pond Middle and Elementary Schools have a new extracurricular team on their roster this year – Robotics. The team is made up of four smaller teams, grouped together based on age and grade level; two elementary school-aged teams and two middle school-aged teams.

Planning and dreaming began in August for the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) enthusiasts, with students fervently deciding and dictating roles for each member, and learning to work together as a unit. Job assignments in each team varied from notebook manager (responsible for keeping track and documenting every minute of progress) to builders and coders and pro- » PAGE 9



Back row (left to right) are Colton Marsh, Jasmine McClure, Travis Horton and Erika Drummond; front row (left to right) are Rua Ringlen, Tay'Lora Preston-Warren and Kort Freeman.

CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CCSO hosts annual favorite, special needs rodeo



MARTHA NEEDHAM/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry races students on stick ponies at the Cullman County Sheriff's Office special needs rodeo on Dec. 7, a day ahead of the 2023 Jimmy Arrington Memorial Rodeo.

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. — The sun shone bright and clear on Thursday morning, Dec. 7, as bus after bus rolled into the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center. Brakes hissed as they let out their passengers; students from every reach of the county were greeted by Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) deputies donning cowboy hats. Jumping and squealing with excitement, students filed into the center to watch budding rodeo stars rope and ride at the special needs mini rodeo. The mini rodeo kicks off the weekend for the CCSO's 2023 Jimmy Arrington Memorial Rodeo.

Sheriff Matt Gentry said that while, of course, the rodeo is something that his office looks forward to every year, special needs day is the pinnacle of the weekend for everyone involved. He touched on the collaborative effort between the sponsors, schools, several local leaders and the sheriff's office as the key to the success of the event.

"Nothing compares to the sheer happiness on the kids' faces as they get to experience a real rodeo," smiled Gentry. "It truly is the highlight of the year. I am so honored to be able to continue this year after year and grateful for the school systems for working with us to make it happen."

Cullman County Commissioner Corey Freeman spoke on behalf of the entire Cullman County Commission and echoed Gentry's sentiments, saying the event is one of the highlights of the year for them also, getting to watch the community come together to support students who may need an extra boost.

"It brings everyone together, from the commission, local law enforcement from all around and the schools. It's amazing to see!" he grinned.

It's not just the adults who look forward » PAGE 9

Co-op: Planned maintenance outage Monday, Dec. 11 at 10 p.m.

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'We can honor her by continuing to do good in this world'

Remembering Victim Services Executive Director Carol Horstman



CONTRIBUTED

Carol Horstman » PAGE 5

CHS adds weather station as engineering students showcase 3D print skills statewide



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Bob Baron, with the Baron Weather Institute, explains the new weather station installed at Cullman High School.

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 8

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 8, 2023. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Dec. 4

- domestic violence; CR 569
- violation of protection order; CR 1545
- harassment; CR 223
- harassment; Howard Cir.
- theft of property; Hwy. 157

Dec. 5

- domestic violence; CR 1626
- assault; CR 142
- theft of property; CR 1728

Dec. 6

- violation of protection order; CR 437
- domestic violence; CR 1775
- burglary; CR 820
- violation of protection order; Olive St. SW
- criminal mischief; Hwy. 69 N
- drug trafficking; possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; CR 1059

ARRESTS

Dec. 4 – 6

Allen, Jason M.; 35

- FTA- attempting to elude police officer

Batchelor, Logan M.; 27

- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Blackwood, William K.; 28

- buying/receiving stolen property $1,500 or more

Bryant, Dana J.; 66

- drug trafficking
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of dangerous drugs

Cornelius III, Walter J.; 34

- homicide-criminal negligent homicide-vehicular (DUI)
- homicide-manslaughter
- public intoxication

Dobbs, Christopher W.; 39

- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA- promote prison contraband (drugs)
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- public intoxication

Draper, Vivian L.; 64

- Grand Jury- assault-reckless endangerment
- Grand Jury- attempting to elude police officer-vehicle collision
- Grand Jury- criminal mischief
- Grand Jury- criminal trespass
- criminal trespass

Fillmore, John W.; 50

- damaged property-criminal mischief

Freeman, Shane A.; 32

- attempting to elude police officer

Harless, Bobby A.; 52

- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA- promote prison contraband (drugs)
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs

Holcomb, Crystal J.; 42

- FTA- sale of stolen property $1,500 or more

Hurst, Joseph P.; 50

- Grand Jury- homicide/manslaughter

Kerby, Heather N.; 29

- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-2nd offense
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs

Knight Sr., Brandon; 41

- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Leeth, Donnis A.; 71

- larceny/theft-shoplifting less than $500

Moore, John E.; 44

- violation of domestic violence protection order

Morgan, Alton W.; 60

- violation of domestic violence protection order

Skipworth, Kayla N.; 36

- FTA- resisting arrest

Trotter, Damien D.; 19

- Grand Jury- damaged property-criminal mischief
- Grand Jury- flight/escape-escape

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Nov. 30

- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $72

Dec. 5

- harassment; person

Dec. 6

- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; Hwy. 157; damaged trailer
- leaving scene of accident; person; 2nd Ave. SW and 3rd St. SW; damage to 2006 Ford Explorer; $1,500
- theft of property-4th degree; Dollar General; Hwy. 278 W; phone; $79

ARRESTS

Dec. 7

Baker, Joshua C.; 39

- theft of property-4th degree

Criscoe, James M.; 36

- FTA- attempt to elude police officer
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia (3 counts)
- FTA- criminal trespass-3rd degree (2 counts)
- FTA- public intoxication

Hummel, Jacob E.; 29

- FTA- theft of property-4th degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Car crashes into Vinemont home causing fire; driver deceased

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. – A Cullman man was pronounced deceased after the car he was driving crashed into a home Thursday evening, Dec. 7, at approximately 5:35 p.m. Cullman County Coroner Jeremy Kilpatrick said the crash sparked a fire. He said the driver, Mark Steven Haymon, 67, was the only fatality.

Troopers with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) said Haymon was fatally injured when the 2019 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 he was driving left the roadway and struck a road sign, utility pole and house.

After the impact, the Chevrolet caught fire.

Troopers said Haymon was not using a seat belt at the time of crash and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

The home, located along County Road 1354 in Vinemont, did not belong to Haymon, according to the coroner.

Kilpatrick said the following agencies responded to the scene: fire departments from Vinemont-Providence, Gold Ridge, West Point and Cullman, along with the Cullman County Sheriff's Office and ALEA.

Nothing further is available as Troopers with the ALEA Highway Patrol Division continue to investigate.

Holiday safety tips from local law enforcement

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman County Sheriff's Office and Cullman Police Department provided a series of helpful tips to keep homes and yourselves safe this holiday season.

TIPS FOR YOUR HOME

Keep doors and windows locked at all times

- If you are leaving for an extended period of time, have neighbors or family members check on your residence and pick up your mail
- Set indoor/outdoor lights up on timers to make it difficult for people to know when you are away
- Leave a radio or TV on to give the appearance that someone is home
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home
- Be aware of your garbage! If empty boxes are on the curb, bad guys can figure out where the items are
- If you have a gun inside your residence for protection, make sure you can access it and can safely use it

Tips for unexpected guests at your door

- Doorbell cameras and other security technology are great assets to have if possible; being able to see and/or speak with whoever is at the door without opening it is an obvious advantage
- Be aware that criminals sometime pose as couriers delivering packages or gifts
- Never open the door if you are uncertain
- Do not hesitate to call the Sheriff's Office / Police Department if an issue arises
- Be skeptical of door-to-door solicitors. Criminals will take advantage of people's generosity during the holiday season

Tips for driving/shopping

- Keep doors and windows locked, whether you are inside or out of your vehicle
- If you must shop at night, remember where you park, and park in a well-lit area
- Pay attention who you are parking beside; avoid vans, camper shells or vehicles with dark-tinted windows
- Park as close as possible to your destination
- Never leave your vehicle running while unoccupied (or with children inside!)
- Do not leave valuables in plain sight
- Have your keys readily available as you approach your car
- Always be aware of your surroundings, especially as you are approaching your vehicle
- Do not approach your vehicle if there are suspicious people loitering around the area
- Ask security or store personnel to escort you to the vehicle if you are apprehensive

"Pay attention to the surroundings and the people there," said Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry.

"Be on the lookout for that potential 'bad guy' and be prepared to act if necessary. Be safe, be smart and above all else, have a Merry Christmas."

Cullman Police Chief David Nassetta provided more insight on shopping safety.

"We have very few instances of people actively trying to take stuff from people, by force or threat of violence (robbery)," he said. "We always have people looking to take your stuff while it is sitting in your car (especially if it is unlocked) or in the back of your truck.

"We are spoiled living in Cullman; however, so are the thieves, because people make it so easy for them. They appreciate that you refuse to believe that anyone would take your things, as they are helping themselves to the stuff that you just purchased."

Nassetta said, in terms of shopping safety, if you are going to larger cities, it is always safer and more fun to go with others.

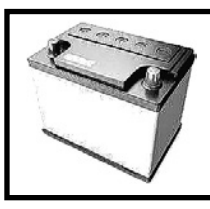
"The old saying that there is safety in numbers is usually true," he said. "If you find yourself the target of a thief or robber, it is difficult to give advice to fit every situation. Without going too far off the subject, I will just say that everyone needs to go over these kinds of situations in their head.

"What I mean by that is, you need to look at incidents that happen and think about how you would react if you were in the same situation. Think of this kind of mental preparation as developing a combat mindset.

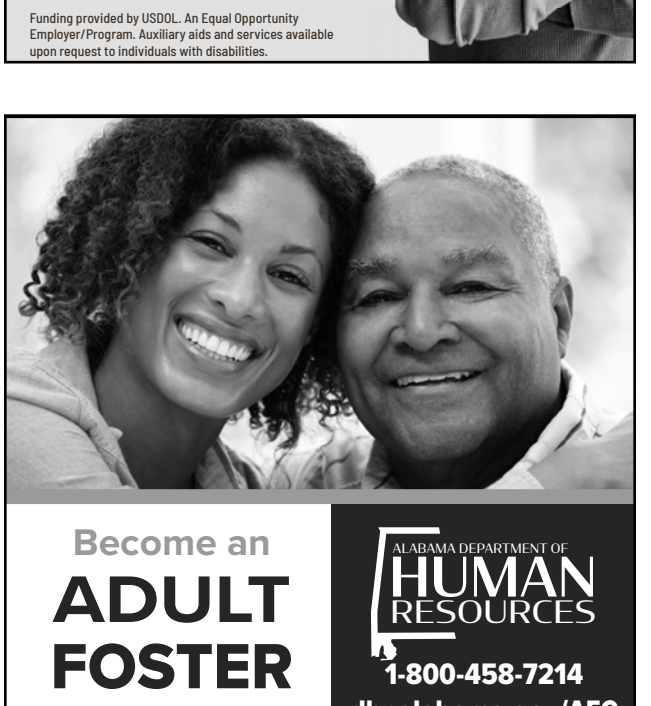
"In this day and age, it doesn't matter what you do for a living or how you spend your time – everyone needs to develop a combat mindset.

"This is not paranoia; it is just deciding that you are going to survive anything that happens and preparing yourself for it before it happens. Most of this is a mental exercise, but it will lead to skill development, as well.

"If you see something happening and are not prepared to assist, then be a good witness. License plate numbers are always extremely helpful. So are pictures and videos, if you are in a position to take them."

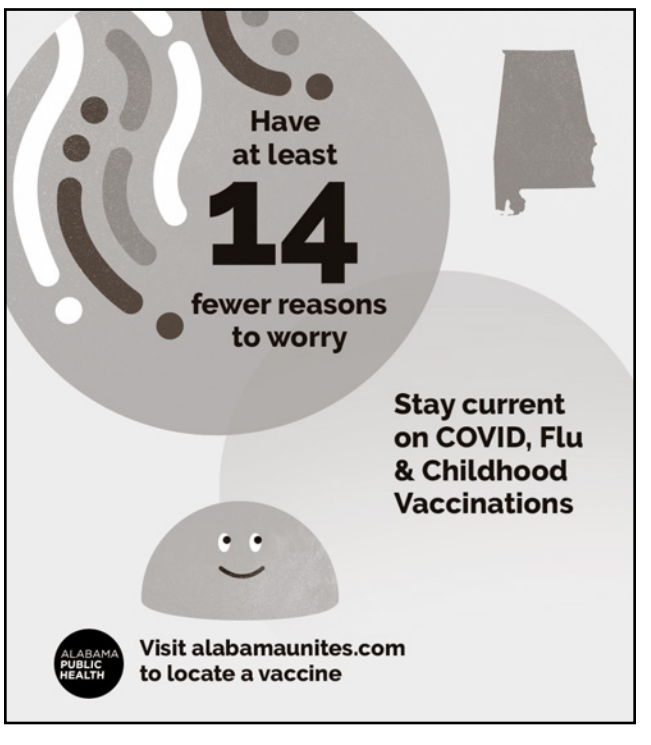

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

Church Services- Spirit Life Church of GOD
• Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Mondays-Fridays- Free hot meals for children Mondays 11 a.m.-noon, Tuesdays 1-2 p.m. and Wednesdays-Fridays 11 a.m.-noon. Cullman Housing Authority Community Center 1545 Vine Circle SW. Please call Kristie 256-636-5362 for more information. Eat in or take out. Sponsored by Kids Loving Kids, Raising Arrows Ministry and Spirit Life Church.
• Kids Loving Kids Birthday Blessings serves children ages 1-18 in need of assistance to celebrate their birthdays. Register your child and pick up a birthday box with cake mix, icing, sprinkles, decorations and toys! Pickup is the last weekend of the month. Saturday (5100 Curry Highway Suite 100-B Jasper, AL 35504) from 3-5 p.m. or the last Sunday of the month at Spirit Life Church Cullman from 12:30-1 p.m. Birth certificate is required at the time of box pickup. Register at https://form.jotform.com/203435614640045. For more information, text or call 205-717-7478.
• Saturday, 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. 9-10 – 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

Cullman County Sheriff's Office Rodeo
• Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center.
• Gates open at 5 p.m.
• Kids' scramble at 7 p.m.
• Rodeo starts at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets will be sold at the door. CASH ONLY. Adult $10, child/student $8, children 6 and younger are free. There will be an ATM on-site because organizers are unable to process credit/debit cards at the venue.

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.

Free Food Boxes at First Presbyterian Church
Wednesday, Dec. 13, beginning at 1 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Cullman, 615 Third Ave. SE. Drive up to the trailer and we will put the box into your car. Only one box per car, please. Follow us on Facebook or online at cullmanfpc.org.

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 9, 2023

CCBOE names Roden, Davis November Employees of the Month



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Pictured from left to right are Fairview Middle School Principal Kenny Griffin, Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette, AmFirst Employee of the Month Brittany Davis and AmFirst Cullman Branch Manager Daniel Boggan.

Ty Watwood
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County Schools and America's First Federal Credit Union recognize two employees each month. For November, those employees were Holly Pond High School Agriculture Teacher Rusty Roden and Fairview Middle School Counselor Brittany Davis.

"Rusty is always willing to help and works on every project that comes up," said Dr. Nate Ayers, Holly Pond High Principal. "Not only is he here early, but he is also here at all hours of the night helping our kids and community," said Ayers. "Brittany goes above and beyond to make sure she is available to all of our students, parents and teachers for any need they may have," said Trina Walker, Fairview Middle School principal. "She does a phenomenal job as a counselor, friend (and) coworker, showing compassion to our students in need, and listening to students, and then responding thoughtfully and effectively."

Cullman County Schools thanks America's First for donating a $100 gift card to each employee of the month. Congratulations Rusty and Brittany!



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Pictured with students, from left to right, are Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette, Holly Pond High School Assistant Principal Andrew Sims, AmFirst Employee of the Month Rusty Roden, AmFirst Cullman Branch Manager Daniel Boggan and Holly Pond High School Principal Dr. Nate Ayers.

'Our community takes care of us, so we like to take care of them'

Trident Marina hosts Christmas at Smith Lake

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CRANE HILL, Ala. — Landlubbers and mariners old and young alike gathered on the green of The Grille at Trident Marina Sunday, Dec. 3, to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season. Children enjoyed the lights, hot cocoa, bounce houses and hot dogs, and clamored to the edge of the docks giggling with delight to see a boat-riding Santa floating toward the massive Christmas tree situated in a nook of the outdoor seating area.

Christmas at Smith Lake is more than just a good time; it's also a community outreach event. Attendees could drop off children's coats and toys or make monetary donations, all to benefit local families who might need a helping hand.

The turnout for this year's event was good, according to The Grille at Trident Marina Kitchen Manager Bryce Rodgers.

"We have had a good turnout; a lot of people have come by and it's been great to see," he said.

"We have done this event the past few years, and the community loves it. The inside of the restaurant stays pretty slow, but we love seeing the kids outside on the green having a blast."

Children hooped and hollered as they ran from the bounce house into the slide, only to run back to their original choice as soon as they reached the bottom. On the raised portion of decking that boasts a breathtaking view of Smith Lake, an array of festive inflatables lined the perimeter.

The Abominable Snowman and the Grinch himself sat next to the giant Christmas tree, but darkness prevented many details of the tree from being seen – only the slight shimmer of the oversized red and gold ornaments peeking through in the glow of the hanging bulb seating lights could be seen – until the tree exploded with warmth and color as the lights were flipped on to great applause.

"We love to do these things for the community," Rodgers mused. "Yes, it's our slow time of year, but our community takes care of us, so we like to take care of them."

Trident Marina is located at 21680 County Road 222 in Crane Hill. Find out more at www.tridentmarinas.com.



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Children enjoyed the crisp air and bounced the afternoon away before the lighting of the tree on Dec. 3, 2023, at Trident Marina's Christmas at Smith Lake event.

Station (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman City Schools is partnering with a weather institute to host a cutting-edge weather monitoring station on campus, with students taking the opportunity to gain some real-world Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skills along the way.

Cullman High School has partnered with the Baron Weather Institute to install a weather station on the campus of Cullman High. The station marks the first in Cullman County to be managed by the Baron Institute. The Baron Critical Weather Institute is an Alabama-based weather nonprofit establishing a "WeatherNet" to monitor the skies for inclement conditions all across the state.

"We'd like to continue to raise awareness about the project and eventually get up to 10-15 stations in every county for a high-density weather net," Bob Baron, president and CEO of the Baron Weather Institute, said.

"The system can track precipitation, overnight lows and daytime highs. The information is also publicly available for anyone to access."

School officials say the project will benefit our community by providing updates on the current weather conditions in our area.

The weather station is also equipped with a live feed camera that will allow local officials, as well as the public, to track incoming severe weather as it approaches Cullman County live in real time.

"A project like this is a great opportunity for our students to get real world experience solving real world problems," CHS Foundations of Engineering Teacher Mike Gay said. "They're able to learn the methods and techniques, and the monitoring and troubleshooting."

The weather station project also provides educational benefits for students, as data provided by the weather station can be utilized as a resource by science teachers and provide an innovative, local outlet to meet state standards in relation to weather studies.

"This is an outside the box project and I'm so proud for us to be a part of it," Cullman City Schools Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff said.

"We have a school board that encourages and expects innovation, so when these opportunities come up we don't hesitate."

Cullman City Schools' Engineering program also works with the Baron Institute to build the enclosures that house the weather station systems via 3D printing, which is a great showcase throughout the state of the work and training being done as part of the district's career technical education programs.

"Cullman High School's Career Tech Engineering Program was selected to complete the engineering design and 3D printing of the weather stations that are housed throughout Alabama," Cullman City Schools Career and Technical Education Coordinator Lindsay Brannon added.

"Students in Mike Gay's Engineering Program get an in-depth, real-world learning experience and have an impact on the weather community to fulfill Baron Institute's mission to provide world-class instrumentation in support of Public Safety, Educational Outreach and Economic Development."

For more information on the Baron Critical Weather Institute, and to access the new weather camera at Cullman High, visit the institute's official website at www.baroninstitute.com.

‘We can honor her by continuing to do good in this world’

Remembering Victim Services Executive Director Carol Horstman

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The halls of Victim Services of Cullman are a bit quieter this month after executive director of seven years Carol Horstman passed away unexpectedly in her home on Nov. 27, 2023.

Ever the optimist, Horstman was a driving force in the advocacy and nonprofit world of Cullman; after starting at Victim Services in 2016 as a prevention educator, she quickly rose through the ranks and was named executive director in 2018. Horstman helped turn the tide of domestic violence awareness, prevention and treatment in Cullman County. The unexpected loss not only affects her family and friends, but also the clients served by Victim Services as Horstman was a force of positivity in what can generally be one of the most negative points of clients’ lives.

“She leaves a big void not only as an executive director but also as a coworker, friend and mentor,” said Victim Services Board President and Interim Director Gwen Parker. “Carol was a tremendous asset to our organization and had a wealth of knowledge about our services and processes. She was always soft spoken and had the biggest heart full of love and compassion for all she fell into contact with.”

Lauren Orth, a counselor at Victim Services, said it was more than a job for Horstman, it was truly a calling that impacted hundreds of survivors of domestic violence over the years.

“She gave her best to enable countless survivors of abuse and assault to find safety, healing and empowerment, not only by writing grants and effectively administering two shelters and numerous outreach programs, but because she truly cared about supporting survivors and those who worked with them,” Orth explained.

“She well understood the complex issues related to domestic abuse, yet was always keen to learn more.”

Client Intake Advocate Lacey Lemley echoed Orth’s sentiments, “You could tell she wasn’t just ‘doing her job.’ It was her passion and she loved doing it!

”The impact she had on our community was huge and she’s left a hole in our heart, Victim Services and the community that won’t easily be filled.”

Sabrina Garrison, manager of Victim Services’ transition shelter, said Horstman’s support wasn’t reserved solely for clients; it was given freely to anyone who came through the door of Horstman’s life, employees included.

“When I had a rough patch after taking the transition house manager position, Carol went out of her way to help me any way she could. She listened to me, cried with me and guided me through the first few months of being in this position. Carol cared about us, not just as employees, but as family,” she said.

Court Advocate Lindsey Smith said Horstman’s support was just par for the course, noting that the always-open door of Horstman’s bright and colorful office was an invitation to any who came through to unload.

“Her door was always open for us whether it was to vent, cry or laugh. She was one in a million,” said Smith.

Horstman’s husband, Robert Horstman, said his wife’s steadfast attitude didn’t just stop when she clocked out for the day – her passion for advocacy and care was a lifelong practice, felt by him, their sons and grandchildren, and anyone else lucky enough to cross her path. Her natural instinct to care and nurture made her a safe place for many.

“Carol was a natural caretaker – raised my two boys, Ross and Seth Horstman – but was also a caretaker and motherly figure for any person she met,” he explained.

“She had a heart for serving others openly, patiently and lovingly no matter the situation. She did this throughout her life with every person she met, every job that she held and every word that she spoke.”

Robert Horstman urged others to continue her legacy by doing what she did best – serving others.



CONTRIBUTED

Carol Horstman

“No matter where you live, you can find a way to serve others through your time, talents and generosity. Her legacy is to support those good-hearted organizations that help those in great need,” he said. “We can honor her by continuing to do good in this world by simply sharing a smile and treating others as we want to be treated, to the point of considering them better than ourselves.”

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
DECEMBER 9, 2023

PREP BASKETBALL

Raiders race past Warriors 88-67, Lady Raiders pull away from West Point 65-49

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — The Good Hope Raiders and Lady Raiders both returned home to host a pair of varsity matchups against West Point Thursday night and both Raider squads earned wins over the Warriors. After a tight opening half, the Lady Raiders pulled away in the second half to collect a 65-49 win over the Lady Warriors and in the boys' game, Good Hope scored early and often on its way to an 88-66 win over West Point.

Good Hope 65 - West Point 49 (Varsity Girls)

Bailey Tetro put in a layup for Good Hope's first points of the game, then Ivey Maddox drilled a trey from the top of the key to give the Lady Raiders an early 5-0 lead. West Point got on the scoreboard with 5:53 remaining in the opening period on an and-one by Liberty Shadix, then later on, back-to-back treys by Jaelyn Faulkner and Liberty Shadix gave the Lady Warriors a 9-7 lead with a little over four minutes to go in the first quarter. A pair of Heather Tetro free throws tied it up at one, then Hallie Wheeler and Heather Tetro each traded a trey to keep the game tied up at 12 going into the second period.

The Lady Warriors broke the tie early in the second period as Ella Minck found a cutting Jaelyn Faulkner down low to give them a 14-12 lead. The Lady Raiders tied it up at 14 on a steal and layup by Bailey Tetro, but West Point broke the tie and then some. A pair of Jaelyn Faulkner free throws, back-to-back treys by Wheeler, and a driving layup by Liberty Shadix gave the Lady Warriors a 24-14 lead almost halfway through the second quarter. The Lady Raiders stopped the cold streak in a big way, as a three by Heather Tetro and five straight points by Maddox, cut it to 24-22 late in the first half. A trey by Emma Thompson made it a 26-25 game, but a free throw by Jaelyn Faulkner gave West Point a 27-25 lead at the half.

There were three lead changes to start the third period. A rebound and putback by Jaelyn Faulkner gave the Lady Warriors a 29-28 lead, but Good Hope got the lead right back on a layup by Bailey Tetro. A pair of free throws by Ava McSwain and one by Maddox gave the Lady Raiders a 33-29 lead, then another steal and layup by Bailey Tetro pushed their lead to 35-29. A made basket down low by Wheeler cut it to 35-31, then later on, a pair of free throws by Laklin Shadix made it a 37-33 game. A huge and-one by McSwain increased Good Hope's lead to 40-33 with 4:18 remaining in the third period.

West Point trimmed the deficit to just two at 40-38 on a Laklin Shadix three and a driving layup by Camryn Faulkner, but it was Good Hope that would end up finishing out the quarter strong. Baskets by Bailey Tetro, Jolee McHan, and a pair of McSwain free throws saw Good Hope take a 48-38 lead into the final period.

A trey by Wheeler cut it to 48-41 early in the fourth quarter, but a big run by the Lady Raiders saw them start to pull away from the Lady Warriors.

A pair of treys by Maddox, a pair of layups each by Bailey Tetro and Charly Johnson, saw Good Hope swell their lead to 62-41. The Lady Raiders would end up collecting a 65-49 win over the Lady Warriors.

Maddox led the way for Good Hope (9-1) with 20 points. Bailey Tetro added 16 points. Heather Tetro ended up with 10 points and McSwain collected seven points in the contest. For West Point (6-3), Wheeler finished with 14 points. Liberty Shadix added 12 points. Jaelyn Faulkner put up 10 points and Laklin Shadix ended up with seven points.

Good Hope 88 - West Point 67 (Varsity Boys)

Good Hope got off to a fast start in their game against West Point. Tucker Malin put in a basket off an alley-oop pass from Dakota Overton to put the Raiders on the scoreboard first, but a rebound and putback by Jaxon Shelton tied the game up at 2 early. Back-to-back treys by Overton and Malin gave Good Hope an 8-2 lead. A slam dunk by Malin, followed by a rebound and putback by Tyler Cone, pushed their lead to 12-2.

Kolten Perry stopped the bleeding with a made basket in the paint to cut it to 12-4, but six straight points by K'mal Bell quickly increased Good Hope's lead to 19-4 almost halfway through the opening period. Three straight points by J.D. Cochran cut it to 19-7, but a trey by Cone made it a 22-7 game. Baskets each by Jay Lamar and Shelton cut it to 24-11 going into the second period.

A trey by Brier Taylor from the left corner cut it to 26-14 early in the quarter, then back-to-back baskets by Maddox Chapman saw the Warriors cut it to 26-18. A made basket by Cone made it a 30-20 game, but a made jumper by Shelton and a layup by Taylor made it a 30-24 game more than halfway through the period. Good Hope, though, countered with a 10-0 run, as Cone started to get red-hot from the field, collecting eight of their 10 points, and Bell added a pair from the line, to push their lead to 40-24. The Warriors trimmed into the deficit a little bit to end the first half, as baskets by Perry and Shelton made it a 43-30 game at the half.

Malin drilled a trey to give Good Hope a 46-30 lead early in the third period, but another made basket by Shelton, and three free throws by Lamar cut it to 46-35. Bell put in a pair of shots from long-range, and Malin added a steal and a layup, to push the Raider lead to 54-37 with 4:30 remaining in the quarter.

Another trey by Bell and a made basket by Weston Hancock gave Good Hope a 59-40 lead, but a free throw by Perry, a made basket by Taylor, and an and-one by Lamar kept West Point around the neighborhood as that made it a 59-46 game with less than two minutes to go in the third period. A Perry trey made it a 62-49 game, but Malin put in one from long-range, and Bell would add two more treys in the third period, as the Raiders took a 71-52 lead into the final period.

Another Bell three made it a 74-52 game early in the fourth but Taylor drilled a trey, and back-to-back made shots by Shelton and Taylor, made it a 74-59 game. Unfortunately, the Warriors wouldn't get any closer than that as baskets by Cone, Jacob Haynes, Bell and Hancock helped Good Hope push their lead to 82-61. The Raiders would go on to knock off the Warriors 88-67.

Bell led all scorers with a game-high 31 points for Good Hope (6-3). Cone added 21 points and Malin ended up with 20 points. For West Point (8-3), Taylor and Shelton each finished with 14 points. Perry put in 11 points and Lamar added 10 points.

Good Hope and West Point will both be on the road Tuesday to take on West Morgan and Brewer, respectively.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Good Hope's Ivey Maddox led the Lady Raiders with 20 points in their 65-49 win over West Point Thursday night.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Good Hope's K'mal Bell led the Raiders with 31 points in their 88-67 win over West Point Thursday night.

PREP BASKETBALL

Lady Bulldogs earn 47-30 win over Oakman, Addison drops nailbiter 45-42

Todd Walker
Tribune Correspondent

ADDISON, Ala. – Addison hosted the 3A Oakman Wildcats tonight for a boy and girls' matchup and the crowd was treated to two good games. Addison girls got their first win of the season 47-30 while the boys dropped a heartbreaker 45-42 for their first loss of the season.

Addison 47 – Oakman 30 (Varsity Girls)

The very young ladies from Addison have struggled early in the season, losing their first four games. Addison plays hard every night but is just short of varsity experience and some on court knowledge that will come the more they play. They hosted the 3A Oakman Lady Wildcats and Addison's young women really stepped up on this night. Addison outscored the Lady Wildcats 12-6 in the first. The Lady Bulldogs played great defense as they stifled the Oakman girls, holding them to only one basket, an Anna Sanford putback, in the first period. Oakman's other points came from four made free throws by Maleigha Culbreath. Addison was led by Emma Cleghorn who had a massive first period for Addison with 4 points, 4 rebounds and 3 steals. Kabri Dyson chipped in 4 points and 4 rebounds of her own.

The second period had Addison pulling away outscoring the Lady Wildcats 18-7 to take a 30-13 lead at the half. Addison's Karson Wyatt had a strong period by leading Addison with 10 points and 4 rebounds. Wyatt drained two deep threes for 6 of her points. Little Point Guard Gracie Roberts added two treys of her own to go along with 3 assists. Cleghorn banged on the boards for 5 more rebounds but got into some foul trouble in the period. Oakman was led by a Layla Stricklin three and 4 free throws from Culbreath.

Oakman came out in the second half and started putting pressure on the ball. Oakman outscored Addison 10-6 in the third to cut the Addison lead down to 13, 36-23. Oakman spread the scoring around as Ciara Stanton had 3 points, Culbreath put in 7 more. Kayla Jetton and Sanford led the Lady Wildcats in rebounding with 3 apiece. Addison didn't have their best period but was led by Cleghorn's 4 points and 5 more rebounds. Wyatt had the other 2 points to go along with 4 rebounds.

The fourth period had the Lady Bulldogs settling down and putting the game away by winning the final period, 11-7, to come away with a resounding 47-30 victory. Roberts led the Lady Bulldogs with 6 points on two three pointers, while Wyatt had 5 points. Oakman was led by you guessed it, Ms. Culbreath as she had 5 more points, while Sanford had the other basket.

Addison Head Coach Bailey Boland said, "Glad the girls could get their first win tonight because they work so hard. We are very short of varsity basketball on court experience, but all my girls play full speed and really want to get better. I've been telling them if we play hard, play good defense then we can compete in our region and our county games. All the girls did an outstanding job and Karson (Wyatt) and Emma (Cleghorn) really took care of the boards tonight. Gracie (Roberts), as always did her job as our primary ballhandler and Gracie can hit the open three. Like to mention Mattie (Johnson) and Kabri (Dyson) who stepped up tonight. They all did so good, and I am proud of each and every one of the ladies that put on that Bulldog uniform tonight."

Unofficial stats

Addison was led by Wyatt with 19 points, 11 rebounds, 2 assists and 5 steals. Roberts had 12 points, 5 boards, 6 assists and 2 steals. Cleghorn had 8 points, 14 boards and 3 steals. Dyson had 4 points and 5 boards. Johnson had 2 points and 4 boards. Reese Osborne had 2 points and 2 boards. Rylan O'brien had 2 rebounds. Sabrie Dover had 3 rebounds.

Addison moves to 1-4 and is supposed to host Winston County tomorrow night but the flu bug has hit the Winston County teams forcing them to postpone last night's games at Meek.

Oakman 45 – Addison 42 (Varsity Boys)

The Addison men's team at 5-0 is off to their best start in recent memory and hosted 3A Oakman who came in at 3-1. Oakman is a very tall basketball team with at least 3 maybe 4 players 6'3" or better. Addison, who has consistently outrebounded its opponents by more than double every game, met their match tonight as they were thoroughly dominated on the glass. This was the direct cause of the Bulldogs' first defeat on the season.

The first period was a contrast in styles as Addison likes to go up and down the floor full speed while the Wildcats play a very methodical pace of basketball. Think of a Dodge Challenger versus a Ford F350 and you will get my point. Oakman outscored the Bulldogs 16-13 and it was a fairly even period. No team jumped out to a big lead, it was just a back-and-forth affair and that would be how the game would go for the majority of the night. Addison's Big Man Bradley Willette had a 4 point, 2 rebound and 2 block period. While Jed Wilkins chipped in 6 points and 2 assists. Oakman was led by Rick Johnson who had 8 points to include a nice running one hand slam that was a pleasure to watch. Trent Warren had 4 points.

The second period was chock full of defense. Deflected passes, guys diving on the floor and just all-around mayhem as Addison won the period 7-5 as the Bulldogs went into the half trailing 21-20. This was still anyone's ballgame. Addison was led by a Jacob McLamb bomb from downtown for his three points and Kiah Lake and Wilkins had 2 points each. Willette had 4 more rebounds. Oakman had Johnson hitting 3 free throws and Tyler Thomas tossing in a bucket as well. Thomas's bucket was a nice one-handed dunk on a breakaway.

The third period was no different than the first two periods. Both teams went back and forth, Oakman would score then Addison would answer. Addison managed to pull ahead 32-28 with two minutes to go in the third period. This would be the biggest lead Addison would have all night.

Just when you thought Addison might start pulling away, Oakman went on a run of their own. Oakman held Addison scoreless the final two minutes of the third while they went on a 6-0 run to take a 34-32 lead heading into the fourth. Wilkins led Addison with 9 points, while McLamb nailed another three. Oakman was led by Thomas with 4 points and 4 rebounds. Bridger Upton nailed a three as part of his 5 points while Warren put in 2 points.

The fourth period had Oakman's run continuing as they scored the first bucket for their 8 straight points to go up 36-32. This is where Trent Warren, the tallest player on the floor, took over. Warren scored two straight trips down the court giving sandwiched in between Wilkins layup to give Oakman a 40-34 lead.



BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Addison Lady Bulldogs defeated Oakman 47-30 Thursday night.



BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Addison Bulldogs dropped a nailbiter to Oakman 45-42 Thursday night.

Warren also blocked two shots during this run as he controlled the paint. The Bulldogs didn't get down as they stepped it up a notch. They were able to get two Wilkins free throws, a Wilkins layup and a McLamb short jumper to tie the game at 40 with 2:27 to go in the game.

Oakman's Johnson hit a clutch three-pointer to put the Wildcats up 43-40 and Kaden Dyson hit a floater in the lane for two to cut the lead to 43-42 with 2 minutes to go. Wildcat Thomas scored a nice jumper and Oakman led 45-42 with about 1 minute left on the clock. Thomas stole the ball and looked like he was going to score when the ball was knocked out of his hands leaving the Wildcats to inbound the ball with 7 seconds left. Oakman threw the ball away on the inbounds and Addison had possession and the opportunity to tie the game with a three. Addison's Elijah Roberts was able to get off a deep three-pointer but after banking off the backboard it hit off the front of the rim and bounced harmlessly away and Oakman won 45-42.

Addison Head Coach Scott Flynn said, "We lost to a very good Oakman team. I am proud of the way we competed, and I told the players that we won't see a team that big until we get to Wallace. We usually own the glass but tonight Oakman killed us on the boards. I am not disappointed in my guy's effort or intensity, we just plain got beat tonight. We are now going into a critical stretch of our young season by playing Winston County, Meek and St. Bernard. If we can come away with three wins that sets us up well in the county and in the area."

Unofficial stats

Addison was led by Wilkins who had a game high 23 points, 2 rebounds, 3 assists and 4 steals. McLamb had 8 points, 2 boards and 2 steals. Dyson had 5 points and 2 boards. Willette had 4 points, 9 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal and 4 blocks. Roberts had 3 boards, 2 assists and 3 steals. Lake had 2 points and 2 boards. Hayden Holland had 2 boards while Owen Pratt had 1 rebound.

Oakman had Johnson with 16 points and 2 boards. Warren had 12 points and 11 boards. Thomas had 10 points and 8 boards. Trace Cagle had 9 rebounds. Aidan Carson had 4 rebounds. Carson Gilliland had 2 points and 2 boards. Upton had 5 points and 5 boards.

Addison drops to 5-1 on the season and like the ladies are supposed to host Winston County Friday night. You can check with the school to see if the game is actually going to be played or be postponed to a later date due to sickness on the WCHS team.





COLUMN

Comics - they ain't funny!

Joe Hobby
Contributor

It was a horrible, sickening phone call. Within a few seconds, my hopes and dreams were crushed like someone stepping on a Coke can. And to think my mom did it!

Let me elaborate. Growing up, I was a comic book kid. Beginning about the age of 8, I began to make pilgrimages to a couple of nearby drug stores. There I would spend my allowance in 12 cent increments to follow the escapades of Superman, Batman, The Flash and Aquaman.

I especially loved Batman because of his gadgets, his Bat-cave and his sidekick, Robin. A teenaged superhero was something I could relate to.

So I got my crayons and began coloring an old T-shirt until I had a poor facsimile of Robin's uniform. An old piece of cloth became a mask, and an unfinished bathroom in our basement became my Bat-cave. I became a pre-puberty superhero whose job was to patrol our neighborhood and stop any crime I saw - of which there were none. And it's a good thing, because with a utility belt full of homemade weaponry, I would've been a formidable opponent for any bad guy (or another 8 year old).

I especially liked one device I created - a long piece of string with large wooden spools tied to each end. Properly thrown, the twine would wrap around a supervillain's (aka my little sister's) legs, causing them to trip and fall. Then while they tried to untangle themselves, I would douse them with a packet of itching powder I bought at a magic store. Take that, law breaker.

One day, I spotted a new comic on the drug store rack - The Amazing Spiderman. Spidey was a wisecracking, smart-aleck whose alter ego was an insecure high school kid. I could relate the issues he faced: bullied by classmates, couldn't get the girl. I was hooked from the first page.

Soon, I began buying other Marvel comics, like The Fantastic Four, The X-Men and The Avengers - where I discovered Captain America. It was goodbye Robin. In no time I was using my red, white and blue Crayolas on an old metal garbage can lid to make a poor replica of Cap's famous shield.

My comic collection continued to grow. The old DC comics and the newer Marvel ones began to fill up several cardboard boxes in our basement.

From about 1961 to 1967 I bought them, read them and saved them. Nowadays, comic book collectors call those years the Silver Age. And some Silver Age comics are worth a lot of gold. What did I know? Back then, I just bought them to enjoy. Over and over again I read these comic books.

As I got older, my interest in sports grew. Eventually, mom bought me a subscription to Sports Illustrated, which was the beginning of the end of my comic purchases. However, I kept a soft spot in my heart for superheroes. When the first Superman movie with Christopher Reeve was released, I was near the front of the line. I loved that superheroes were finally getting the treatment they deserved.

Fast forward to the 90s. I was in a store getting a watch battery replaced. Neatly lining the walls were quite a few Silver Age Marvel comics that I immediately recognized.

"I remember those," I said, pointing at the wall. I even began quoting storylines of several of the old comics until the store owner stopped me.

"Do you still have any of these?"

"All of them," I replied innocently. "They're in cardboard boxes in my Mom's basement."

The man's eye's widened and he said, "Let me show you something," then sweeping and gesturing his hand across the wall he said, "200, 300, 700, 900, 1,100."

Now I spoke, asking, "That's what those comic books are worth?"

He nodded.

I dropped my Seiko. Those boxes full of comics could be worth thousands. Properly invested, the money from my collection could pay for my kid's college!

I left the watch on the counter, picked up the phone and called my mother.

When she answered, I cut short the pleasantries and yelled, "Mom, I'm coming over to get my boxes of comics today!" I was already counting the money.

There was a pause that I immediately picked up on. A pause is never good in a situation like this.

She finally responded. "Those? Oh, I threw them away about six months ago."

My heart fell through the floor. The last time I felt this way was when my wife told me Elvis died.

"Why did you do that?" It was more a plea than a question.

She said, "Well, I decided to clean out the basement, so I got rid of all those old comics. I did save the Sports Illustrateds because I thought you might want them. Wait! Why are you crying?"

You've heard of money down the drain? Well, this was money in the landfill.

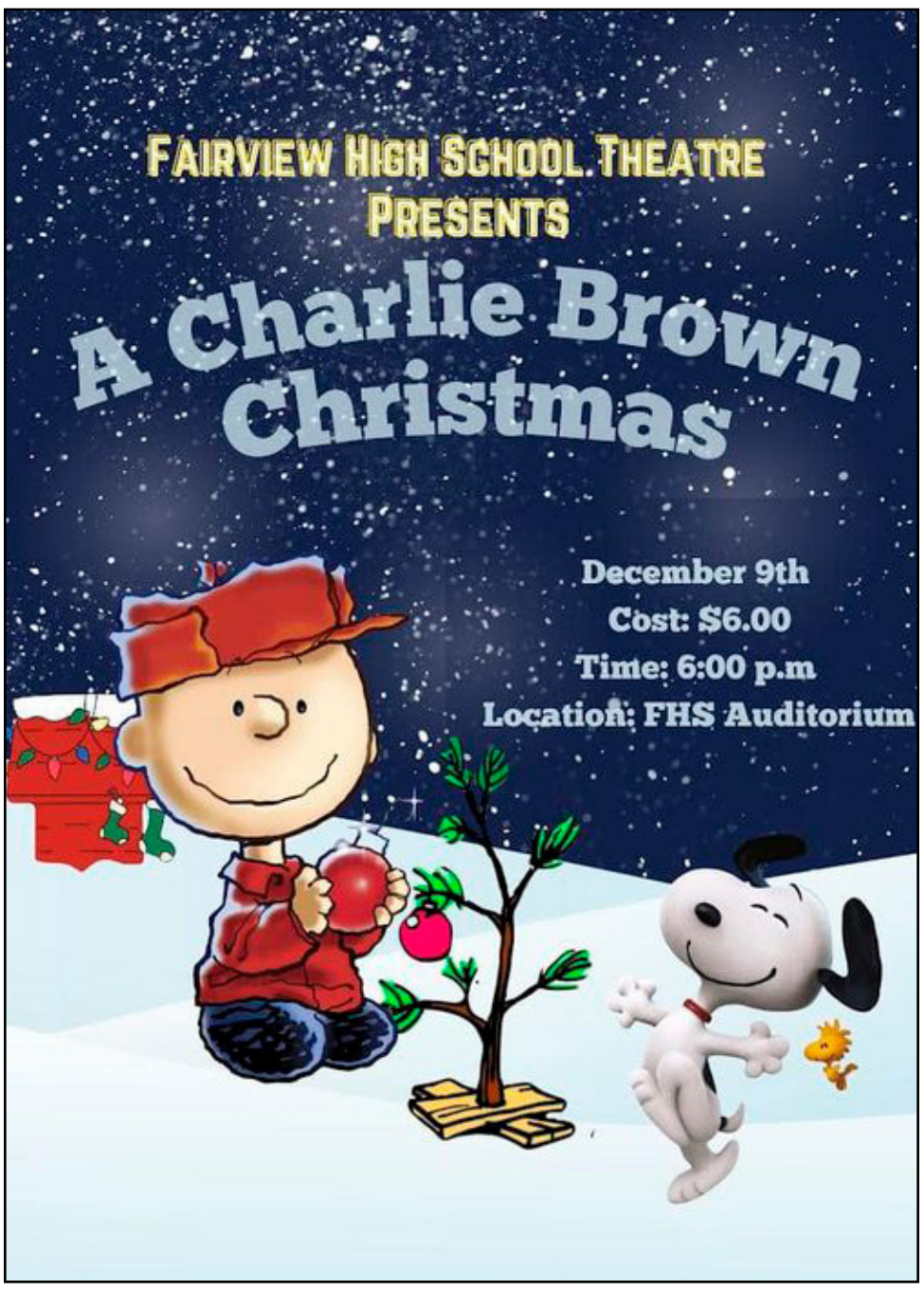
I finally got over it, but not before I computed my losses to be well into five figures. A few years later, I went into a collectibles store that had a big sign on the cash register that said:

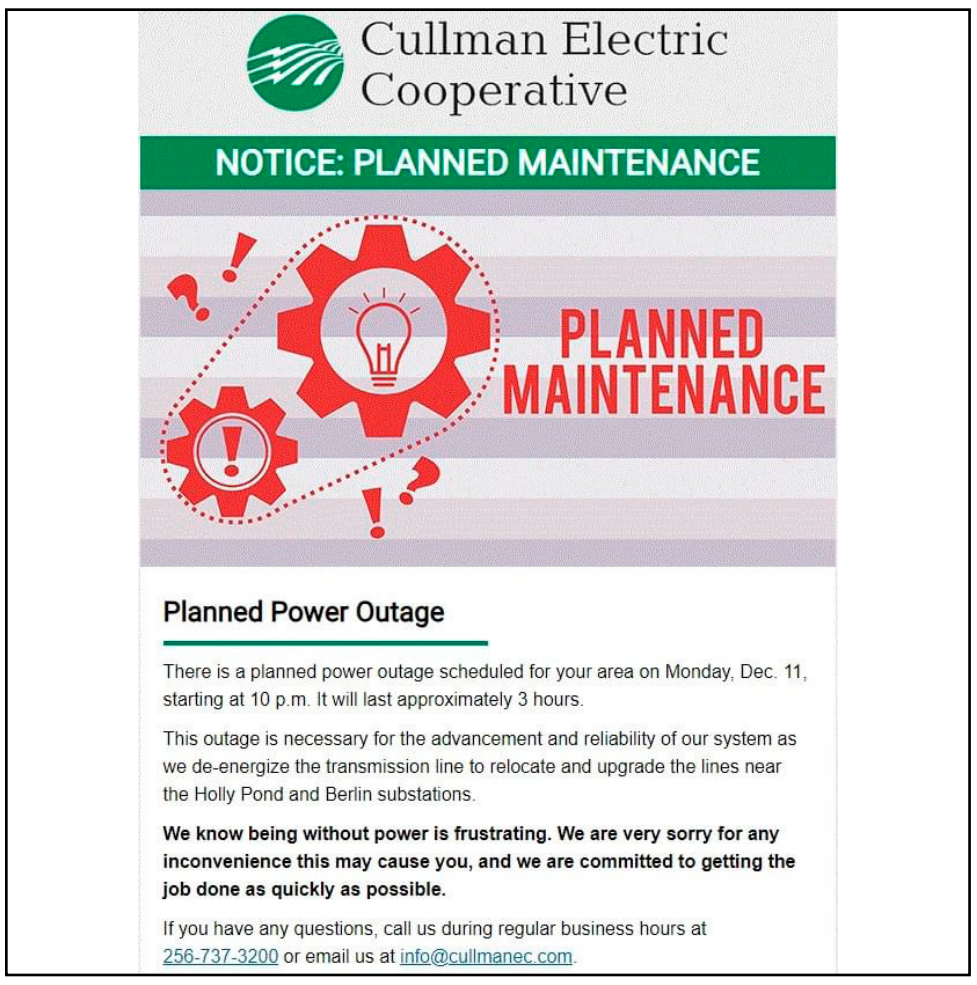
$100 fine every time we hear how your mom threw away your comics

I kept my mouth shut. I figured it was better to suffer in silence.

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









Outage (from Front)

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Electric Cooperative has announced a planned outage on Monday, Dec. 11 starting at 10 p.m. The outage is expected to last around three hours and will affect approximately 4,500 Co-op members in the East Point, Berlin, Welti, Simcoe, Duck River, Holly Pond, Union Grove and Walter areas. The planned outage is part of the Co-op's general maintenance to ensure the success of the newly built Berlin substation, scheduled to come online in early 2024.

"The planned outage is one of the final steps needed to make sure the new Berlin substation is ready to come online early next year. There are several new lines that need to be built and existing lines that need to be moved in order to complete this project, and power lines need to be de-energized for the work to be done safely," said Brian Lacy, communications and external affairs manager at the Co-op.

Lacy said the planned outage will also allow the Co-op to finish up repairs from storm damage earlier in the year and emphasized the Co-op's commitment to getting the job done as quickly as possible.

"Because an outage is needed to complete the work in Berlin, we will also use this time to make repairs to equipment that was damaged inside the Holly Pond substation during storms earlier this year," he said, referencing severe storms that left many without power

To those who may be frustrated with the lack of electricity during Monday evening's planned outage, Lacy maintained that while there is never a good time for any power outage, working at night allows the Co-op to minimize the impact on businesses, industries and schools when a power outage is necessary to compete repairs and special projects.

For residents who rely on electricity overnight, The Tribune has gathered a few tips:

• For residents who use continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machines, a battery backup compatible with your machine should be sufficient during the three-hour outage. Portable CPAP machines can also be used for several hours on a single charge – just make sure the battery backup or portable machine is fully charged by Monday evening.

• For residents who use bottle warmers to warm formula or breast milk to feed infants, consider filling a basin with hot water. The water should be hot enough to warm the bottle, but cool enough so that you can place your hand in it. Place the bottle in the warm water for no more than 15 minutes before feeding and always check the temperature of the milk on your wrist before feeding.

• For residents who use electricity-based heating systems, consider adding another layer to your body through warm socks or a sweater or throw another blanket on the bed before going to sleep. Often, electricity-based heating systems will turn back on automatically after a power outage.

• For all residents, keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to maintain the cold temperature. According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, a refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours if it is unopened. A full freezer will keep the temperature for approximately 48 hours (24 hours if it is half full) if the door remains closed.

• For all residents, charge all devices that typically charge overnight before the planned outage, such as cellphones and laptops.

For more information, call the Cullman Electric Cooperative at 256-737-3200 during regular business hours or visit www.cullmanec.com.

Team (from Front)

grammers (in charge of constructing and programming the software of their teams' robots).

Each subgroup was tasked with designing, coding, programming, building and fine-tuning its own robot.

Team sponsor Payton Sandlin has had a front-row seat to the students' enthusiasm.

"They have worked really hard this year. We have had practices three times a week after school since August," she said of her students. "This year is the first year we have had a robotics team, so I think they have done extremely well this season. Most of them have no coding experience and no robotics experience; they did extremely well."

Extremely well, indeed. In their first season of competition, two of Sandlin's teams placed in the top 10 overall out of a pool of 37 school teams.

The competition judges saw what Sandlin has been privileged to see all semester; her students have great potential to become scientists, engineers and more. The U.S Department of Labor anticipates careers in the STEM fields to grow at a faster rate than other careers, with projections tracking an expected 10% increase in demand for STEM professionals in the workforce by 2031.

One of the team notebook managers, Erika Drummond, said she already has big career plans. "I would use my notebook manager experience in the business management field."

Another student, Tay'Lora Preston-Warren, a team programmer, explained the point system in a robotics competition, saying more goes into a successful match than just a fancy machine. "There are colored blocks that you have to program and code for your robot to knock over or put in a specific spot," she said. "There is manual and autonomous; manual is directing the robot with a controller and autonomous is the robot doing it by itself."

One anonymous local holds so much belief and faith in Sandlin's teams after seeing their excitement at their competition that the philanthropic stranger donated $500 to the Holly Pond Robotics Team, moving Sandlin, along with her students. "We were so blessed to have a generous donor donate $500 to our team; we were very thankful for that," Sandlin said. "It's going to go towards our game field and element, so we can practice here. We didn't have that before, so we will have the chance to train in a real field."

Team members are Terry Adams, Preston Drummond, Kaileigh Mayfield, Jerimiah Wooten, Triston Graziano, Declan Crigger, Nathan Shelnutt, Aliyah Horton, Jaxson Adams, Shooter Roberts, Will Keith, Tanner Bell, Rua Ringlen, Kort Freeman, Travis Horton, Connor Frame, Tay'Lora Preston-Warren, Erika Drummond, Jackson Hathcock, Jordan Price, Jasmine McClure and Mordecai Hughes.

Rodeo (from Front)

to the action of the morning. Cassie Briggs, special education teacher of Vinemont Elementary School, said the rodeo isn't just a typical field trip for her class. After the demonstrations, students get to get down and dirty in the arena, learning to lasso and even race the sheriff on foot. She said that kind of hands-on action provides an opportunity to not only get out of the classroom for the morning, but also get familiar with the members of the CCSO.

"They count down to it every year, and we hear about it until the end of the year after it's over!" laughed Briggs. "We love to see their faces and the excitement they have watching everything going on; it gives these kids something to look forward to."

Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette said that while the special needs rodeo is just generally a good time for the kids, the bigger rodeo helps ensure success of their classrooms because the CCSO donates a percentage of proceeds from the Jimmy Arrington Memorial Rodeo to special needs classrooms around the county.

"Not only is this day special, but some of the proceeds from the rodeo this weekend will go back to every special needs classroom in the county. It really helps our special needs kids, so we're just tickled to death!" grinned Barnette.

The 2023 Jimmy Arrington Memorial Rodeo kicked off Friday, Dec. 8. It will continue Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center. Gates open at 5 p.m.; kids' scramble at 7 p.m.; rodeo starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are sold at the door – cash only – adult $10, child/student $8, children 6 and younger free. There is an ATM on-site because organizers are unable to process credit/debit cards at the venue.

LEGALS

STATE OF ALABAMA)
) IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF MORGAN)

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BOBBY JOE WHITE AND SHARON F WHITE, DECEASED

To: Randall Lee White, whereabouts unknown and

Kristina Jo White aka Kristina Jo Whisenant, whereabouts unknown

Cynthia Lynn Sanford, last known address, PO Box 3, Vinemont, AL 35179

AND TO ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN, IF ANY THERE BE, WHETHER THEY BE MINORS OR PERSON OF UNSOUND MIND.

You are hereby notified that RAY UHRIG AND JEFFREY GRAY, the Personal Representatives, of the estates of BOBBY JOE WHITE AND SHARON F WHITE, deceased, did on the 9th day of August, 2023, file in this Court their Petition for Sale of Real Estate, of the said estate, and that the 15th day of February, 2024, at 9:00 O'clock A.M., is the day and time fixed by the Court for the hearing thereon, at which time you may appear and contest the same, if you think proper so to do.

____Greg Cain___
JUDGE OF PROBATE

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned motor vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80, as per Legislative Act 2015-470:

2023 Ford Mustang, Vin. #1FA6P8TH0P5112757
2022 Nissan Sentra, Vin.#3N1AB8CVXNY315876

The following vehicles will be sold on January 5, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. for towing/storage fees if not claimed. Located at Hammock Auto Sales, 17 County Road 406, Cullman, Alabama 35057, 256-775-3754.

PB MIN BK 220 PG 729 - 12/08/2023 08:08 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
LANTRY ED BRANDON, * **CASE NO.: PC2023-377**
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Notice is hereby given that *Petition for Summary Distribution of Small Estate* has been filed on the 20th day of November, 2023, by Emily Brandon Berryhill, Petitioner, by and through Attorney, J. Bradley Wilson, and that thirty (30) days after the notice of publication hereof and pursuant to the law of the State of Alabama, the Court shall be requested to enter an order directing summary distribution of the estate of said decedent.

Emily Brandon Berryhill
Petitioner

J. Bradley Wilson
Attorney for Petitioner
206 Ninth Street SW, Ste 102
Cullman, AL 35055

To: PUBLISHER OF ***The Cullman Tribune***

Please publish the above notice **ONE TIME** in said newspaper, and thereafter file with the Court a copy of the notice so published and an affidavit of publication.

DONE this the 7th day of December, 2023.

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

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 7-8

Perry Leonard Ashley, 79
Perry Leonard Ashley, 79, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Dec. 4, 2023. Perry was born on Oct. 4, 1944, in Cullman, Alabama, and graduated from Fairview High School. He is preceded in death by his father, Charles, his mother, Bessie, sister, Retha, brother, Harold, nephew Danny, half-brothers Ward (Ruby), Glen (Ella), and half-sister Grace (Edgar) Glaze. He is survived by his wife, Donna, three children, Brent, Phillip (Stephanie), Letha Miller (Paul), brother, Rayford (Brenda), sister-in-law Carolyn, numerous in-laws, nieces, and nephews. He treasured his grandchildren, Lillie, Emily, Elizabeth, Charlie, Jackson, Cara-Grace, Nora Katherine, Colt, and Cade. He loved them fiercely, and it brought him great joy to spend time with them. Perry began his 34-year career as a lineman for the Cullman Electric Co-Op. Being a lineman was not only a job, but a delight. During storms, it thrilled Perry to work long hours helping to restore power. His children remember times when Perry would come home after working non-stop days due to widespread outages. He would cry as he told them everyone's power had not been restored, so he hated to sleep while others were still in need. Being a helper extended into the community, as well. As a poultry and cattle farmer, he enjoyed helping other poultry growers get chickens, and when he saw a need, it brought him great excitement to meet the need anonymously. We see Jesus teaching us to do this in the Matthew 25 passage as the King invites those blessed by his Father to inherit the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world. For they gave food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, welcomed a stranger, clothed the naked, visited the sick, and came to see those imprisoned. Perry knew the value of helping others, but he knew nothing was of greater value than having a relationship with Jesus Christ. As an active member of Christ First Ministries and strong supporter of missions organizations, he took what God had given him and blessed others. The gospel of Jesus Christ was the core of any good that came from Perry's life on this earth. In John 14:12 Jesus tells us "Whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do..." Perry enjoyed hearing his son, Phillip, preach and would tear up when sharing truths from his sermons. His compassion for spreading the gospel echoed Ephesians 4:32, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. The forgiveness of Christ was evident through his 57-year marriage to his beloved wife, Donna. After dating just two weeks, she said Perry started asking her to marry him every night. With much fondness, she said she should have agreed to marry him much sooner than she did. The need for the forgiveness of sin was the greatest need in Perry's life, and he accepted this forgiveness from Jesus Christ. Visitation is Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. with the funeral following at 12 p.m. at Christ First Ministries on Highway 1061 Alabama Highway 69 North, Cullman, AL 35058. In lieu of flowers, the family requests money be given toward 4G ministries or a missions outreach of your choice.

Margie Blankenship, 79
Margie Blankenship, age 79, of Arley, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023, at Princeton Baptist Medical Center in Birmingham. She was born July 6, 1944, in Florence, Alabama. After working as a secretary to help put her husband through college at The University of Alabama, she poured her life into raising her children. She was a pure of heart woman, a loving wife, and the matriarch of her family. Margie was a long time member of Meek Baptist Church in Arley, and former member of Hillview Baptist Church in Forestdale. Her love of life and people was obvious and will be forever remembered by her friends and family. The family will receive friends Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, from 1 p.m. until 1:45 p.m. at Meek Baptist Church in Arley, where the Celebration of Life will be held at 2 p.m. Pastor Corey Cochran will officiate. Margie is survived by her husband of 61 years, Gene Blankenship; daughter, Gina Leigh Blankenship Flowers and her husband Wesley; son, Timothy Allen Blankenship and his wife Donna; grandchildren, Will Flowers and his wife Julia, Hailey McCollum and her husband Ian, Hunter Allen Blankenship and his wife Itzel, Gage McHenry, and Rachel Flowers; great grandson, Emmett Allen Blankenship; and many well-loved nieces, nephews, family, and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Lessie and Fred Simpson; and six brothers and sisters, Lawton Gillis, Granville Gillis, Lois Gillis Dague, Joe Gillis, Dean Gillis Darby, and Doyle Gillis. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Margie's honor may be made directly to Meek Baptist Church, P.O. Box 196, Arley, AL 35541.

Larry Gene Hammack, 53
Larry Gene Hammack, age 53, of Houston, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023, in Cullman, Alabama. He was born on June 21, 1970, in Jasper, Alabama, to Clayton and Gladis Hammack. Larry loved his job, liked to travel especially to the mountains, and he loved his family. Visitation for Larry will be at Nichols Funeral Home in Double Springs on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, from noon until 2 p.m. where the service will begin at 2 p.m. Burial will be at Houston Church of God Cemetery. Brother Bobby Smith will officiate. Larry is survived by his wife, Dianna Sue Hammack; mother, Gladis Maybell Feltman; brothers, Donald Hammack and Earl Hammack; and sisters, Maxcine Rodne, Christine Moody, and Regina Lucas. He was preceded in death by his father, Clayton Hammack; and brothers, Wayne Hammack and Ronald Hammack.

Auston "Auzz" Riley Thomason, 24
Funeral Service for Auston "Auzz" Riley Thomason, age 24, will be at 1 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Tim McCormick officiating; interment in Cullman Memory Gardens. Visitation will be from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Thomason passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023. He was born June 1, 1999, to Ted Randy Thomason and Mary Thomason. Auzz loved SEC football and especially Auburn football. He was an avid songwriter. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Ethredge Thomason; grandmother, Lorena Berry Brown; grandfather, William August Brown; and uncles, Eugene Thomason, Elvie Brown, and Billy Brown. Survivors include his mother, Mary Brown Thomason; father, Ted Randy Thomason; stepfather, Michael Grell; sisters, Robin Thomason (Thomas) Brock and Nedaeh Thomason; grandmother, Betty Evans Thomason; nephews, Peyton Campbell and Taylor Campbell; uncles, Horace Brown, Vic Brown, and Jim Brown; special friends, Matthew Harrington, Mark Harrington, and Corey Harrington; and a host of cousins and friends.

Kelly Neal Bradford, 68
Funeral service for Kelly Neal Bradford, age 68, of Cullman, will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Bro. Javon Daniel officiating; interment in Ebenezer Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Bradford passed away on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, at his residence. He was born Sept. 15, 1955, to Silas Samuel Bradford and Virgie Mae Bradford. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Eugene Bradford, Buel Bradford, Paul Bradford, and Keith Bradford; and sisters, Geneva Morgan, Betty Caver, and Reba Wilhite. Survivors include his wife, Janita Freeman Bradford; daughter, Kelsey Nicole Bradford; son-in-law, Roderick Henry Parker; grandson, Travian Parker; granddaughters, Deyjah Parker, Lennox Parker, Italy Parker, and Kylo Parker; brothers, Charles Bradford, James (June) Bradford, and Donnie (Telia) Bradford; and sisters, Linda (Ernie) Parnell and Mary (Javon) Daniel; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. The family would like to especially thank the Cullman Regional Hospice nurses, Mt. Nebo Church, St. Vincent's Hospital, Dr. Beck, Dr. Beckham, friends, and family for the food, kindness, and prayers.

Joyce G. Dunn Estes White, 76
Joyce G. Dunn Estes White, age 76, of Vinemont, Alabama passed away on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023. Joyce is survived by her daughter Denise Estes; her sister Terri Dunn Carter (Todd); her niece and nephew Abby and Grant, her granddaughter Lindsey Forester (Dustin), her granddaughter Anna Hughes and her great grandchildren Mason, Jackston and Branson. Joyce was preceded in death by her father William H. Dunn and her mother Syble Katheryn Jetton Glover. A celebration of life visitation for Joyce will be held Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023, from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue Northwest, Cullman, AL 35055, followed by a celebration of life funeral service at 1 p.m. Joyce will be laid to rest in Oak Level Cemetery, Holly Pond, Alabama.

Mary Lou Nix Graveman, 87
Mary Lou Nix Graveman, 87, of Cullman, Alabama, went home to be with her Heavenly Father and her beloved husband, Joe on Dec. 6, 2023. Mary was born on Nov. 22, 1936, to Thomas Wesley Nix and Sarah Idella Haynes Nix. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel. Graveside services will be at the Cullman City Cemetery following the funeral service. Visitation will be from noon until 2 p.m. at the funeral home prior to the service on Sunday. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mary was a wonderful and devoted wife, mother and grandmother and was loved so much by her children, grandchildren and so many others. She loved to be with her family anytime she could and enjoyed celebrating birthdays and holidays with them. Mary was a long time member of Brickyard Baptist Church. Mary was preceded in death by her husband, parents, infant son Jonathan Graveman; brothers, Gilbert Nix, Buddy Nix, Tommy Nix and Jim Nix; sisters, Loveda Hacker, Evelyn Alsbrooks, Lena Campbell, Hilda Smith and Betty Mizerany; granddaughter, Stephanie Graveman Mary is survived by sons Bernard (Cindy) Graveman and Mike (Imelda) Graveman; daughters, Kathy (Terry) Parker and Melissa (Darin) Richard; sisters, Doris Lessman and Hazel (Martin) Graveman; grandchildren, Jeremy Graveman, Shane Graveman, Michelle (Cartis Higginbotham, Jason (Jamie) White, Tyler Richard, Jonathon Allums, Colton (Meagan) Richard, Nicole (Wyatt) Andrews and Kristian Graveman; 12 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. Pallbearers are Shane Graveman, Jason White, Tyler Richard, Colton Richard, Kristian Graveman and Wyatt Andrews. In lieu of flowers, the family request donations to be made to Brickyard Baptist Church and/or the Dementia Society of America. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook. Reverend

Rufus Warren Wilson, 74
Reverend Rufus Warren Wilson, age 74, of Logan, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. He was born Nov. 12, 1949, in Meridian, Mississippi to Rufus and Dorothy Brewster Wilson. Brother Warren faithfully served the Baptist Church for over 43 years in various capacities in the ministry, with his loving wife of 54 years, Susan, by his side. He had a love for children especially and believed that it was important to keep them in church. When he wasn't serving in ministry somewhere, he enjoyed fishing and building projects. Visitation will be Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, from 12 Noon until 2 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Addison, where the service will be held at 2 p.m. Burial will be at Spring Hill Cemetery in Cullman. Brother Dennis Trimble will officiate. Brother Warren is survived by his wife, Susan Wilson; son, Donald Wilson; daughter, Jaime (Troy) Higgins; sister, Alicia Lawrence; special aunt and uncle Kate and Nelson Wilson; granddaughters, Ashley (Glenn) Garmon and Taylor Wilson; grandson, Kell (Cass) Wilson; great-granddaughters, Jaimelynn Garmon and Alita Garmon; and special friend, Adrienne Garlen. He was preceded in death by his parents, Rufus Daryl Wilson and Dorathy Brewster; son, Thomas Thearon Wilson; and grandparents, Vivian and Obie Warren Brewster.

Free Obituary Listings

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Being told when we cannot see

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Last Saturday, I was traveling, and I did something I did quite often growing up but not much anymore. I listened to a college football game on the radio. It was not just any game but the Southeastern Conference Championship Game. Since 1992, I have seen most of those games. I actually saw that first one at Legion Field, in Birmingham, in person. We almost froze to death on that frigid Saturday afternoon. Since then, I have not been back to see that particular game in person, but I have watched almost all of them on television.

When I was a boy, there weren't as many televised games as today. Your favorite team was usually only televised once or twice in a season.

Fast forward a half century or so, and they are televised almost every week. I may watch more games in a Saturday or two than I watched all season long back then. In those days, we listened to more games on the radio than we do these days.

My dad's favorite football team was the one that wasn't playing.

I'm not sure he ever watched a game in his entire life. Many times, on Saturdays, I was at his place of business. We had a radio there, but because he didn't care to listen to the game, I often sat in one of his dump trucks and listened there.

I have often remembered those times with fondness as I thought about how much I enjoyed listened to those games. As I listened to that game last Saturday, I realized just how much better it is to be able to see, rather than only listening and seeing though someone else's eyes. Having someone else to explain to us what they are seeing is better than nothing, but it is no substitute for seeing it for ourselves. Occasionally, you can't even figure out what is going on until they give more details.

Being able to see, not just a football game but anything and everything, is a gift that comes from God.

About ten years ago, I had an eye problem that caused me to have numerous eye surgeries. I am so thankful that my eyesight was saved, but it did cause me to imagine what it might be like to not be able to see. My vision is not great, but I am thankful that I can still see.

One of the most popular Christian songs in recent years is a song by Mercy Me called, "I Can Only Imagine." There are certain things we have never seen and some things we may never see. We can only imagine them. There are some things we have not seen yet, but one day we will. For the time being, we can only imagine.

We are now in the midst of the Christmas season. Our minds may be on a million different things, but please take time to read, hear, and think about the real Christmas story. We weren't there, but we can hear through the words of those who were. We can imagine what that must have been like as Jesus was born in a strange place, in a stable, and placed in a manger.

We have romanticized those scenes, but it probably didn't look quite as nice as we imagine. No doubt, it didn't smell so great! But, because he came, we have to the opportunity to see him one day, in his current home in heaven. For the time being, we can read about it and imagine what that will be like.

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

HISTORY

Files from yesteryear: 1933, 1952

From the files of 1933

Mrs. J.E. Pierce and son, Leroy of Cullman, spent the week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Nesmith at Panama.

The 1933 Home Economics Club at Cullman High School includes: Mildred White, Grace Wonderlich, Almedia Newman, Elizabeth Glasscock, Mary Louise Wonderlich, Margaret Heitmiller, Atha McMurray, Carolyn Graham, Ruth Swafford, Mullice Phillips, Sarah Robinson, Wynelle Tubbs, Essie Tubbs, Elenor Teague, Allyne Dunn, Doris Turner, Ruth Kaple, Gervis Silney, Lorene Peinhardt, Oletus Holmes, Jeanette Wells, Trischel Couch, Sibyl Eddleman, Jo Keyes, Mona Hanvey and Lea Carroll.

Mr. and Mrs. John Burns spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. Claud Weeks at Hopewell.

Will Rodgers is showing at the Strand Theatre in Doctor Bull. His prescription for people is Castor Oil for ills, laughter for the soul, romance for their hearts and horse-sense for their worries.

Louis Vogel celebrated his eighteenth birthday on October 12. There were eighteen guests for dinner. Dancing was enjoyed by all present.

Miss Kathryn Berry and Edgar Ziegler were married on Saturday afternoon at the Mount Vernon Methodist Church.

On October 20, 1933 Barney Callen, 32 was married to Maline Sinyard, 30.

Most of Cullman County's cotton crop has been picked.

Miss Inez Baker of Steppville spent Saturday night with Misses Ruby and Mildred Travis.

Two new members to the Honor Society were added at Cullman High School last week. They are Violet Horton and Raymond Soxara. At present there are only five members of the honor society, namely: Gladys Conont, Elsa Kempson, Kathleen Calvert, Violet Horton and Raymond Soxara.

From the files of 1952

John Whisenhunt, who owns the Walt Clark Farm at Good Hope brought a four feet long sweet potato by The Tribune office this week.

A letter has arrived to Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Morris, of Route Two, Vinemont from their son, Hobby, who is a prisoner of war in Korea.

A son, Thomas Authur, has been born to F.D. and Eleanor Bailey Robinson on October 25 in Tuscaloosa.

Pretty, eight-year-old Charlotte Louvorn was fatally injured when she was hit by an automobile on Sunday morning as she left McElroy Methodist Church in Birmingham. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clint Louvorn. Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Louvorn of Holly Pond and Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Lindsey of Cullman. Two brothers, Max Louvorn and Harold Louvorn of Fort Jackson, South Carolina survive their sister.

POET'S CORNER

The Shepherds | By: Randy C. Hale

Out in the fields
the shepherds kept,
their flocks beneath
the sky.
The angel came
and so afraid,
the shepherds
questioned why.

Fear not,
the angel said,
I have good news
to bring.
A Savior is born
in Bethlehem
the heavenly host
did sing.

And this shall be
a sign to you,
a manger filled
with hay.
In swaddling clothes,
he is wrapped
and in this he
is laid.

The shepherds went,
in haste they fled,
their flocks they left
behind.
To rush to see
the miracle,
the Savior
they must find.

And there
in Bethlehem,
they found him
just like the angel said.
Before the newborn child
they bowed
and there by God
was led.

They worshiped him
and traveled far,
the good news
to others shared.
Glory to God and
Peace on Earth.
Good Will to All
Declared.

Christ the Lord
in Bethlehem.
They worshiped and
adored Him.
Christ the Lord
in Bethlehem.
The Angels of God
did show them.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

DEC. 9

G	T	I	M	E	S	S	P	Y	R	L	Q	F	U	R
I	H	A	H	A	E	V	I	L	U	A	C	T	I	X
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O	A	T	A	W	R	I	A	I	R	T	E	C	A	S
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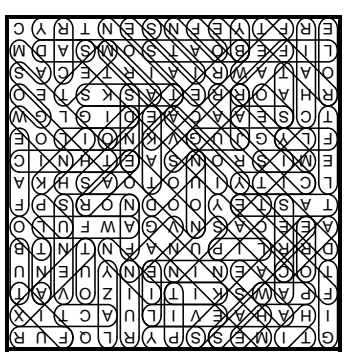
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

DEC. 9

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6		4	9				5	
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			1		3			
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ANSWERS:



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

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

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