

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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WEATHER

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SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

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BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Addison downs Winston County 51-34, Lady Bulldogs fall 71-32

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A last walk down (around) memory lane

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Middle School's (CMS) signature round building was opened one last time to the public on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 10, 2023, for students and educators past and present to bid bittersweet goodbyes and walk the halls one final time. Pockets of residents gathered around old lockers and peeked into locked classrooms with stacked desks, many with the lights turned out, remembering days gone by.

The iconic round building welcomed its first class of students 50 years ago, boasting an innovative open-concept floor plan for collaborative learning. It is set to be demolished in January with a new building taking its place.

Former students Mandi Hulsey Lynn and Jennifer Krepps White, » PAGE 4



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Former Cullman Middle School students Mandi Hulsey Lynn (left) and Jennifer Kreps White (right) pose for a selfie in front of their former lockers on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, at the final walkthrough of the famous "round building."

– SENIOR SPOTLIGHT –

Remembering 'Rowdy' Ruby Elsberry



CONTRIBUTED

Ruby Elsberry dons a tiara and sash that reads "Hanceville Senior Center Queen."

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Hanceville Senior Center is a bit less rowdy these days as the "rowdiest of the bunch," Ruby Elsberry, passed away in late November. Elsberry was known for many things: her signature red lipstick, her delicious and beautifully decorated cakes and quick wit, but maybe more so for her fun spirit that impacted all those at the center for nearly four decades.

Elsberry called Hanceville home since the early 80s and had been a senior center mainstay since 1985 with her husband A.D.

"She was actually too young to be a member at the time, but her husband was old enough, so she was able to attend from that point until she passed away," explained Hanceville Senior Center Manager Evon Fowler, noting that the two seemed to be in the center every time the door was open.

"She very rarely missed a day until she began having health issues. She was a vital part of the center," Fowler said, with Elsberry's only daughter, Carol Argo, chiming in, "She was on that bus, that CARTS bus, every morning at about 8 o'clock. I mean, almost religiously, she was here every day!"

Fowler laughed, "She was always one of the first to participate in any activity, and she was one of the first to get on the bus and ready to ride!" Fowler said Elsberry's infectious, fun-loving energy motivated other attendees to get down and dirty in a game of cornhole or competitive in a game of Uno.

Fowler pointed to photos of past senior » PAGE 6

Pancakes with Santa!



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Children look on in wonder as Santa Claus asks about Christmas wishes and good behavior at the Berlin Volunteer Fire Department's third annual Pancakes with Santa event on Dec 9. » PAGE 3

CCBOE rolls out new driver's ed vehicles



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Sophomore Ellorie Harbison loads into West Point's new state-of-the-art driver's education vehicle, from the first set of new vehicles for Cullman County Schools student drivers. » PAGE 7

Full ride: St. Bernard's Andrew Tombo awarded prestigious scholarship



ST. BERNARD

Nicolas "Andrew" Tombo » PAGE 6



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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 11

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 11, 2023. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Dec. 7

- domestic violence; CR 1196
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1545
- assault; CR 1665
- violation of protection order; 2nd Ave. SW

Dec. 8

- discharging firearm into occupied vehicle; reckless endangerment; CR 1136
- theft of property; Hwy. 91
- theft of property; criminal mischief; Hwy. 69 N
- harassment; CR 1301
- domestic violence; CR 576

Dec. 9

- domestic violence; CR 385
- domestic violence; CR 1043
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 8
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69 S

Dec. 10

- domestic violence; CR 1843
- harassment; CR 1850
- domestic violence; CR 1193
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; CR 222
- domestic violence; Patton Dr.

ARRESTS

Dec. 7 – 10

Arcovendas, Juan A.; 20
- DUI (alcohol)

Burditus, Joshua Edward W.; 38
- discharging firearm into occupied building, railroad, aircraft, automobile
- reckless endangerment (2 counts)

Conn, Brittany J.; 33
- public intoxication

Cummings, Tammy J.; 57
- Probation Violation- possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- contributing to delinquency of minor

Gardiner, Autumn M.; 27
- possession of dangerous drugs

Graves, Christopher S.; 40
- Probation Violation- possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)

Hicks, Betty J.; 78
- assault-harassment

Hollis Jr., Robert L.; 46
- FTA- driving while suspended, revoked or cancelled

Jernigan, Coby D.; 22
- FTA- burglary-residence-no force
- FTA- larceny/theft-miscellaneous

Johnson, Mark A.; 37
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Keehn, Justin D.; 42
- Probation Violation- Alabama probation violation

Mann, Jacob C.; 27
- FTA- giving false identification to police officer

McDonald, Joshua B.; 33
- violation of domestic violence protection order
- Probation Violation- assault-child abuse-aggravated-family
- Probation Violation-damaged property-criminal mischief

Morgan, Alton W.; 60
- Bail Jumping-2nd degree- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Rhodes, Brandy L.; 33
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Robertson, William C.; 36
- criminal trespass
- assault-harassment (harassment/intimidation)

Scher, Kenneth W.; 49
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Schulte, Erin M.; 40
- FTA- negotiating worthless instrument

Sharp, Michael A.; 41
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Speakman, James R.; 28
- Probation Revoked- forgery-possessing forged instrument

Thomas, Kristian Jonathon L.; 24
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Tucker, Steven D.; 55
- Grand Jury-possessing forged instrument
- Grand Jury- larceny/theft (3 counts)
- Grand Jury- forgery-possessing forged instrument

Wadsworth, Darryl G.; 61
- Grand Jury- forgery-counterfeiting
- Grand Jury- obstructing justice using false identity
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of prescription drugs

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Dec. 5

- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $128

Dec. 8

- fraudulent use of credit/debit card; person; miscellaneous charges

Dec. 9

- domestic violence; person
- theft by deception-4th degree; AutoZone Auto Parts; 2nd Ave. NW; cash; $20
- criminal trespass-2nd degree; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157

Dec. 10

- burglary-2nd degree; criminal mischief-3rd degree; harassment; person; Rae Ave. SW
- harassment; person; 2nd Ave. SW
- domestic violence; person; Lessman Cir. SW

ARRESTS

Dec. 8 – 10

Smith, Shara L.; 51
- FTA- theft of property-4th degree (3 counts)
- FTA- insurance violation
- FTA- criminal trespass-3rd degree (2 counts)

Susskin, Kenya B.; 34
- FTA- public intoxication (2 counts)

Cooperman, Stephanie D.; 42
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Adams, Kimberly G.; 39
- public intoxication
- resisting arrest

Johnson, Drew T.; 29
- DUI

Nelson, Tyler M.; 32
- burglary-2nd degree
- criminal mischief-3rd degree
- harassment
- possession/receiving controlled substance

Swafford, Aaron C.; 35
- FTA- DUI
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- driving while suspended

Speegle, Tony A.; 69
- domestic violence

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

WSCC alumnus Rayce Cleghorn joins cast at Country Tonite Theatre in Pigeon Forge

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – Just in time for Christmas, Wallace State's 2023 Student of the Year Rayce Cleghorn hits the professional stage at Country Tonight Theatre in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Since October, he has been preparing for his role in the theater's annual Christmas show.

"Country Tonite Theatre is a variety show. We do country music from the old to the new. We have an amazing live band. We have some incredibly talented vocalists. We have some great youth performers and the best professional dancers in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee," said Cleghorn. "Our schedule is definitely busy. We tend to have about 10 shows a week, however they are very good at encouraging us to take the time off we need. We have a great talent manager and dance captain who always makes sure we aren't overwhelming our bodies."

Cleghorn calls himself a "what you see is what you get" kind of person. He enjoys spending time with his family, friends and girlfriend whenever he gets the chance. He holds his faith near to him and said he tries to embody his beliefs and grow in them daily. For years, he has been a lover of baseball, video games, hitting the gym and yelling "Roll Tide" in support of his favorite football team, but his oldest passion is music and dance.

"I started performing in musical productions in church while my mom was the children's pastor, so my first time on stage, I was very young," said Cleghorn. "It has always seemed like a natural part of my life. I've been performing ever since, and I've truly fallen in love with it."

Beginning Nov. 1 and continuing until Dec. 31, the Country Tonite Theatre hosts at least one performance – sometimes two – of its Christmas show every day. The show features a blend of non-holiday country classics as well as beloved Christmas tunes.

"The first act of our Christmas show is a combination of the regular season's show. That way, the audience doesn't miss out on the classic and modern country music and our tribute to America," said Cleghorn. "After that, we start our Christmas part of the show in the second act. We start off with an old-fashioned country Christmas, also playing some hits like "Jingle Bells" and "Joy to the World.

Once this current season wraps up, Cleghorn plans to return to Country Tonite Theatre for another year of performance, except this time around, his sister McCoy (another Wallace State alum) will be joining the ensemble. He said he is excited to be returning to Pigeon Forge, and especially to be performing alongside a member of his family again.

Until 2023, for more than 10 years, at least one member of the Cleghorn family was present on-stage during performances at Wallace State Community College. Cleghorn is the youngest of four siblings who have attended and performed at the college, starting with his oldest sister, Tahauny, and continuing with older brother Duke and older sister McCoy. Even his parents, Derek and Carol Cleghorn, are Wallace State alumni.

Musical performance came early to the entire family, and the on-stage chemistry between the siblings is apparent. As the siblings grew up, their vocal registers fell into place naturally, as Tahauny sings soprano, Duke sings tenor, McCoy sings alto and Rayce sings bass. Nowadays, the siblings often perform at area gospel music events as The Cleghorn Family. To Cleghorn, family is vital, and he said each member of his family has played an immeasurable role in his life.

"My dad showed me how to be a man, my mom showed me how to always have compassion regardless of the situation, my oldest sister showed me that hard work and practice are the keys to success, my brother showed me there is always room to get better and more to strive for and my other sister showed me that family is always the most important. My family has always supported me and been my rock," said Cleghorn. "I believe that God has brought me this far and I look forward to seeing where he takes me from here."

Cleghorn first became part of Wallace State's Fine and Performing Arts program when he was 10 years old. His debut performance was in 2012 in the ensemble of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" with his older sisters Tahauny and McCoy, when Tahauny was a student at Wallace State Community College. His next performance was as Child Shrek in the college's production of "Shrek: The Musical" with all his siblings. He said that while the decision is a tough one, his most memorable performance during his time at Wallace State was in "Mary Poppins."

"If I had to pick just one show at WSCC that was the most memorable, it would have to be 'Mary Poppins.' I did that show when I was 15 and played the character Bert, opposite Samantha Drake as Mary Poppins. I got to sing and dance to all the songs that I already knew and loved. My favorite part was that I got to fly!"

Cleghorn enrolled at Wallace State in 2021 and he attributes much of his stage confidence and show knowledge to his experience at the college. He said that the time he spent in classes and performing in ensembles shaped him into the performer and person he is today. He named two instructors in Wallace State's Fine and Performing Arts Department that both played a major role in his life: Tiffany Richter, director of the Wallace State Singers and Concert Choir, and Ricky Burks, Fine and Performing Arts Department Chair.

"The Wallace State Singers was always my favorite. All my siblings had been in the Singers, and I learned most of what I know as a performer from my time in that group and the teaching of Tiffany Richter," said Cleghorn. "Ricky Burks has also been a big influence in my life both as a performer and as a man."

During his time as a student at Wallace State, Cleghorn also performed in a variety of other ensembles, including the Dream Weavers Youth Theatre and the River City Performing Arts troupe, both based out of Decatur. In 2021, Cleghorn placed first in solo expressive interpretive



COUNTRY TONITE

Wallace State Community College alumnus Rayce Cleghorn performs at Country Tonite Theatre in Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

movement at the Church of God International Youth and Discipleship's Teen Talent competition.

"In my first year as a Wallace Student, I got to spend time with my sister and got to make some of my best friends. Going to Disney World and Universal Studios and performing with my best friends was the highlight of my first year," said Cleghorn. "The next year, I also met some of my very closest friends and my girlfriend, and we all got to end the year together taking our gospel show on a European tour."

Cleghorn's last Wallace State performance was at "Spring Under the Stars" on April 27, 2023. A week prior to his final performance, Cleghorn was named Wallace State's Student of the Year at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's State of Education luncheon.

"Rayce Cleghorn is just beginning to make his mark! I knew I couldn't keep him around for too long, and he would leave us for bigger and better things. This is just the first stop in what I'm sure will be a long performance career," said Richter. "He's a triple-threat-singer, dancer and actor! He really is just an all-around incredible performer, and I can't wait to see where he goes from here!"

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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

DOCUMENT 36

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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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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.
• Wednesday, Dec. 13 - 7 p.m. Children & youth classes. Adult Bible study of Romans. Free pizza for children at 6:30. Van runs in the 5 Points Area at 6. Call 727-215-9092 for pickup.
• Friday, Dec. 15 - 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship & Testimonies. Hurts, habits and hangups 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. 16 – 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank
• Sunday, Dec. 17 - 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. 17 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area. Call Guy Sunter at 727-215-9092 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and communion, kids' Christmas play and event at 11!
• Sunday, Dec. 24- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11 a.m.-noon "God sent his Son; they called him Jesus." There will be no breakfast, no bus runs, no children's classes; everyone meets in the sanctuary at 11.

Alcoholics Anonymous
Sundays, 3 p.m. at Cullman First Church of the Nazarene, 5415 Alabama Highway 157. CLOSED literature study. Handicap accessible.

TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) Meetings
Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m., at Cullman Housing Authority Community Center (1545 Vine Circle SW, Cullman, AL 35055). The first meeting is free. TOPS, a national program, is a hands-on/pounds-off approach to weight loss and management through weekly meetings providing information, accountability, support and encouragement where you make the changes that make sense to you.

Cullman NAR-ANON Group Meetings
The NAR-ANON family group meetings are a worldwide fellowship for those affected by someone else's addiction. We offer Help by sharing our experiences, strength and hope. We carry the message of hope by letting others know that they are not alone by practicing the 12 Steps of NAR-ANON and changing our own attitudes. We Respect Your Anonymity. Our program is not a religious one, but a spiritual way of life. Meetings will be held at The Ruehl Building (Family Life Center of St. John's Church) Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. Contact Jamie Weathersby Smith 256-708-7122 or Don or Nancy McKenzie 256-736-3327 or 256-736-3470 for more information.

Cullman Serenity AlAnon Meetings
The Cullman Serenity AlAnon group meets each Monday at noon at 1519 St. Joseph Dr. NE. There is also a zoom meeting each Tuesday at noon. The AlAnon family groups are a fellowship of friends and family whose lives have been affected by alcoholism. For more information, call 256-708-6645, 850-323-0490 or 256-734-2231.

Master's Hand Food Pantry at The Link
• 708 Ninth St. SE, Cullman, AL 35055
• Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
• Closed for lunch noon-1 p.m.

Winter Wonderland at Sportsman Lake Park
• Check out a variety of still and moving light displays, then hit the concessions stand for a warm cup of hot cocoa or a photo op with Santa Claus!
• The attraction is open 5-9 p.m. 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. 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

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.

Pancakes (from Front)

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

BERLIN, Ala. — Local families and children were lined up before 7 a.m. Saturday, Dec 9, for the Berlin Volunteer Fire Department's annual Pancakes with Santa breakfast. Flashing lights from a BVFD vehicle blinked in the early morning fog, marking the driveway entrance to the Berlin Community Center, the hub of each year's event.

Laughter and chatter could be heard before entering the building, almost enough to distract one from the delicious scent and sounds of sizzling bacon wafting around a fire engine parked outside. A weather-proof tarp hanging from the side protected the event's real MVPs: three Blackstone Griddles.

Preparing pancakes for a large crowd is one thing, but preparing over 1,200 pancakes for a community is a whole new ballgame. Each attendee received two pancakes and two strips of bacon, along with a generously sized sausage patty. Pepsi products were plentiful, leaving guests wanting for little as they devoured their feasts.

"We actually bought three new Blackstone Griddles for this event," said the BVFD's Shelby Teichmiller. "The first two years without them, we begged, borrowed and pleaded to borrow friends' and family's Blackstones so we could do this, so we knew we would need them this year."

As famished attendees filed in, many making monetary donations in exchange for their plates, the hosting first responders were tasked with manning the griddles, while the department's auxiliary, mostly comprised of firefighters' wives and community members dressed in festive sweaters and Christmas hats, dished up plates.

Santa popped in and jingle-jangled his way around the crowd, stopping to let small children know that he'd been watching, and that he was looking forward to delivering their presents soon. Children giggled and ran to his lap, eager to spill their Christmas list secrets, holding onto the magical innocence of Christmas for at least one more season.

Saturday's breakfast was a fundraising event for the BVFD, which, through working with local schools in Welti, Holly Pond and Fairview, sponsors children from those communities in need and give them a Christmas to remember. The children will all receive a new pair of shoes, socks, underwear and up to five "wish list" items. A gift card for household items and groceries will also be given to each child's family.

Said Teichmiller, "We really saw a need in the community, especially from Welti schools, for kids needing assistance with Christmas, and families in general. We started three years ago; we reach out to the counselors of the three schools in our area and see if there's a need for any kids that may have missed any cutoffs for other programs."

All proceeds from the yearly fundraiser go toward this initiative. Teichmiller revealed the department has already received a few large donations from philanthropic locals.

"All of what we raise today will go towards grocery gift cards for these families," she said. "We are blown away each year by the support we get from the community. This is our gift to them."

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
DECEMBER 12, 2023

PREP BASKETBALL

Addison downs Winston County 51-34, Lady Bulldogs fall 71-32

Todd Walker
Tribune Correspondent

ADDISON, Ala. — The Addison basketball teams hosted their neighbors from Central Winston County who just happen to be their archrivals, the Winston County Yellow Jackets. The Addison girls were hoping to build on the momentum of their first win of the season, but it just wasn't to be as Winston County blitzed the Lady Bulldogs 71-32. The boys off to their best start (5-1) in years handled the Yellow Jackets 51-34.

Winston County 71 – Addison 32 (Varsity Girls)

The young ladies from Addison came out extremely flat and they really never were able to recover. WCHS jumped out to a 5-2 lead and then put the hammer down. WCHS went on to win the period 23-2. Their scoring run would eventually run into the second period as WCHS scored 26 straight points to lead 31-2. Back to the first period, Addison's lone bucket came on a Karson Wyatt put back. Wyatt also had 2 rebounds and 2 steals in the period. WCHS was led by Lynleigh Cobb who had 11 points and 6 rebounds. Emma Kate Veal had 9 points and 2 boards of her own as WCHS dominated in every aspect of the game.

The second period was a little better for the Lady Bulldogs. They were outscored 14-8 to go into the half down 37-10 to the Lady Yellow Jackets. Wyatt led the Lady Bulldogs with 6 points and 4 rebounds. WCHS spread the scoring around as Veal had 5 points, Emma Ballinger had 4 points, Marci Stewart had 3 points and Cobb had a bucket. Stewart also had 4 rebounds while Lizzy Bass had 3 boards.

The third period was a fairly evenly matched period as both teams went back and forth and Addison started executing their offense a little better. Addison lost the period 18-15 to go into the fourth down 55-25. Addison point guard Gracie Roberts had 12 points while Mattie Johnson chipped in 3. Johnson also led the Lady Dawgs in rebounds with 2. WCHS was led by Veal with 8 points to include 2 long treys. Cobb had 5 points and 3 rebounds. Ballinger had a big period as she had 4 points and 5 rebounds.

The fourth and final period had the young Lady Bulldogs basically just trying to get through the game. They were outscored 16-7 to take the loss 71-32. Addison could just not get their offense going except for a short time in the third period. Roberts led the Lady Dawgs with 6 points while Rylan O'Brien had 2 rebounds. WCHS was led by Cobb again with 8 points. Ella Veal and Emma Kate Veal each had a three-pointer. Macy Teal led the Lady Yellow Jackets with 2 rebounds in the period.

Addison falls to 1-5 on the season and will travel to St. Bernard on Tuesday Night.

Unofficial stats

Addison was led in scoring by Roberts with 20 points and 2 rebounds. Wyatt had 8 points and 6 boards with 2 steals. Johnson had 3 points and 3 rebounds. O'Brien had 5 rebounds. Emma Cleghorn had 1 point and 2 rebounds. Reese Osborne had 2 rebounds. Kabri Dyson had 2 steals. Morgan Lee had 1 rebound.

WCHS was led by Cobb with a game-high 26 points and 12 rebounds. Emma Kate Veal 22 points and 4 rebounds. Ballinger had 13 points and 8 rebounds. Stewart had 5 points and 5 boards. Ellie Veal had 3 points. Teal had 2 points and 2 boards. Bass had 3 rebounds.

Addison 54 – Winston County 31 (Varsity Boys)

The Addison men's basketball team wants to run and shoot, and they are very good at that. Addison was forced to slow down their game speed due to WCHS playing mainly zone and forcing Addison to run a half-court offense. Well, it didn't work this night as the Bulldogs handled the change of pace very well. Addison and WCHS played fairly evenly in the first period as Addison held the 17-11 advantage at the end of the first. The Bulldogs were led by Jacob McLamb with 7 points and 2 rebounds. Jed Wilkins had 4 points while his cousin Elijah Roberts hit a trey. WCHS was led by Garrett Lewis who had 5 points and Dillyn Chancey had 2 points and 2 boards.

The second period had Addison clamping down on WCHS and winning the period 10-5 to take a 27-16 lead into the half. Addison's defensive pressure and defensive rebounding kept WCHS to one shot on each possession. Bradley Willette had a dominant period as he controlled the paint with 8 points, 6 rebounds and a block. Wilkins had 2 points and 3 steals in the frame. Winston County's Eli Moore had 3 points and 2 boards, and his teammate Lewis put in the other two points.

The third period was a tough one as Addison squeaked it out 10-8. It was a fairly even period as no team scored on no more than 2 possessions in a row. Four different Bulldogs scored a bucket while WCHS was led by Moore who heated up for 6 points. Addison went into the fourth period up 37-24.

The fourth period was the best period of the game as Addison came out with a 14-10 period win and that gave the game a 51-34 final. Addison was leading 37-28 at the 7:25 mark of the fourth and it looked like WCHS was mounting a comeback. Addison then went on 9-4 run to give them the 46-32 lead. Wilkins scored on a layup and a little floater from the middle of the lane, while Willette had a put back for two. Addison closed the game out with a Kiah Lake three-pointer from the visitor side corner for the final margin of victory. Addison was led by Wilkins 7 points and Willette's 2 boards and another blocked shot in the period. McLamb also had 2 big boards in the period. WCHS tried but just couldn't keep pace as Lewis had 4 and Austin Schubert had 2 points.

Addison Head Coach Scott Flynn said, "Very proud our guys on the win, this puts us 2-0 in the county. Also, very happy with the discipline and patience we showed when they packed the zone down on Brad (Willette). We like to run and the guys showed tremendous discipline by not trying to force anything onto their defense. We took what they gave us. We held the ball out and let them come to us to get out of that zone. It allowed Jed (Wilkins) to penetrate and find the open man. Jed is very good at driving to the basket and finishing. We have been playing really good defense this season and that is what I'm most proud of. Everyone has bought into the defense first concept, and they know that a good defense leads to fast breaks and easy points either by layups or driving and finding the open man for the three-point shot."

Addison moves to 6-1 (1-0 region) and will travel to play a region game at St. Bernard on Tuesday night.

Unofficial stats

Addison was led by Wilkins with 15 points, 6 boards and 7 steals. Willette had 13 points, 11 rebounds and 4 blocks. McLamb had 7 points, 6 rebounds and 2 steals. Elijah Roberts had 4 points, 7 boards and 2 assists. Lake had 5 points. Owen Pratt had 4 points and 2 steals. Kayden Dyson had 3 points and 4 rebounds.

WCHS was led by Moore who had 12 points and 10 boards. Lewis had 11 points and 2 boards. Gavin Colley had 5 rebounds. Marcus Blanton had 2 points. Chancey had 2 points and 3 boards. Cameron Aderholt had 4 points. Schubert had 2 points and 3 boards. Colton Alexander had 1 point.



BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Addison Bulldogs defeated Winston County 51-34 Friday night.



BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Addison Lady Bulldogs fell to Winston County 71-32 Friday night.

Walk (from Front)

who attended CMS in the early 1990s, posed for a selfie in front of their old lockers and shared stories of burst pipes, skipped PE classes and playing cards.

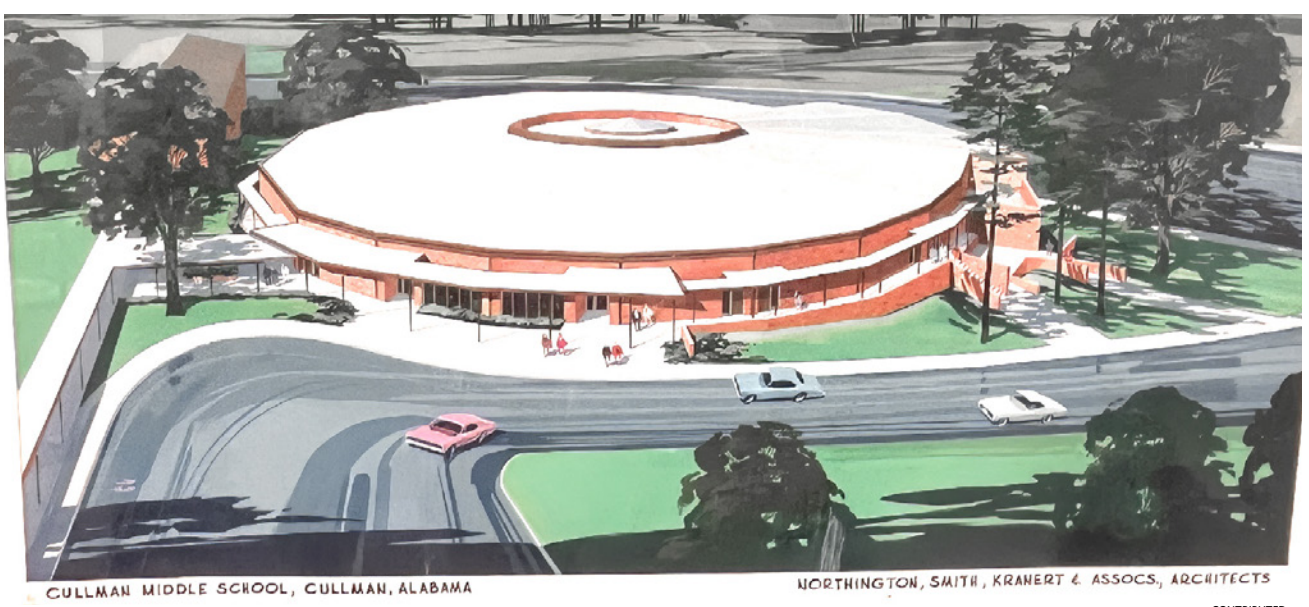
"We survived the round building!" laughed Lynn.

Amid dozens of other former students shuffling through the halls and reminiscing on their preteen years, one teacher, Mary Yates, shared her perspective on her time in the building as one of the founding educators. Yates taught English in the building from 1974 to her retirement in 2012.

"I had a great experience teaching. I had some of the best mentors; I had two ladies who had quite a few years – Mrs. Branch and Mrs. Stisher – to the left and right of me. I felt so comfortable! I knew whatever happened, they'd take care of me," she laughed, explaining that since the walls weren't erected yet, classrooms were often combined and a team approach was taken, offering a confidence boost to a new educator in the public school system. Over time, the open concept fell out of vogue once more, and walls separating the classrooms came in.

"The team teaching approach started going out the window and we started going back to the more individualized approach. I loved the team teaching, and goodness knows I learned so much from those ladies!" Yates exclaimed, with a tinge of sadness. "It's over half of my life that I've spent up here, so I have some mixed emotions about that."

Cullman City Schools Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff stood by the entrance of the building, greeting former students and sharing that while it can be a bit emotional saying goodbye to a building that housed many former students during their most formative years, it was important to the school system to open the doors one last time and at least allow residents to do so.



CONTRIBUTED

"We're excited that we were able to open this building today to have all of these people who once went to school here come in and give them that last opportunity to walk through, see the classrooms and go back in their memories," he said, gesturing to the scattered residents climbing the stairs to peek down into former classrooms, elbowing their buddies with tales of "remember when?"

Kallhoff said with demolition scheduled for the first week of January, the round building will be gone by February.

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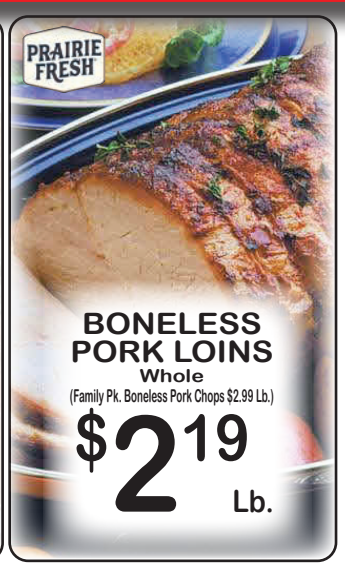
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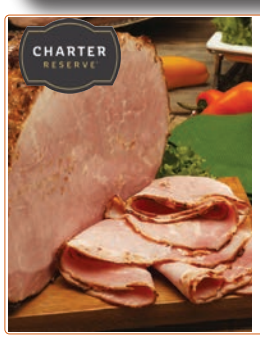
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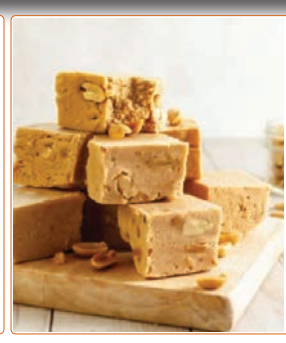
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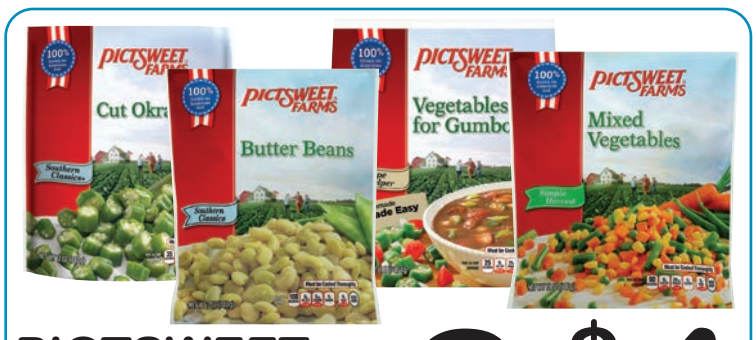
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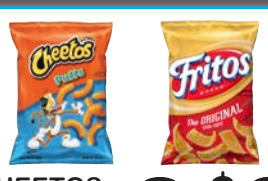


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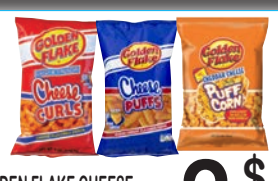
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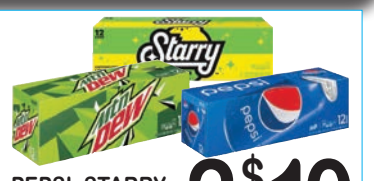
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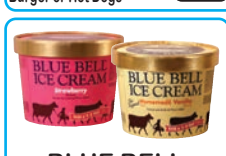
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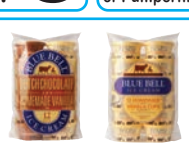
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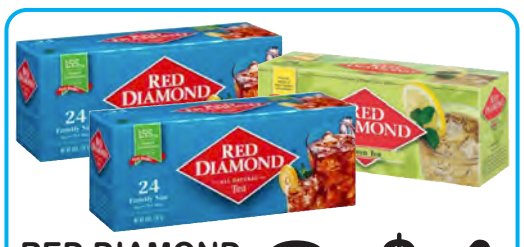


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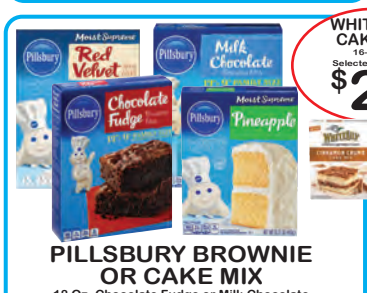


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TOWN HOUSE OR CLUB CRACKERS
7-13.7 Oz. Kellogg's
Selected Varieties
$3.99



MOORE'S MARINADE OR WING SAUCE
16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



OCEAN SPRAY JUICE DRINKS
60-64 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6



FOOD CLUB FRUIT
15 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4

CAMPBELL'S CREAM SOUPS
10 Oz. Chicken or Mushroom
4 for $5



HUNT'S TOMATOES
14 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $3

BETTY CROCKER COOKIE OR BROWNIE MIX
13-18 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $6

DUNCAN HINES FROSTING
14-16.5 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $3



JIFFY CORN MUFFIN MIX
8.5 Oz. Original or Vegetarian
4 for $3



FOOD CLUB CRANBERRY SAUCE
14 Oz. Jellied or Whole Berry
2 for $3



MEADOWGOLD CONDENSED MILK
14 Oz.
Sweetened
2 for $5



EAGLE BRAND CONDENSED MILK
14 Oz. Sweetened
Original or Fat Free
2 for $5



GLORY FRIED APPLES
14.5 Oz.
2 for $4

MARS MINIS SHARING SIZE
8.9-9.7 Oz. Bag Twix, Snickers or Mars Mixed
$4.99



MARTHA WHITE MUFFIN MIX
7 Oz. Selected Varieties or Brownie Bites Mix
4 for $5



BUSH'S BEST CHILI BEANS
15-16 Oz. or Chili Magic
Selected Varieties
2 for $3



MARGARET HOLMES, VEG•ALL, OR POPEYE VEGETABLES
14-16 Oz. Selected Varieties or Allens Italian Green Beans
2 for $3



BUSH'S BEST PEAS OR BEANS
15-16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5



FOOD CLUB RELISH
10 Oz. Sweet or Dill
99¢



SIMPLY DONE PARTY CUPS
30 Ct., 18 Oz.
Plastic
2 for $5

IDAHOAN CASSEROLE OR MASHED POTATOES
4 Oz. Selected Varieties or 1.5 Oz. Microwaveable Cups
4 for $5

KELLOGG'S KRISPY OR ZESTA SALTINES
16 Oz.
Original
2 for $7

FRENCH'S CRISPY FRIED ONIONS
6 Oz.
Original
$3.99



CHARKING LIGHTER FLUID
32 Oz.
$3.49

DIXIE BOWLS OR PLATES
18-48 Ct.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7

BOUNTY NAPKINS
400 Ct.
White
$5.99



SIMPLY DONE ALUMINUM FOIL
18 Inch 37.5 Sq. Ft.
Heavy Duty
$2.99

CHARKING CHARCOAL
15.4 Lb. Bag Original or Hickory or 11.6 Lb. Instant Light
$7.99

CAT CAFÉ CAT FOOD
11 Lb. Bag
Seafood Essentials
$7.99

EVOLVE GRAIN-FREE DOG FOOD
12-15 Lb. Bag
Selected Varieties
$21.99

CHARMIN OR BOUNTY ESSENTIALS
12 Mega Rolls Bath Tissue or 6 Double Rolls Paper Towels
$8.99

GAIN LAUNDRY DETERGENT
46 Oz. Liquid, 16 Ct. Flings!, 120 Ct. Dryer Sheets or 51 Oz. Fabric Softener Selected Varieties
$5.99

DAWN ULTRA DISH WASHING LIQUID
18-22 Oz. EZ-Squeeze or 16 Oz. Spray Refill Selected Varieties
$3.99

CHAMP DOG FOOD
12 Lb. Bag Regular or Mini Chunk
$6.99

EES opens the wardrobe to Narnia just in time for Christmas

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — East Elementary School transformed into a lovely Christmas wonderland in recent weeks, as teachers and staff took part in a hallway competition for best Christmas decorations. The winning hallway belongs to the fourth grade, which based its design on the C.S. Lewis classic "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe."

With students reading the fantasy classic this month, teachers, students and staff worked together to construct an ambitious hallway design that would take visitors on a journey from the first chapter all the way to the end of the book.

"It turned out great! I've been teaching through this book for around 20 years now, and this is the most we've ever decorated, being a joint effort with the entire fourth grade," East Elementary School teacher Kristi Jackson explained.

"Parents and grandparents donated items and helped to hang decorations. Students cut out handmade snowflakes and flowers, wrote acrostic poems describing the characters and made magic wardrobe flip books as a cumulative book activity."



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Teachers, students and community members joined forces for an ambitious decoration project on the East Elementary School fourth-grade hallway to bring the book "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" to life.

Christmas on the Farm

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. — Families flocked to Snead's Farmhouse for its Christmas on the Farm event Saturday, Dec. 9. The warmish sunny afternoon was the perfect break in the day's dreary drizzly weather, allowing a few hours of farmhouse festivities.

Owner Judy Snead smiled and excitedly declared, "I am so happy the sun came out and it's so beautiful! I'm so happy with everyone that came out."

Refreshments were provided for hungry invitees to snack on while exploring Snead's 17-acre property that doubles as a farm and an animal rescue.

Ducks, goats, cows, peacocks, pigs and alpacas are just a few of the property's inhabitants.

One rescued resident, Quacky-Jackie, is a Cullman local. Having been the victim of an animal attack at Sportsman Lake Park and ultimately losing a leg, Quacky-Jackie has integrated into the flock at the farm, and aids Snead in her lessons about limb differences and physical disabilities.

Snead said, "I use her as an anti-bullying example. The children see that she can do the same things as the other ducks; she doesn't know she's different, so we shouldn't act like she is."

West Point local with a powerhouse voice, Sophie Raine, kept guests swinging and bobbing along to her music as she covered classics and threw in some originals to please the crowd. Children giggled and raced around the farm, chasing after free-roaming chickens and peacocks.

And of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus posed for pictures with awestruck kiddos who shared their Christmas lists.

Sneads Farmhouse is located at 820 County Road 1225. Learn more at www.sneadsfarmhouse.com.



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Snead's Farmhouse hosted Christmas on the Farm Saturday, Dec. 9.



80 YEARS ANNIVERSARY 1943-2023

Thank you, Cullman, for the best 80 years of our lives.



In 1943, when the Paul R. Knight Insurance Company opened its doors in downtown Cullman, there was no way of knowing what the future would bring. Paul Knight was a 30-something father of of three, registered for the World War II draft, with no idea that his new venture would not only succeed but would ultimately pass down through three generations of his family. Then his son-in-law Elliot Free joined the business in 1970, the agency was re-named Knight-Free, and the rest is history.

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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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
DECEMBER 12, 2023

ACES: Slow cookers – helpful for the holidays

Justin Miller
ACES

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. — Need a helping hand in the kitchen during the busy holiday season? Slow cookers are your go-to gadgets to get you through the season of eating.

Alice Moore, an Alabama Cooperative Extension System food safety and quality regional agent, said there are many great benefits to using a slow cooker.

"Preparing a meal at home eliminates the temptation of ordering out and is often more nutritious and less expensive than takeout," Moore said. "The slow cooker also gives you the ease of one-step meal preparation and a quicker cleanup in the kitchen."

In many slow cookers, you can make the cleanup even quicker by adding a plastic liner. Slow cookers may also help cut meal costs. This long, low-temperature cooking method helps tenderize cuts of meat, so people can purchase less expensive options. Slow cookers also use less electricity than a traditional oven does, potentially reducing your monthly electric bill.

Features to consider

If you are unfamiliar with slow cookers and are buying one for the first time, there are some great features to consider. Moore said buying a cooker with a warm setting is a great option.

"This setting (warm) keeps food warm once it is done when you are not quite ready to serve," Moore said.

"Without this setting, the ceramic crock cools down quickly and could leave food in the temperature danger zone (between 41 and 140 degrees Fahrenheit)."

The size of the slow cooker is also an important feature. A 6-quart cooker is ideal for four servings.

However, keep in mind that slow cookers work best when filled at least halfway. So, a smaller cooker may be a better option for those cooking less portions.

"Removable ceramic inserts also make cleanup a lot easier, and some are dishwasher safe," she said.

Safety, care and cooking guidelines

Slow cookers are often sold as a put-it-and-leave-it type of appliance. However, not all slow cookers are created equal. Each brand may have different care and cooking instructions to follow. Some cookers may be left unattended, while others may need supervision during the cooking process. The appliance's manual should provide certain guidelines — such as safety, care and cooking — for that particular slow cooker.

"Older slow cookers should also be checked for accuracy," Moore said. "To do this, place 2 quarts of water in the cooker, cover with the lid and cook on low for 8 hours. Remove the lid and immediately check the temperature using a food thermometer. The temperature should be between 185 and 200 degrees Fahrenheit. If the water is not at least 185 degrees Fahrenheit, replace the cooker."

Thaw before cooking

While it may be tempting to put items directly from the freezer into the slow cooker, all meats and poultry should be completely thawed before cooking.

If not thawed, you run the risk of the food entering the temperature danger zone. In a slow cooker, frozen meats may not reach 140 degrees Fahrenheit quickly enough, resulting in risk of a foodborne illness.

Cooking temperatures and times

Slow cookers often have three temperature settings: warm, low and high. However, do not cook foods on the warm setting. Temperatures at this setting do not get high enough to properly cook.

"Start your slow cooker on the highest setting for the first hour and then switch to low for longer cooking times," Moore said.

"However, it is still safe to cook foods on low the entire time. Just make sure your food reaches the proper internal temperature."

To ensure that your food fully cooks, do not overstuff the slow cooker. It should only be half to two-thirds full. Also, because they take longer to cook, add vegetables first and allow them to start cooking before adding meat or poultry.

Even if the food looks to be fully cooked, always check the internal temperature before consuming. The following are the proper cooking temperatures for commonly cooked meals in a slow cooker:

- Roasts of meat: 145 to 160 degrees Fahrenheit
- Ground meat (beef, pork and lamb): 160 degrees Fahrenheit
- Poultry (chicken, turkey parts and duck): 165 degrees Fahrenheit
- Soups, stews and sauces: 165 degrees Fahrenheit

Storing and reheating foods

If you are using a slow cooker to prepare food ahead of time, it is important to let the food cool down before storing it.

Start by dividing the food into smaller portions. Then, add the portions into stainless steel containers and place them into an ice bath. Stir the food frequently so the colder food is distributed. Once cooled, the food can be stored in the refrigerator or freezer.

While a slow cooker is great for cooking food, Moore said you should never use it to reheat food.

"Never reheat food in a slow cooker," she said. "Instead, reheat the food on the stove top or microwave and then transfer it to the slow cooker to keep it warm, at 140 degrees Fahrenheit or higher."

More information

For more information on food safety, visit the Food Safety section of the Alabama Extension website, www.aces.edu.

Tombo (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — St. Bernard Preparatory School recently announced the remarkable achievement of one of its exceptional seniors, Nicolas "Andrew" Tombo, who has been accepted to the esteemed College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts with a full-ride scholarship through the prestigious QuestBridge program.

QuestBridge, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to linking high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds and first-generation students with leading institutions of higher education, recently selected Tombo out of a competitive pool of over 20,800 applicants.

Among the 6,683 finalists vying for the QuestBridge National College Match Scholarship, Tombo stood out among the 2,242 distinguished students recognized as Match Scholarship recipients.

Tombo's unparalleled accomplishment is underscored by the substantial financial aid package offered by the College of the Holy Cross, encompassing the entire cost of attendance, including tuition, housing, meals, books, supplies and travel expenses.

This generous scholarship, estimated at over $80,000 per year, signifies not only recognition of Tombo's academic prowess, but also his exceptional promise as a future leader.

Tombo is the son of DeAnna Tombo of Birmingham.

A release from the school said Tombo epitomizes the values of St. Bernard Preparatory School, showcasing academic excellence, commitment and the pursuit of knowledge.

Elsberry (from Front)

center trips attended by Elsberry and fellow center attendee Thelene Thomas. The two were thick as thieves until Thomas' passing in 2021. "Thelene, that was her best bud," smiled Argo.

Sharing more about Elsberry's life before the center, Argo said, shaking her head, "She was tough. Nobody knows how tough she was." Argo explained that Elsberry was a single mom who worked at Pizitz and Marsh Bakery before meeting her husband A.D., and city life in Bessemer and Finley was not always kind to the two of them. Despite the hardship, she said, Elsberry never lost her smile – something that would become her signature in the center.

After marrying A.D., Elsberry moved to the quaint city of Hanceville and set up shop to bring her signature coconut cakes and beautifully decorated wedding cakes to the area. Folks caught on quickly, and business began to boom.

"It was how she made her living, and she enjoyed it," said Argo about her mom's talent. "People would call her up and say, hey, I need a coconut cake or a wedding cake, and she'd fix it up. She had two refrigerators out in the carport, and if they weren't home, people would just stick some money in there for her and pick it up!" she laughed.

One by one, other senior center members began to offer input on Elsberry's legacy at the center. Annette Flanigan said Elsberry can be summed up in exactly two words: "Phenomenal woman," she declared, recalling how Elsberry used to give her flowers out of her garden.

Another, Jo Ballard, shared that after she moved to Cullman without knowing anyone aside from her husband's family, Elsberry popped into her life as a fellow CARTS bus rider and quickly became close. A misty-eyed Ballard recalled how encouraging and motivating Elsberry was for her after a bout of serious surgeries.

"I'd get really down and out, you know? And she'd just smile and say, 'You can do it,'" smiled Ballard.

The consensus from members of the Hanceville Senior Center is that Elsberry will forever be remembered for her ruby-red lips and her kind attitude, interjected with bits of humor. While the Rowdy Bunch may seem a bit quieter for now, they said, rest assured that Heaven is a bit rowdier with Elsberry's presence.

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256-352-2221

LEGALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF HANCEVILLE

Pursuant to the instructions of the City Council of the City of Hanceville, notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the City Council at the Hanceville City Hall, located at 112 Main ST SE, Hanceville, Alabama, 35077, on Thursday December 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. where all interested citizens shall have the opportunity to be heard for or against the rezoning application submitted by property owner, SAN GIUSEPPE, LLC, for described property below currently zoned R-1 (Low Density Residential) to be rezoned to R-3 (High Density Residential).

DRAFT

ORDINANCE 656 **(Proposed)**

AN AMMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 510 INCLUDING THE ZONING MAP
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HANCEVILLE, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The public health, safety, morals, and general welfare requiring it under authority granted by Article 4, Sections 11-52-70 through 11-52-79, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended and the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Hanceville, Alabama Ordinance No. 510, adopted the 1st day of May 2006, as amended, and more particularly the Hanceville, Alabama Zoning Map as a part thereof, is hereby amended, changed, and modified as follows:

   (a) That the real estate being the property of SAN GIUSEPPE, LLC located in Hanceville, Cullman County, Alabama, be re-zoned to R-3 (High Density Residential), described as follows, to-wit:

   A parcel of land being in the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 29, Township 11 South, Range 2 West, Cullman County, Alabama, described as: Commencing at a found axle locally accepted as the Southwest corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter; thence N13°56'57"W 132.87 feet to a point on the Southeasterly right of way of Shady Lane Drive; thence along the right of way a chord bearing a distance of N55°54'31"E 19.07 feet to a found ½" iron in concrete marking the Northwest corner of property described in Deed Book 657 Page 158; thence continue along the right of way a chord bearing and distance of N55°50'40"E 399.36 feet to a found ½" iron in concrete marking the Northwest corner of property described in Deed Book 591 Page 539; thence continue along the right of way a chord bearing and distance of N55°50'42"E 200.03 feet to a found ½" iron in concrete being the point of beginning; thence continue along the right of way a chord bearing and distance of N55°52'22"E 99.91 feet to a found ½" iron in concrete; thence leaving the right of way S34°08'04"E 149.76 feet to a found ½" iron in concrete; thence S55°47'24"W 99.88 feet to a found ½" iron in concrete; thence N34°08'36"W 149.91 feet to the point of beginning. Being 0.3436 acres more or less. Subject to any rights-of-ways and/or easements of record.

2. That this Ordinance has been published once each week for two (2) successive weeks with the second being at least 15 days prior to passage, within the City of Hanceville, Alabama, and the publication of said notice and ordinance being verbatim.

   That a public hearing has been held relative to the passage of this ordinance on the 28th day of December 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at which time interested parties and citizens had opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance and any changes relating thereto.

3. That all notices as required by law were given by the City Clerk concerning said public hearing.

4. That upon final passage of this ordinance, all zoning maps, master comprehensive plans or any other documents of the City of Hanceville, Alabama, in conflict with this ordinance be and are hereby changed and amended to reflect the changes and amendments herein.

5. Should any part or portion of this ordinance be held invalid, unenforceable, or unconstitutional, for whatever reason, by a court of competent jurisdiction, such ruling shall not affect any other part or portion of this ordinance.

Page | 1 of 2

DRAFT

6. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the above-described property is zoned R-3 and that appropriate action be taken to change and modify the City Zoning Map to so reflect the said land as such.

7. This ordinance adopted ____ day of _____ 2023, shall take effect after its publication as required by law, including notice, and public hearing, all in accordance with Section 11-52-1, et seq., Code of Alabama 1975, as amended.

_____
Mayor Kenneth Nail

ATTEST:

_____
Tania C. Wilcox, MMC



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Vehicles (from Front)

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Students from three lucky Cullman County high schools will be practicing their driving skills in style as their new driver's education vehicles are rolling into school parking lots this week. On Monday, Dec. 11, Cullman County Schools unveiled three brand new vehicles designated specifically for the driver's education programs at West Point, Fairview and Hanceville High Schools.

Cullman County Schools Media and Communications Specialist Ty Watwood shared, "To our knowledge, this is the first time we've ever had new state-of-the-art vehicles for our students. Our goal was to have vehicles on-hand for students to drive that better match what they might be driving once they get a license. Not to mention, our old cars are pretty much worn out."

Until these new vehicles were acquired for their programs, the three county schools had been using 2006 Ford Tauruses.

"They're older than all of the kids," pointed out West Point High School Driving Instructor Don Farley. "These kids are driving cars that are older than them for the past couple of years.

"They need a car to learn in that is more in line with what they will actually be driving.

"They aren't going to get in an '06 Taurus to go home, it will be in a newer car or SUV."

The new 2024 Chevrolet SUVs have updated technology and safety features that learning drivers will likely come across in other vehicles, requiring familiarization and practice with specific functions that weren't available in the previous driver's education vehicles.

Forward collision alert, automatic braking, lane assist and following distance Indicators are a few of the upgraded safety features on the vehicles.

West Point High School Sophomore Ellorie Harbison was chosen to be the first student driver of her school's new SUV, arriving at the Cullman County Schools Garage in the school's '06 Taurus and leaving in a vehicle that is showroom new.

Harbison smiled in excitement as she spoke, saying, "It's an honor to be the first driver! We get to learn on a vehicle that has newer technology than what we have, making it easier to transition to our own cars."

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Obituary Announcements: Dec. 9-11

Leigh Ann Johnson, 42
Memorial service for Leigh Ann Johnson, 42, of Addison, was held Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, at Cullman Funeral Home chapel; Rev. Steve Rodgers officiated. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Leigh was born Aug. 16, 1981, to Mary Moore. She passed from this life too soon on Dec. 7, 2023. She was preceded in death by her grandmother, Lucille McClendon; aunt, Debbie Abney; uncle, David Abney, and uncle, Jerry Moore. Survivors include her mother, Mary Pippinger; a son, Nicholas Johnson; two daughters, Abigail Johnson (Mykala Stanfield), and Ally Murray; brother, Chris Bailey; sister Danielle (Casey) Wynn; two grandchildren, Lillian Johnson, and Oaklynn Piper; a blue pit, her "baby", Molly; and a host of family and friends. Leigh devoted her life to being a loving mother and grandmother. She made sure to let them know every day how much she loved them. Leigh was also a hard worker and took pride in her job. She had a lot of friends and she loved her customers as well. She will be loved and missed dearly by all who knew her. Visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Nelson Keith Buchanan, 79
Memorial service for Nelson Keith Buchanan, 79, of Cullman, is incomplete at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Buchanan was born Jan. 13, 1944, to Luther Buchanan and Anna Perdue Buchanan. He passed from this life on Dec. 8, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Louann Knighten and Leona Johnston. Survivors include one son, Joseph Keith Buchanan; three grandchildren, Clarissa Quick, Morgan Fraley, and Summer Elkins; five great-grandchildren. Visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

David Anthony Lee Schultz, 47
Funeral service for David Anthony Lee Schultz, 47, of Cullman, is incomplete at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Schultz was born Nov. 2, 1976, to Tony Curl and Patricia Schultz Curl. He passed from this life too soon on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023. He was preceded in death by his mother, Patricia Curl. Survivors include his father, Tony Curl; his loving wife, Tristan Schultz; one son, Cross Schultz; three daughters, Katlin Schultz, Chelsey Schultz, and Taylor Schultz. David is described by his family as being a dedicated and loving husband, father, and son. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Jon Alexander Roberts, 26
Memorial service for Jon Alexander Roberts, 26, of Cullman, will be Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, at 5 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home chapel, with Rev. Steve Rodgers officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Alex was born Aug. 24, 1997, to Tim Roberts and Jennifer Bishop Roberts. He passed from this life too soon on Friday, Dec. 8, 2023. He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Linda Roberts; grandfather, John Bishop; grandmother, Charlotte Bishop. Survivors include his mother, Jennifer Lynn Roberts; father, Tim Roberts; grandfather, Harvey Roberts; one brother, Jesse Kayne Roberts. Alex loved astronomy and was always admiring the sky and tracking the planets. He liked shooting basketball at home also. He was a fun and loving guy and will be missed dearly by those who knew and loved him. Visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Justin Dewayne Crumbley, 44
Justin Dewayne Crumbley, a loving father, son, brother, and friend to many, passed away on December 7, 2023, at the age of 44. Justin was born in Cullman County, Alabama on July 28, 1979, to Rickey L. Crumbley and Vicky Diane White. Mr. Crumbley was a graduating member of the Cullman Bearcats Class of 1997. He then attended Auburn University where he graduated in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Business. With a servant's heart, Justin followed in his father's footsteps, and was a member of the Elks Lodge for the past eighteen years. Justin enjoyed and cared for many things. He was an avid Auburn Football fan, and he also cheered on his beloved Braves. He loved animals and his dog, Bella, and cat, Kitty, were very important to him. Mr. Crumbley enjoyed music and his playlist was a mixture of many genres, ranging from country to rap. He also enjoyed good moonshine. Over the course of many years, Justin became a friend to many people. His friends were like family to him, and family was very important to Justin. Justin loved his parents and sister dearly. He was a devoted father and his daughter Lillian, or "Lil" as her father often called her, was his world. To the outside world Justin may have appeared frail - but he was a fighter, and his battle made him stronger than some knew. The world has lost a kindhearted and brave man, a hero to many. His memory will be cherished by those who had the great honor of knowing him for many years to come. Justin was preceded in death by his grandparents and his uncle. Those surviving Mr. Crumbley are his father, Rickey Crumbley (Rebecca Bell); mother, Vicky Crumbley; children, Lillian Crumbley, Preslee Graves, Hannah Higgins, Gaige Brown; sister, Kristie Crumbley (Sam); brother, Wess Glispie; best friend and coparent to his children, Amanda Graves; aunt, Linda Federer; friend like a brother, Willie Odon; and a host of nieces and nephews, cousins, and friends. Friends joined the family on Sunday, Dec. 10. 2023, at the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel. Following services, Justin will be laid to rest in Holly Pond Cemetery where Willie Odom, David McCravey, Brian Gaines, Wess Glispie, Gaige Brown, Chad Federer, and Brandon Givens will serve as pallbearers. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Crumbley family.

Pauline Elliott Nuss, 83
Graveside services for Pauline Elliott Nuss, 83, of Hanceville, was held on Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023, at Center Hill Cemetery. Mrs. Nuss was born on Aug. 10, 1940, to the late Calrence and Vernie (Ratliff) Elliott in Cullman, Alabama. She passed away on Dec. 8, 2023, at Hanceville Nursing and Rehab Center in Hanceville, Alabama. Survivors include her children, Greg (Sheila) Nuss, Jeff (Ronda) Nuss and Bridget (Jeff) Ownes; grandchildren, Jennifer (Justin) Kent, Cody (Kelsi) Nuss, Katie Rutledge, Kayla (Hunter) Fikes, Corey (Melissa) Johnson and Tiffany (Brian) Trussell; great grandchildren, Lucy Kent, Collin Kent, Maggie Rutledge, Marlie Rutledge, Morgan Rutledge, Gracie Johnson, Crimson Johnson, Nina Calyx Nuss, Wilder Edwin Nuss, Emerson Claire Fikes, and Baby Fikes due May 2024. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Nuss was preceded in death by her grandson, Justin Nuss; brother, Gene Elliott; and sisters, Derlene White and Daphne Moore.

Allen Howard Allred, 83
Funeral services for Allen Howard Allred, 83, of Hanceville, will be held Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, at Hanceville Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. with service to follow at 1 p.m. the Hanceville Funeral Home chapel with graveside service afterwards at Mtn. Grove Congregational Christian Church Cemetery. Rev. Phillip Doss will be officiating. Mr. Allred passed away Dec. 7, 2023, at his residence. A veteran of the U.S Army, Mr. Allred was an avid bowler and fixture at Cullman Bowling Center since the early 70s winning numerous tournaments and titles on the local and state level as well as qualifying for several national tournaments. One of his biggest accomplishments was rolling a 299 game during one of the national tournaments. Mr. Allred is survived by his wife of almost 63 years, Pat Allred; sons, Greg (Susan) Allred and Keith (Jill) Allred; grandchildren, Jennifer (Joe) Lee, Seth (Emily) Allred, Rachel (Bryan) Pirkey, Will (Megan) Allred, and Zach Allred as well as seven great-grandchildren; and brother, Larry (Barbara) Allred. Mr. Allred was preceded in death by his parents, James Lee and Willie Allred; brother, Albert Lee Allred; sister, Geraldine Smith; granddaughter, April Allred; and grandson Caleb Allred. Mr. Allred loved watching Alabama football, basketball, and softball, the Atlanta Braves as well as any old western TV show. Mr. Allred was a longtime Trustee at Mtn. Grove Congregational Christian Church and was a lifelong member of the Riverbend Community, known to all for his friendly and mild mannered personality.

Joyce Lynn Stewart, 60
Joyce Lynn Stewart, age 60, passed away on Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, at her residence. She was born, March 10, 1963, to J.W. McLeroy and Irene Haynes. She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her husband, Adam Stewart; children, Jennifer Johnson, Adam J Stewart, Jamie (Kassie) Stewart and Jessica Stewart; grandchildren, Kenisha Hall, Kasidi Hall, Noah Stewart and Mason Calhoun; sisters, Rose McLeroy and Vicki Hill; brother, John McLeroy. There are no planned services at this time.

James Theodore Melton, 93
James Theodore Melton, 93, of Hanceville, Alabama, passed away on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, at Hanceville Nursing and Rehab. He was born July 28, 1930, in Chester, Mississippi. James was a faithful servant of the Lord and went into the Music Ministry after getting his Master's degree in Music from Southern Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Over a 25-year span, he served in churches in South Boston, Virginia; West Point, Georgia; Centerpoint, Alabama; Montgomery, Alabama; Huntsville, Alabama and Guntersville, Alabama. He also used his musical talents by singing with the CenturyMen choir and playing trumpet in the 313th Army Band during the Korean War. After retiring from the Music Ministry, James worked as a Financial Advisor with IDS/American Express for another 25 years until age 75. James, "PawPaw", loved his family deeply and was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. He was an avid tennis and ping pong player as well as a fisherman. While he enjoyed these pastimes greatly, he more so enjoyed sharing them enthusiastically with his children, grandchildren and friends. He also enjoyed travelling with his wife Jean, making many trips within the US and abroad to see the wonders of God's creation. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Jean Bice Melton; children, James T. (Betsy) Melton of Daphne, Alabama, Scott (Melinda) Melton of Albertville, Alabama, Tim (Wendy) Melton of Hanceville, Alabama, and Amy (Lee) Russell of Helena, Alabama; grandchildren, Trey, Alex, Carson, Robert, Jamie, Christopher, David, Anthony, Tyler, Trent and Trevor; as well as numerous step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and brother Larry (Sylvia) Melton of Columbus, Mississippi. James was preceded in death by his parents, Dewitt Arnold Melton and Margaret Pearl Weatherall Melton; sisters, Jeannette Wilson and Brenda Mehlferber. Funeral services held on Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, at 11 a.m. at Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home, Brother Jimmy Sawyer officiating; burial will follow in Elmwood Cemetery.

Gary Wayne Goggans, 67
Gary Wayne Goggans, age 67, of Double Springs, passed away, Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, at Princeton Baptist Medical Center. He was born March 6, 1956, in Cullman to Clarence and Eunice Goggans. Private burial was held at Mt. Ebron Cemetery, Double Springs. Gary is survived by his daughter, Crystal Malcom and her husband Shannon; son, Gary Goggans, Jr.; grandchildren, Jacob Goggans, Jasmine Goggans, Zack Tucker, Johnthan Goggans, and Mackenzie Tucker; and one great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Eunice Goggans; sister, Betty Jean Goggans; and cousin, Harold Goggans.

Ronald Laverne White, 83
Ronald Laverne White, age 83, of Hanceville, Alabama passed away on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023. Ronald was born in Cullman, Alabama on Nov. 30, 1940, to Luther B. and Lucille Williams White. Funeral services will be on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023, at 10 a.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Valley Springs Cemetery. Rev. Stanley Owensby will officiate services. Survivors are: Wife: Wanda White, Daughter: Catherine Ledford, Son: Kenneth (Becky) White, Sister: Gail (Billy) Day, Grandchildren: Justin (Jasmine) Thomas, Steven Reynolds, Austin White (Fiance') Cheyenne Phillips), Houston (CarrieAnn) White, Great Grandchildren: Cameron Thomas, Kaden Thomas, Grayson Thomas, Adalyn Thomas, EllieAna White. Visitation will be on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Moss Funeral Home. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

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