

The Cullman Tribune

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WEATHER
58 46
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MOSTLY CLOUDY THEN SHOWERS LIKELY

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DOMINIC STERLING

– SPORTS –

'Help the younger ones reach their full potential': Hanceville's Karys Henderson recaps junior season

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City schools achieve straight As on state report card

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Report cards are in, and Cullman City Schools scored straight A's once again.

The Alabama State Department of Education Report Card for the 2022-2023 school year found Cullman City Schools achieved increases across the board that rank the district among the best statewide.

From last year to this year, every school posted increases in overall scores. The state report card grades districts in academic achievement, academic growth, graduation rate, college and career readiness, chronic absenteeism (students missing 18 or more days of school) and progress in English language proficiency.

Cullman City Primary School increased from 91 to 95; West Ele- » PAGE 4



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman High School is seen on Friday, Dec. 15.

CCBOE recognizes exceptional employees



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Wanda Day, Samantha Surret, Anna Bagget and McKenzie Hill, teachers and aides at the Cullman County Child Development Center were recognized at December's Cullman County School Board meeting for their dedication to their students.

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — At its meeting on Dec. 12, the Cullman County Board of Education (CCBOE) recognized employees who have shown an overwhelming commitment to theirs job and dedication to the students of Cullman County Schools.

E5 Exceptional Award recipients have to be nominated for the distinction by a co-worker or student. Winners included Austin Riddle, a teacher from Good Hope High School; Rachel Campbell, a teacher from Harmony School; Elizabeth Watwood, principal of Hanceville High School; and Wanda Day, Samantha Surret, Anna Bagget and McKenzie Hill, teachers and aides at the Cullman County Child Development Center. All were recognized for the love and compassion they show toward students they interact with daily, enriching their lives and being truly "exceptional."

Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette addressed the board to boast about the student achievement rate in the newly released Alabama State Department of Education Report Card for the 2022-2023 school year. The report card is released once a year, grading schools on academic achievement, academic growth, graduation rate, college and career readiness, chronic absenteeism and progress in English language proficiency.

"Twenty-five out of 28 schools increased on their state report card this year from last year, which is very impressive," said Barnette. "As a district we did not go up a number, but we didn't go down; we stayed at » PAGE 4

'It was so magical'

Falkville hosts inaugural Christmas parade



TOWN OF FALKVILLE

Stetson Summerford and Lucy Sparkman are seen in Falkville's inaugural Christmas parade on Dec. 12. » PAGE 8

Vinemont Elementary hosts 'Christmas Around the World'



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Machiela Richard, new music teacher at Vinemont Elementary School, gives a hand signal to a group of performers at Vinemont Elementary's winter performance, "Christmas Around the World." » PAGE 2

Melvin Hastings discusses candidacy for Cullman Circuit Court Judge, Place 2



CONTRIBUTED

Melvin Hastings » PAGE 7

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 15

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 15, 2023. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Dec. 11
- assault; CR 747
- assault; CR 346
- domestic violence; CR 1269
- domestic violence; CR 201
- possession of dangerous drugs; assault; CR 346
- theft of property; Shedd Rd.
- assault; CR 1428

Dec. 12
- domestic violence; CR 1544
- harassment; CR 1114
- harassment; CR 189
- theft of property; CR 617
- domestic violence; Wesley Ave. N
- harassment; CR 1169
- domestic violence; CR 1083
- theft of property; CR 813
- theft of property; Hwy. 69 S
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1336

Dec. 13
- domestic violence; CR 1545
- burglary; Hwy. 69 N
- theft of property; CR 248
- domestic violence; CR 89
- harassment; CR 1273

ARRESTS

Dec. 11 – 13

Adcock, Sarah R.; 31
- Probation Violation- sell/distribution of dangerous drugs

Bailey, Nathan P.; 49
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

Barry, Benjamin Z.; 46
- FTA- forgery-forged instrument
- FTA- larceny/theft-theft of property-2nd degree, $1,500 - $2,500

Curvin, Randal A.; 47
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- buying/receiving stolen property
- FTA- driving while license suspended

Elms, Randy L.; 28
- FTA- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft $1,500 - $2,500

Grey, Jeremy B.; 53
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Grund, Janet F.; 45
- assault-domestic violence-3rd degree-harassing communications

Hill, Chris D.; 39
- FTA- negotiating worthless instrument

Jenkins, Reginald M.; 32
- USMS weapon offense

Jorgensen, Tyrone J.; 22
- FTA- burglary-3rd degree-domestic violence
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle (no theft or damage)
- larceny/theft-theft of property-2nd degree, $500 less than $1,500

Lamons, Christian L.; 24
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- attempting to elude police officer

Montgomery, Ly'Jontay M.; 22
- Grand Jury-kidnapping-interference with custody

Moore, Cristy M.; 44
- FTA- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft $500 less than $1,500
- FTA- illegal possession of credit/debit card

Powell, Angela Darlene L.; 56
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Prater, Katrina L.; 31
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- driving while license suspended

Ray, Christi D.; 43
- Grand Jury-larceny/theft

Robertson, William C.; 36
- Bail Jumping-2nd degree- sex offense- failure of adult sex offender to register

Shields, Tracee L.; 52
- Diversion Violation- forgery-forged instrument
- Diversion Violation- larceny/theft-theft of lost property

Smith, Charles R.; 63
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Stillwell, Colton G.; 27
- FTA- permitting dogs to run at large
- Grand Jury- burglary-residence-force
- Grand Jury- larceny/theft-shoplifting $500 less than $1,500

Watson, Ryan A.; 34
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Wilson, Joshua D.; 39
- FTA- burglary-residence-force
- FTA- sale of stolen property $1,500 or more

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Dec. 9
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $288

Dec. 13
- theft of property-4th degree; person; Ave C. SE; miscellaneous; $370
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; Markplatz Ctr. SW; damage to 2019 Hyundai Sonata; $200

Dec. 14
- theft of property-4th degree; The Foundry; 2nd Ave. SW; propane tanks; $400
- menacing; person; Olive St. SW
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $152

ARRESTS

Dec. 13 – 14

Hobbs, Justin M.; 42
- violation of court order

Ellis, Daniel A.; 43
- FTA- attempt to elude police officer
- FTA- speeding
- FTA- run red light
- FTA- driving without license
- FTA- run stop sign
- FTA- insurance violation

Overton, Celina J.; 29
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- leaving scene of accident

Alldredge, Tommy R.; 36
- DUI (controlled substance)

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Vinemont Town Council votes to replace Town vehicle

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. — At its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 12, the Vinemont Town Council voted unanimously to surplus its current vehicle – a 2010 Dodge Charger – and purchase a 2013 Chevrolet Equinox.

During its work session, the council discussed purchasing new pickleball sets for the senior citizen program.

Members also talked about an issue residents have reported with the free food pantry located near town hall. Residents have reported individuals "taking advantage of" the pantry by taking everything inside and leaving nothing from anyone else. The council discussed purchasing a security camera to dissuade this behavior.

Neither issue has been voted on. Both will be moved to a future meeting agenda.

The next Vinemont Town Council meeting will be held at Vinemont Town Hall on Jan. 9, 2024.

The work session will begin at 4 p.m., with the meeting immediately following.



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Vinemont Town Council holds its monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month; the public is invited to attend both the work sessions and meetings.

HPD chief says crime decrease due to increased visibility

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

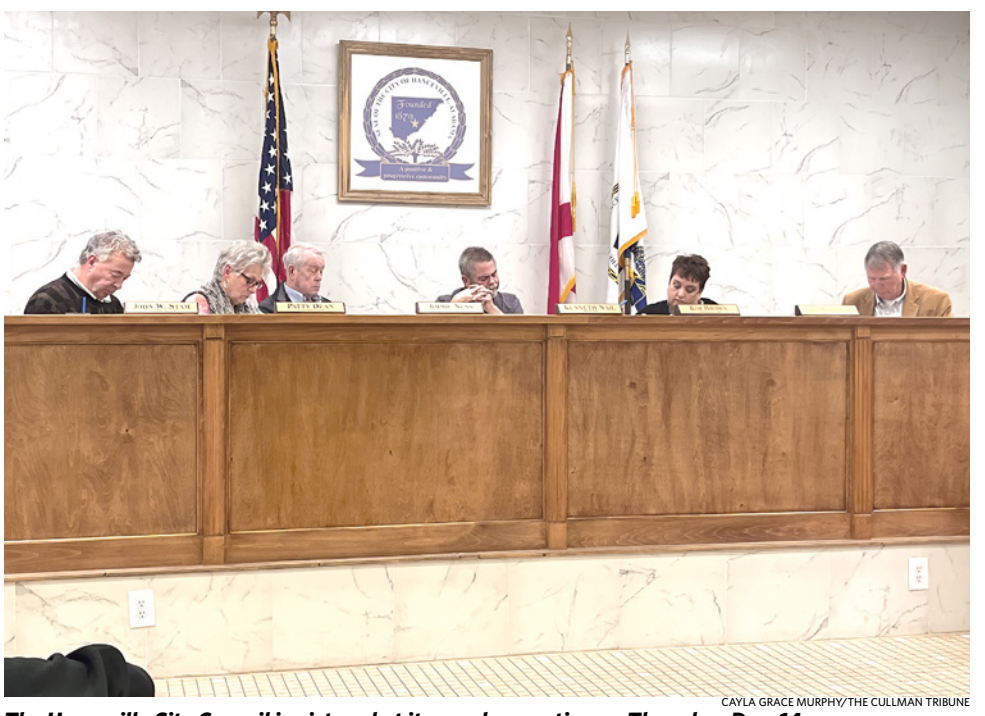
HANCEVILLE, Ala. — At its second to last meeting of 2023, the Hanceville City Council had just four items on the agenda Thursday, Dec. 14. Among them was an update from Police Chief Joshua Howell, who shared data showing key differences in crime rates in Hanceville from 2022 to 2023. Howell said he believed decreases in some crimes, particularly thefts, were due to the department increasing its visibility throughout the city.

Howell reported:
- Burglaries decreased from 21 to 15
- Harassment cases decreased from 35 to 27
- Vehicle pursuits increased from six to 15
- Vehicle crashes decreased from 22 to 15
- Vehicle thefts decreased from 14 to three
- Thefts decreased from 101 to 47

"This tells me our guys are getting out there and actually patrolling, watching our neighborhoods," said Howell. "Our guys are out there more; they're working a lot harder."

Smiled Councilman John Stam smiled, "Seems like a safe little town to live in."

In other council business:
- The council approved Resolution 771, to participate in the Weather Preparedness Tax Holiday
- The council approved the first introduction of Ordinance no. 656 SAN GIUSEPPE, LLC "Gannon" Property Rezoning
- The council approved the surplus of two vehicles for the Hanceville Police Department; vehicles are a 2022 Dodge 2500 and a 2022 Ford F150
- The council approved a request from Town Clerk Tania Wilcox to change the due date of an equity line from the 19th of the month to the 10th of the month to line up with other due dates



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Hanceville City Council is pictured at its regular meeting on Thursday, Dec. 14.

Cullman County Public Library System searching for new director

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Public Library Board recently approved the posting of the vacancy for the library director position. Josie Harrington, the library's most recent director, stepped down in November. The posting is now live on the Cullman County Public Library System's website, and qualified candidates are encouraged to apply. Board Chairman Jill Meggs spoke confidently, stating the board hoped to find a knowledgeable candidate to continue leading the library system with a positive outlook and passion for learning.

"We're excited to begin the process of interviewing candidates for the library director position," she said. "We hope to find someone with good experience who will bring a fresh and innovative perspective to our library system. We encourage anyone interested that meets the requirements to apply!"

Qualified applicants must possess a Master of Library Science degree or equivalent from a graduate program accredited by the American Library Association, and five years' experience overseeing the operations of a library system. The full job description and application requirements can be found at https://tinyurl.com/ccplsdirector. Call 256-734-2720 for more information.

Vinemont (from Front)

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. — It was standing room only on Wednesday morning, Dec. 13, in the Vinemont Elementary School gym as parents watched eagerly, filming on smartphones as students from kindergarten to second grade guided their grownups on a musical tour of Christmas traditions and songs from across the globe at the school's winter performance, "Christmas Around the World."

Students stood tall, shoulders back and chests high, to deliver performances of "Patapan" and "I Saw Three Ships a Sailing" along with classics like "Away in a Manger" for the mass of grown-ups packed into the gym.

An appearance from Santa brought the finale: a cheerful rendition of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," followed by a standing ovation and bodacious applause.

Machiela Richard, first-year music teacher at Vinemont Elementary, said the performance was a couple of months in the making, marking one last merry occasion before school let out for Christmas break.

Students practiced since early fall to perfect harmonies and learn lines.

Richard shared that with the event being one of the first student performances open to the public since the COVID-19 pandemic, the pressure was on to deliver a memorable experience not only for the viewers, but also for the student participants.

"I've been really excited about it! We've been working hard on this since October, and we've also had Veterans Day on top of that.

"They continue to amaze me with how hard they work every single day," she said, smiling and waving to students as their parents took photos and congratulated them.

Richard said the best song of the revue was "Patapan," a French Christmas or "Noel" classic.

"My first graders really got the energy up on 'Patapan,' our France song.

"They have loved it, so it's become one of my favorites because they get so excited and into it when they sing it!" she laughed.

Richard suggested the community keep their eyes on Vinemont's music program, hinting at a few big things coming in 2024, and throwing out a bid for more performances.

"Keep watching us, we're going to do some really cool things in the spring with our older grades. And, any time anyone needs a performance, feel free to call Vinemont Elementary!" she exclaimed.

"We definitely want to show off these kids because they've worked so hard, and they're so excited about it."

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. 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. 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. 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

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 16, 2023

Altar Society Christmas fun



BARBARA RAGSDALE

Members of the Altar Society of Sacred Heart Church of Jesus enjoyed their annual Christmas party, enjoying food specialties of the season! The group played a Christmas Bingo game, using edible candy kisses as markers – needless to say some folks ran out of their bingo markers!

Report card (from Front)

mentary increased from 91 last year to 94 this year; East Elementary School increased from 94 last year to 98 this year; Cullman Middle School increased from 92 last year to 96 this year; Cullman High School increased from 86 last year to 91 this year; and the overall system grade increased from 91 last year to 94 this year.

"Our teachers and students work extremely hard day in and day out. I am so happy for their work to be recognized through these exceptional state report card grades," Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff said.

"The greatest percentage of the parameters used to calculate these grades come from academic performance and academic growth which takes place in the classrooms on each campus.

"Our employees take their calling seriously — all credit for this achievement goes to them."

Based on the criteria, a numerical grade and corresponding letter grade is assigned to each public school in Alabama. School report cards are used to determine what level of support schools and school systems are to receive from the Alabama Department of Education.

Cullman High School Principal Allison Tuggle also credited the educators in the classroom for Cullman High's improvement, noting their efforts have made a massive impact on students over the past year.

"The academic success Cullman High School has achieved over the past year is a credit to the hard work of our classroom teachers," she said.

"Last year when we were given our report card grade we knew we had room to grow, and our faculty and staff worked together to demonstrate outstanding commitment and skill in guiding students to academic success, as reflected in the 2023 report. Their efforts are truly making a difference in shaping bright futures for all our students."

Cullman City Primary School Principal Elizabeth Shaddix echoed those sentiments, noting the school's approach to professional development and community engagement is critical to its success.

"Cullman City Primary School continues to have outstanding success in our students' academic achievement.

"Our scores are a reflection of the dedicated work of our teachers each day.

"We are thankful for the committed support of our parents and community," Shaddix said.

"Our focus will continue to be on providing teachers with professional development on the implementation of the Science of Reading as well as focusing on the importance of both student and staff attendance."

Cullman City Schools full categorical breakdown showed a 90.46 grade in academic achievement; 100 in academic growth; 93.65 in graduation rate; and 90.87 in college and career readiness. The district was in the single digits for chronic absenteeism (a scale where you want a lower number), with just 9.71 (down from 13.78 the prior year), and showed 51.16 progress in English language proficiency, improving from 47.5 the prior year.

Find out more at https://reportcard.alsde.edu.

CCBOE (from Front)

an 89. We're proud of all of the hard work that our students, teachers and administrators are doing; they've really got some great things going on."

Find out more about the state report card at https://reportcard.alsde.edu.

In other business, the CCBOE:

Recognized the resignations of:
- Janet Mattox
- Felicia Chambers
- Ryan Brewer
- Scott Graham
- Kayla Blackmon

Approved the following leaves of absence:
- Savannah Cofer
- Canangnit Calvert
- Taylor Brown

Approved the following voluntary transfers:
- Michael Nelson
- Emily Brown

Approved the following appointments:
- Joy Mueller Winchester as Systemwide Behavior Coach/Interventionist
- Caragan Rice as Bus Driver for CDC
- Angela Robertson as Bus Driver for CDC
- John Griggs as CNP Maintenance Technician
- Matthew Griggs as CNP Maintenance Technician
- Paul Woodall as CATA HVAC instructor
- Hailey Kilpatrick as Good Hope Elementary Teacher
- Destiny Lowe as Good Hope Elementary Teacher
- Troy Taylor as Assistant Principal at Hanceville Elementary
- Marissa Flanigan-Lee as Hanceville Middle School teacher
- Warren Strickland as Holly Pond Elementary Bus Driver
- Tess Kent as SPED Teacher Holly Pond Elementary
- Julie Ray as Bus driver at Parkside Elementary
- Michelle Carpenter as Part time Intervention at Welti Elementary
- Eric Vest temporary West point Middle School Teacher

Approved the following substitute teachers:
- Melanie Bentley
- Jennifer Byrom
- Jeffrey Taylor
- Samantha Burns
- Tamara Bailey
- Autumn Barnett
- Alaina Cagle
- Amanda Cockrell
- Amanda Dockins
- Amber Elliot
- Candance Freeman
- Wesley Freeman
- Jason Hadley
- Gracie Hamby
- Candace Harbison
- Beverly Harper
- Laura Herring
- Madison Hill
- Valerie Hitt
- Tailer Johnson
- Kinsye Jones
- Dereck Keen
- Celia King
- Kathy McDowell
- Timi Meyer
- Taylor Miller
- Amber Morgan
- Emily Parker
- Amy Philbeck
- Tucker Philbeck
- Saadya Pounders
- Bobbi Putman
- April Runge
- Debra Rust
- Kerry Silvers
- Brooke Sinyard
- Carol Smith
- Rodney Spicer
- Rebecca Stephens
- Misti Sterling
- Tiffany Swann
- Kaitlin Watson
- Jo Wheeler
- Sandy Widner
- Selena Wilkins
- Stephanie Will
- Kelsey Wooten

- Approved Angela Lane as a Long-Term Certified Substitute

Approved the contract and salary changes for:
- Samantha Surrett
- Michelle Pender
- Ryan Brewer
- Todd Greenlee
- Amanda Freeman
- John Farley

- Approved request from Cold Springs High School to pay Cantrice Voce $2,000 for working the basketball gate for the 2023-2024 season, paid by local school funds.

- Approved request from Cold Springs High School to pay Treasure Tubbs $900 for additional band duties during the 2023 season, paid by local school funds.

- Approved request from Good Hope High School to pay Williams Cody Weaver and Shelba Edge each $100 per night to clean the gym after home basketball games, paid by local school funds.

- Approved request from Good Hope High School to pay Lisa Holt $500 for assisting with archery team, paid by local school funds.

- Approved request from Holly Pond Elementary School to pay Tate Brown $500 for assisting with the boys basketball team, paid by local schools funds.

- Approved request from Vinemont High School to pay Roy Todd Johnson $2,000 for 2023-2024 Athletic Director, paid by local school funds.

Approved the following out-of-state field trip requests:
- Fairview High School Cheer Team- Orlando, FL Feb. 8, 2024
- West Point High School Scholars Bowl Team- Rosemont, IL April 4, 2024

- Approved Oct 2023 Financial Statements

- Approved Oct 2023 Bills and Salaries

Approved request of change order #6- West Point High shared Cafeteria Addition & Renovation:
- Sawcut, remove existing floor drains and cleanout, patch, and install two (2) floor drains and one (1) 4' cleanout. -Increase: $6,267.00

Approved request of change order #7- West Point High Shared Cafeteria Addition & Renovation:
- Change in HVAC due to conflict with duct previously installed. - Increase: $3,444.00

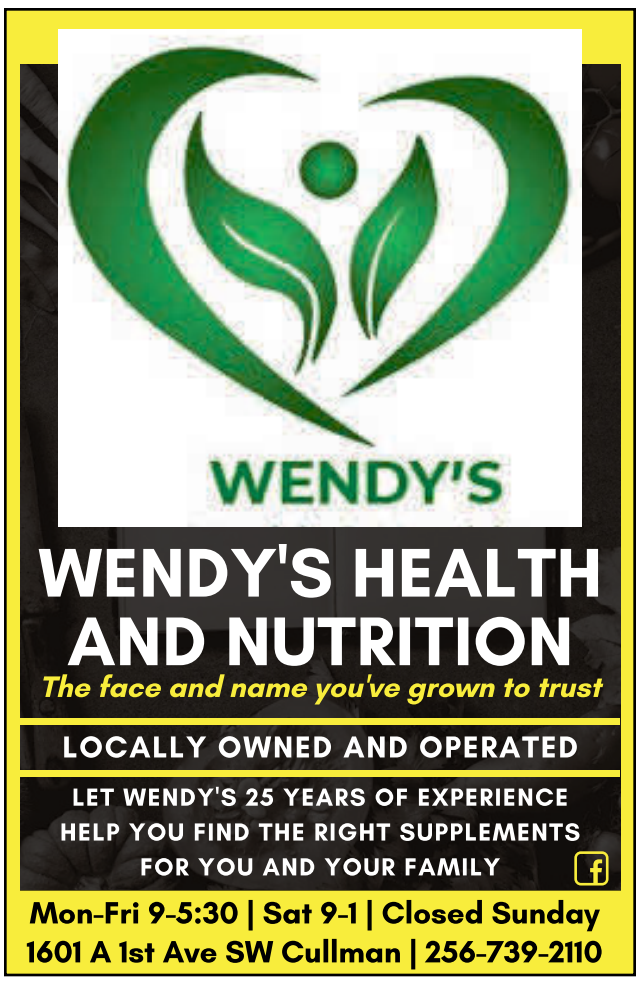
Approved request of change order #1- Hanceville Elementary New Addition:
- Final close-out reconciliation, includes all changes and upgrades throughout the project Increase: $103,615.79

- Approved Maintenance Department's bid for $2,599,000 for renovations and additions at Fairview High School.

Closing the meeting, Barnette delivered his Superintendent's Report, relaying and reiterating important dates for individuals and parents in the county school system.

- Dec. 19- end of first semester- students dismissed at 1 p.m.
- Christmas Break- Dec 20- Jan 3 (12 month returns Jan 2)
- Jan. 8 -Spring Sports Media Day
- Jan. 12_ Report Cards go home
- Jan. 15- Schools and Central Office closed

The next CCBOE meeting will be Thursday Jan. 18, 2024, the CCBOE meeting room. The work session begins at 3:30 p.m., with the meeting immediately following.



‘It helps them be lovers of reading’

Library hosts weekly storytime

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Heather Allen, library aide and storytime instructor, encourages children to play with a felt mouse at the library’s weekly storytime hosted Tuesday, Dec. 12.

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Public Library offers a variety of programming aimed at readers of all interests. For those who aren’t quite old enough to be readers on their own, the library extends a sincere invitation to preschoolers and toddlers to join in every Tuesday morning at 10 for an engaging story hour with plenty of opportunity to captivate and participate.

Said Heather Allen, library aide and storytime instructor, the program is an opportunity to familiarize young children with the concept of the library as well as teach invaluable soft skills like listening, sitting still, sharing and teamwork. By adding in educational elements typically seen in a preschool setting, Allen makes sure attendees are engaged and leave the library feeling positive.

“One of the things I try to do with my storytimes is a lot of educational concepts. Depending on the stories, I try to involve something extra,” she explained, mentioning that musical and physical activity components are often included at the readings.

Keeping a toddler or preschooler’s attention for longer than five minutes can be a challenge, but Allen has adapted her approach over the years through her experience of homeschooling and teaching in a public setting, allowing for a smooth flow and happy experience for all.

“If I’m losing them, then I go ahead and move on,” she laughed, noting that several children have become “regulars” of weekly storytime, and the library always welcomes new faces.

Allen suggested to those grown-ups who are considering attending, but might be apprehensive about how their children will behave, to give children a chance to check out their surroundings first.

“Let them explore first, then they’re good to sit!” she laughed. If your toddler or preschooler is a busy-body, don’t worry – Allen provides plenty of opportunities to get all those wiggles and giggles out throughout the story hour.

Kristina Mackbin, whose daughter Charlie is one of those aforementioned “regulars,” said while it can be intimidating starting new things for children, the library is intent on fostering a kind environment where kids feel welcome.

“The people who volunteer to do this are super nice,” she observed.

“We bring her (Charlie) up here almost every week! There’s always something fun.

”They normally do books and a craft, and this time we had sweet treats.”

She pointed to Charlie nibbling away at a chocolate chip cookie.

Allen said getting young children familiarized with books and other children their age is crucial to help nurture a love of reading, and of learning at large.

“It helps them be lovers of reading. It helps them be lifelong patrons of the library, and having these early experiences with their families really helps them retain the love of reading,” she said.

The next scheduled storytime hour is Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 10 a.m. at the Cullman County Public Library located at 200 Clark St. NE.

To stay up to date on future programs hosted by the library, visit www.facebook.com/cullmancountypubliclibrarysystem or stop by the library to pick up a schedule.















PREP VOLLEYBALL

'Help the younger ones reach their full potential': Hanceville's Karys Henderson recaps junior season

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Hanceville's volleyball team improved a lot this season and junior Karys Henderson was one of several players that put together a solid year. She talked about this past season, what all she learned, what it was like to play with a great group of girls and what she learned from the seniors.

"This was the best year that I have experienced so far. As a team, we put in hours of practice, and I think that helped us improve so much throughout the season. I learned some new skills, discipline, and how to work with girls that I haven't played with before," Henderson said. "We had our ups and down this season, but ultimately, we came together and worked hard as a team to accomplish big things. I'm so thankful to have gotten the chance to become friends with all of my teammates. They taught me how to be encouraging, reliable, and confident. It was great to watch our seniors use their skills and lead our team. All in all, I have some big shoes to fill. One of the seniors, my good friend, Charity, helped me in becoming confident while playing. I'm going to miss being on the team with all of our seniors. From this year's seniors, I learned how to make every practice and game count. They led by example in being big encouragers on our team. They have given all of us guidance on how to have determination for this upcoming season."

Karys felt very blessed to get to play under first-year head coach Morgan Hammock and has already learned so much from her so far. She showed a lot of improvement from the past few seasons to now.

"Having Ms. Hammock as my coach this year was such a blessing. She cares about all of our girls on and off the court, while being a Godly influence in our lives. Playing for coach Hammock led to a year of much growth, and I can't wait for our team to keep growing with her. One of the most important skills that she taught me was how to have a positive mindset throughout the game. She always encouraged us to set goals for ourselves individually and as a team," she said. "From the past few seasons to now, I have improved the most with having confidence, whether that involves serving or passing the ball. I have my teammates and coach to thank for their support in helping me to become a better player."

She was so happy to see the team improve so much from last season to now, and that will help them out a lot going into next year. She, along with the rest of the team, are already putting in the work in the offseason as they get ready for next season and talked about the goals for the 2024 season.

"Our team transformed this season. The growth has been tremendous, and I think it has shown through our determination to win games. I am excited for next year, and we are already practicing and putting in the work during the offseason. The goal for this time in between is to improve in many aspects.

"Some of these are strength training, volleyball skills, and endurance during games. Our team is going from workouts to training every day to prepare for next season," she said.

"A couple of my individual goals for my senior year are to become a leader and a well-rounded player. I want to push myself to be the best that I can for my team. Our focus for next season is to win more games and the county championship."

Karys thinks that the Lady Bulldogs will be a team that will be special to watch next year and talked about one of her biggest role models growing up.



DOMINIC STERLING

Hanceville's Karys Henderson

"Our team is going to be special to watch next season, because there will be so much growth, and it is already happening right now.

"The girls on the team have gone through a great deal of experiences with one another. We are all working together to succeed this upcoming year. Our dynamic will definitely be one to try and beat," she said.

"One of my biggest role models is Marley Wakefield, who is currently playing volleyball for Wallace State Community College. She has invested her time and effort into our program. She inspires me to work hard to achieve my goals. She has helped me immensely. This past year with Marley was very beneficial for me to become the player that I am right now."

She talked about the best advice that someone ever gave her, and how important it is to be a role model for the younger girls that are watching her play.

"The best advice that I have received is from my dad. He always reminds me to put the Lord first, even in a volleyball game," she said. "I would say that being a role model for the younger girls is among the most important things. It not only encourages them, but it builds a bond that lasts for years to come for our program. I can speak for all of us upcoming seniors and say that we are ready to be leaders and help the younger ones reach their full potential."

Tigers soar past UNC Asheville 87-62 in Rocket City Classic

Greg Ostendorf
AU Athletics

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Playing away from home again, Auburn picked up right where it left off Saturday with another impressive performance Wednesday night to beat UNC Asheville 87-62 at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

Offense carried the day against Indiana on Saturday. This time, it was the defense that took over midway through the first half and early in the second half, helping the Tigers pull away.

"We turned up the defense," Auburn head coach Bruce Pearl said. "When you play like that and you play that hard, it's the ultimate sign of being unselfish. I thought we got some offense from our defense. We came out of the start of the second half, executed better and really took control of the game."

The second unit, specifically, stepped up for Auburn on Wednesday.

Tre Donaldson scored a career-high 15 points off the bench. Chad Baker-Mazara knocked down three 3-pointers in a three-minute span during the second half and finished with 11 points, all in the second half. He also led the team with a career-high seven rebounds. And K.D. Johnson and Dylan Cardwell provided a spark on both ends of the court.

"We take pride in that role," Donaldson said. "Just being the energy guys coming off the bench and not allowing a drop-off from the first group to the second group. We take pride in it. Me, K.D. and Chad, we're just energy guys. It's just us being ourselves."

As soon as Johnson checked into the game, he got a steal and took it the other way for a one-handed dunk. On the very next possession, Cardwell threw down an alley-oop from Donaldson. The duo scored 10 straight Auburn points after checking in. Both finished with six points, contributing to the 51 points scored off the bench for Auburn – a season high.

While all 11 players in the rotation scored for the Tigers, Donaldson and Baker-Mazara were the only two to score in double figures.

"I think that just speaks on the depth of our team," said junior guard Denver Jones, who added nine points in what was a homecoming of sorts. "I feel like it was a great team win. Once we locked in on defense, we started controlling the tempo a little bit."

As a team, Auburn shot 53.1 percent from the floor. More impressively, the Tigers only turned the ball over seven times. After tying the school record with just three turnovers Saturday, Auburn has now gone back-to-back games with single-digit turnovers for the first time since they did it against Iowa and Houston in last year's NCAA Tournament.

"We're just taking care of the ball," Donaldson said. "Making the right plays, not doing too much, not doing too little. Just making the right basketball plays."

But it was the defense that ultimately turned Wednesday's game. Trailing 21-19 midway through the first half, the Tigers went on a 20-3 run and held UNC Asheville to just eight points over the final 9:30 to take a 39-27 lead into the locker room at halftime.

It was more of the same in the second half as Auburn held the Bulldogs to just one field goal over a six-minute span during what was a 16-7 run to make it 79-48 – the largest lead of the game. The run included five points from Lior Berman.

For Auburn, it was the third straight game away from home and the sixth this season, but there were plenty of Auburn fans in the building to cheer on the Tigers.

"I appreciated all the support," Pearl said. "We've been trying to get to Huntsville for a few years now. We've got some of the best Auburn fans in Huntsville. We really do. It was great."

Auburn (7-2) will be back home Sunday for a showdown against USC in Neville Arena. It will be the first of four straight home games for the Tigers. Tipoff is set for noon CT.

UNC ASHEVILLE POST-GAME NOTES

• Tre Donaldson led Auburn with a career-high 15 points on 6-of-8 field goals and 3-of-4 from the free-throw line to go with two assists in the win over UNC Asheville. He scored in double figures in three straight games for the first time of his career. Over the stretch, Donaldson has averaged 12.3 points and 3.3 assists and committed a total of three turnovers.

• Chad Baker-Mazara scored 11 points, all in the second half, and added a career-high seven rebounds. He was 3-of-3 from behind the 3-point line and 2-of-2 from the free throw line against UNC Asheville. Baker-Mazara has made 13 straight free throws.

• Auburn is off to a 7-2 start to the season. It is the sixth time in the last seven seasons the Tigers have started 7-2 or better.

• Eleven Tigers scored in a game for the second time this season and the first time since doing so against Alabama A&M on Nov. 21.

• Wednesday night's game against UNC Asheville was Auburn's sixth game away from Neville Arena in the first nine games of the season. The Tigers are 4-2 in those games.

• After tying a program record with just three turnovers against Indiana on Dec. 9, Auburn committed just seven turnovers Wednesday night against UNC Asheville. It was the first time the Tigers have committed single-digit turnovers in consecutive games since last year's NCAA Tournament when they had just seven turnovers against Iowa in the first round and followed it up with only eight turnovers against Houston in the second round. Auburn has had three single-digit turnover totals in the last four games and averaged just 7.0 turnovers during that span.

• Auburn set season highs with 51 bench points, 50 points in the paint and 23 fast-break points against UNC Asheville. The Tigers' previous season highs were 49 bench points against Alabama A&M, 42 points in the paint against Virginia Tech and Appalachian State, and 20 fast-break points against Alabama A&M and Indiana.



ZACH BLAND/AU ATHLETICS

Auburn defeated UNC Asheville in Wednesday night's Rocket City Classic in Huntsville.

• AU shot 65.5 percent (19-of-29) from the floor in the second half, including 5-of-10 from long range. It marked a new season high for field-goal percentage in a half for the Tigers, topping their previous best of 54.8 percent (17-of-31) in the first half against St. Bonaventure.

• Auburn was 12-of-15 from the free throw line against UNC Asheville. The Tigers are 32-of-38 (84.2 percent) from the charity stripe over the last two games, after going 20-of-23 from the line in their win over Indiana.

• AU recorded 19 assists on 34 made field goals against UNC Asheville. It is the sixth time in nine games this season the Tigers have had at least 19 assists and they have had at least 17 assists in all but one game. For the season, Auburn has assisted on 67.1 percent (173-of-258) of its field goals.

• The Tigers committed a season-low 16 fouls against UNC Asheville. Auburn's previous low was 17 fouls against Alabama A&M and St. Bonaventure.





SEC releases 2024 Auburn football schedule

AU Athletics
Contributor

AUBURN, Ala. — Auburn welcomes Oklahoma to Jordan-Hare Stadium to conclude a season-opening five-game homestand to start the 2024 football season, the Southeastern Conference announced Wednesday.

The Tigers take on the Sooners Sept. 28 on the Plains during Oklahoma's SEC debut season.

Auburn hosts Alabama A&M Aug. 31 in Kickoff on The Plains before welcoming California on Sept. 7 and New Mexico on Sept. 14.

The Tigers play their conference opener Sept. 21 vs. Arkansas before hosting Oklahoma, which along with Texas joins the SEC in 2024.

After five straight home games, the Tigers head to Athens, Georgia, on Oct. 5 to play Georgia in the Deep South's Oldest Rivalry.

After the first of two open dates on Oct. 12, Auburn plays at Missouri Oct. 19 and at Kentucky Oct. 26.

The Tigers returns to Jordan-Hare Nov. 2 to host Vanderbilt before a second open date on Nov. 9. Auburn hosts Louisiana Monroe Nov. 16 and Texas A&M Nov. 23 before concluding the season in Tuscaloosa Nov. 30 in the Iron Bowl. Missing from the 2024 schedule are longtime Western Division rivals LSU, Ole Miss and Mississippi State as the SEC transitions to a 16-time format without divisions.

2024 AUBURN FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

- Aug. 31 - Alabama A&M
- Sept. 7 - California
- Sept. 14 - New Mexico
- Sept. 21 - Arkansas
- Sept. 28 - Oklahoma
- Oct. 5 - at Georgia
- Oct. 12 - *Open Date*
- Oct. 19 - at Missouri
- Oct. 26 - at Kentucky
- Nov. 2 - Vanderbilt
- Nov. 9 - *Open Date*
- Nov. 16 - ULM
- Nov. 23 - Texas A&M
- Nov. 30 - at Alabama

Alabama's 2024 football schedule released

Josh Maxson
UA Athletics

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — University of Alabama football fans can put the 2024 schedule in ink, as the Southeastern Conference released its slate of games for upcoming season. The Crimson Tide is set to compete in 12 contests during the regular season, including five on the road and seven in Tuscaloosa.

For the first time since 2006, Alabama will start with two straight home games, hosting Western Kentucky to open the season on Aug. 31, followed by a visit from USF on Sept. 7.

The Crimson Tide will then travel to Wisconsin to take on the Badgers at Camp Randall Stadium on Sept. 14, the first part of a home-and-home series between the two schools. It will be Alabama's second trip to Madison, 96 years after their first and only trip. UW won the 1928 game 15-0. The only other meeting between the two schools was a 35-17 victory for UA at AT&T Stadium in Dallas to open the 2015 campaign.

After the first of two open dates on the 2024 slate on Sept. 21, Alabama welcomes Georgia to Bryant-Denny Stadium on Sept. 28. The game is slated for a 6:30 p.m. kickoff on ABC. The Crimson Tide boast an 8-2 record against Georgia in the Nick Saban era with four wins in the SEC Championship Game and a victory in the 2021 CFP National Championship.

Alabama will then take its first SEC roadtrip of the season, venturing to Nashville to face Vanderbilt on Oct. 5. A home game with South Carolina follows on Oct. 12, before the Third Saturday in October tradition continues on Oct. 19 with a trip to Knoxville to take on Tennessee. October closes out as the Crimson Tide hosts Missouri on the 26.

Flipping to the month of November, UA will have its second open date of the season followed by a trip to LSU on Nov. 9. An out-of-conference game against Mercer is then slated for Nov. 16 inside Bryant-Denny Stadium.

Alabama will finish the 2024 regular season with a visit to Oklahoma on Nov. 23 followed by the season finale with Auburn in the Iron Bowl at Bryant-Denny on Nov. 30. The Tide will make their first trip to Norman, Okla., since 2002 and play the Sooners for the first time since a 45-34 victory in the Orange Bowl at the end of the 2018 season. Alabama will then be looking for their fifth straight win in the Iron Bowl.

The 2024 SEC Championship Game is set for Dec. 7 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.


UA ATHLETICS

2024 ALABAMA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

- Aug. 31 - Western Kentucky
- Sept. 7 - USF
- Sept. 14 - at Wisconsin
- Sept. 21 - Open Date
- Sept. 28 - Georgia*
- Oct. 5 - at Vanderbilt*
- Oct. 12 - South Carolina
- Oct. 19 - at Tennessee*
- Oct. 26 - Missouri*
- Nov. 2 - Open Date
- Nov. 9 - at LSU*
- Nov. 16 - Mercer
- Nov. 23 - at Oklahoma*
- Nov. 30 - Auburn*

Get all the latest information on the team by following @AlabamaFTBL on X and Facebook and AlabamaFBL on Instagram.

General athletic news can also be found at UA_Athletics on X and Instagram and AlabamaAthletics on Facebook.

Hastings (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — With 22 years of trial experience and currently serving as president of the Cullman County Bar Association, Melvin Hastings discussed his candidacy for Cullman Circuit Court Judge, Place 2 with The Tribune.

Hastings said he is driven by a strong belief in constitutional principles. "I am a Conservative Christian that believes strongly in our constitution and the importance of protecting it in every way," Hastings stated. He emphasized the significance of the First and Second Amendments in safeguarding freedoms and liberties that define the United States.

Of his candidacy, he expressed what he said is his commitment to maintaining safety and justice within the community. "I have lived in Cullman County my entire life and have enjoyed feeling safe. I want my children to experience the same Cullman County that I grew up in," he said. Hastings claimed there has been an increase in violent crimes and said there is a backlog of criminal cases. He said he plans to expedite these cases through the system, focusing on crimes against people and property and ensuring restitution for victims.

When questioned about his transition from private practice to public service, Hastings reflected on his firsthand experiences with crime.

"I have tried multiple cases at the Circuit Court level. I have also been the victim of numerous theft crimes," he explained. This personal and professional background, he said, equips him to effectively tackle the purported increase in crime while protecting the rights of the accused.

Hastings stated he believes his extensive courtroom experience differentiates him from other candidates. "Courtroom trial experience is necessary since the job of circuit judge is to preside over the trials and to make the rulings on evidence and to give instructions to the juries," he remarked.

Sharing his personal journey, Hastings said, "I attended college at Wallace State in Hanceville where I became licensed as a paramedic, working at Cullman Emergency Medical Services and teaching EMS at Wallace State while attending college at UAB where I obtained a bachelor of science degree in 1996." He also highlighted his family life and his involvement in agriculture, underscoring what he said is his deep connection to the Cullman community.

In his bid for circuit court judge, Hastings said, he brings a combination of legal expertise, personal experiences with crime and a profound connection to the community he aims to serve. His vision for a safer and more just Cullman County is central to his campaign as the election draws closer in 2024.

The 32nd Judicial Circuit Court Judge, Place 2 seat is currently held by the Honorable Martha Williams, who will not be seeking re-election.

Hastings will face fellow Republican Emily Niezer Johnston in the 2024 Republican Primary Election, which will take place Tuesday, March 4. The 2024 General Election is Nov. 5.



CONTRIBUTED

Students completing the Diagnostic Imaging program at Wallace State were recognized at pinning ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 14.



CONTRIBUTED

The first cohort of students to complete the Radiation Therapy pathway in the Wallace State Diagnostic Imaging program were recognized at pinning ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 14.

WSCC: More than 30 complete Diagnostic Imaging, Radiation Therapy programs

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — More than 30 students were recognized Thursday during the pinning ceremony for the Diagnostic Imaging program, including the first cohort of students completing the Radiation Therapy option.

"We gather to celebrate not just the end of an educational journey but the beginning of a transformative career," said Jim Malone, director of the Diagnostic Imaging program and Assistant Dean of Health Science. "Each one of you has embarked on a path that is marked by dedication, perseverance, and a commitment to excellence. As the program director, it fills me with immense pride to stand before such a talented and driven group of individuals.

"The journey you have undertaken in Diagnostic Imaging is not just about acquiring technical skills; it is about embracing a calling to make a profound difference in the lives of others," Malone added. "In this rapidly advancing field, your role goes beyond capturing images; it extends to becoming the compassionate and skilled professionals who bring clarity to the complexities of health.

"Today, as you receive your pins, remember that this symbol represents more than just a piece of metal. It symbolizes the knowledge you've gained, the challenges you've overcome, and the growth you've experienced. This pin signifies your commitment to the highest standards of patient care, ethics, and professionalism."

Radiation Therapy instructor Leesa Cordell said this first class will hold a special place in her heart.

"I am deeply honored, I am deeply humbled to be able to be on this journey with you guys and to have watched you through it," she said. "To provide guidance and support for your growth and success."

Several students from each discipline were presented with awards.

From Radiation Therapy, Nick Pharo of Quinton received the Clinical Excellence Award and Monica Childers of Cullman received the Academic Excellence Award.

From the Diagnostic Imaging class, Nicole Hyde of Huntsville received the Clinical Excellence Award and Amy Huett of Birmingham received the Academic Excellence Award. Hyde was also the first recipient of a scholarship provided by Athens Limestone Hospital. As part of the scholarship, Hyde agreed to take the CT (computed tomography) registry in addition to the X-ray registry and work at the facility for two years.

The Diagnostic Imaging program at Wallace State offers pathways in Diagnostic Imaging and Radiation Therapy. The program accepts applications for entry each fall from March 1 to June 1. For more information, visit www.wallacestate.edu/Diagnostic-Imaging.

WSCC: More than 40 complete Sonography program

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — More than 40 students were recognized Thursday at the pinning ceremony for the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at Wallace State Community College. The program pinned 17 students completing its Cardiovascular pathway and 24 from its Abdomen/Obstetrics pathways.

In marking their accomplishment, it was noted that more than 30 of the students passed certification exams and that almost all the students have secured employment in their field before graduating.

Program director April Sutherland described the Class of 2023 as determined.

"I feel you all can kind of resonate with that word, because that's something each and every one of you have in common," she said. "You've been determined to make it through an extremely difficult program.

"It's a huge accomplishment to be receiving this tiny little pin that we're going to give you," Sutherland added.

"Because what this pin signifies is your ability to push through. To push through 1,050 hours of clinic where you helped your first patient.

"The pin represents all the lectures, all the studying...and no matter how hard you may try to forget, this pin represents that you took and passed acoustic physics.

"But while this pin does indicate successful competition it does not the indicate the end," Sutherland continued. "It means that you have made it to the beginning. The beginning of a career in healthcare, a career that will help you provide for yourself, provide for your family while taking care of others. This pin means that you have earned the right to be called a sonographer."

Clinical Coordinator Jorden Flack used a little fortune cookie wisdom in her address to the students.

"A few weeks ago, I opened a fortune cookie that said there's no education like adversity," she said. "A lot of you have already faced adversity in your life. Some of you have experienced extreme adversity in this program. And the future will always hold adversity, but as long as you continue to have an open mind and learn from that adversity, there's no doubt you all will be fantastic, life-saving sonographers."

Emily Crowe, president of the Abdomen/OB class, echoed the sentiments of Sutherland and Flack in her address to her classmates.

"So much hard work and determination has gotten us to where we are today," said Crowe, of Helena.

"What was once a dream is now a dream come true. We've invested our hearts in this challenge and had some fun along the way, but the road to success was definitely not an easy one. It never is. We overcame sharp turns and steep hills, but we never gave up. You should all be proud of yourselves."

Using a favorite quote, Crowe ended her speech reminding her classmates the journey was worth it. "Beginnings are usually scary, and endings are usually sad, but it's everything in between that makes it all worth living," she said.

Sam Almon of Florence, the president of the Cardiovascular class said, "I know that sometimes it got difficult and sometimes it may have seemed impossible, but I think looking back none of us would change the difficulty of the program."

Awards were presented to several students near the conclusion of the ceremony.

From the Cardiovascular class, Trudeau Livaudais of Tuscaloosa was presented the Clinical Excellence Award and Emma Barker of Jasper was named the Valedictorian.

From the Abdomen/OB class, Hannah Ashley of Cullman was presented with the Clinical Excellence Award and Emily Cheatwood of Cullman was named the Valedictorian. Additionally, Katie Goolsby of Lakeview and Carys Stubbs of Pelham received Clinical Excellence Awards from UAB, one of the program's clinical sites.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at Wallace State offers pathways in Abdomen/Vascular, Obstetrics, and Cardiovascular. The program accepts applications for entry each fall from March 1 to June 1. For more information, visit www.wallacestate.edu/Sonography.



CONTRIBUTED

More than 40 students were recognized at the Diagnostic Medical Sonography pinning ceremony for the class of 2023.

Falkville (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

FALKVILLE, Ala. — The town of Falkville held its first Christmas parade Tuesday night, and saw a huge turnout.

Mayor Ken Winkles said the event was far bigger and better than he could have imagined.

"It was amazing," Winkles smiled. "I am so grateful to the community for always showing up and supporting all the town events. Thank you to all who made it a great success."

Planning for the parade was executed by Winkles, Robert Summerford, Brooke Jones, Savannah Jenkins and Danielle Hayes.

Summerford said the parade was born from a dream he wanted for the town.

"I have always loved parades and hated that we didn't have one in Falkville," he shared.

"Last year at the Christmas in the Park event, I mentioned to the mayor I wanted to do something like this to help our town and spread the Christmas spirit.

"Little did I know it would turn into an event of this magnitude!"

Police Chief Aaron Burgess helped map the parade route and his department, along with the Town's Public Works employees, handled the large event without mishap.

"I had a vision and hopes of having about 15 floats and what it turned into is more than I could ever imagine for our first Christmas parade," Hayes said.

In all, there were 28 floats, six golf carts, 47 vehicles, 15 tractors, 30 horses, the Falkville High School Marching Band and Boy Scout Troop 336.

Winners included Steve Bennett (golf cart), Jacynthia Moses (cars) and Austin Roy (horses).

"I looked at Ally (Summerford) and Brooke (Jones) when we were coming by Jack McCaig Park and said, 'I'm not even a (native) Falkville girl, but I've got tears in my eyes because of how proud I am with the turnout,'" Jenkins said.

"It was so magical with all the lights, floats and the trees at the park."

"Our inaugural Christmas parade was celebrated all night by our community," Falkville Town Clerk Dawn Estes said.

"It is a blessing to bring people together, to see the smiles and good cheer!"

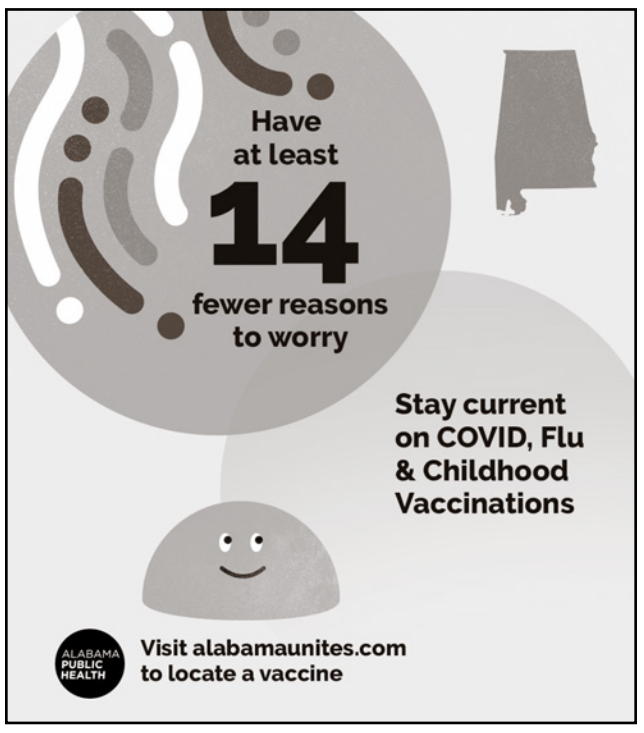
Wallace State Community College-Hanceville has the following open position:

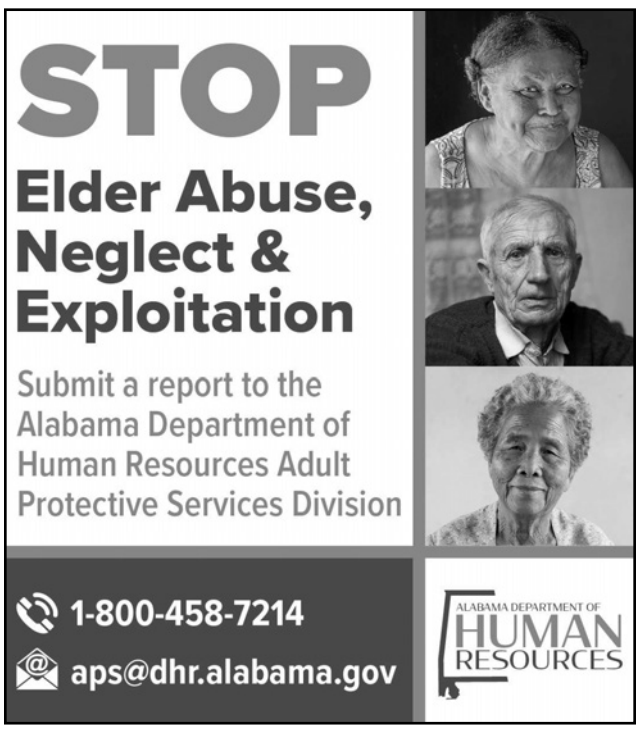
Testing Coordinator

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Department at 256-352-8029.

Wallace State Community College is an equal opportunity employer. EOE









LEGALS

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicle, 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:

2021 white GMC U Haul, Vin#1GDY7RF79M1241901

If not claimed, this vehicle will be sold for towing, repair and work done. Sale date is Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. Call Vance Johnson at 256-339-5752.

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on October 15, 2010 by William Bryan Jones, a single man, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book MTG 1690, Page 782 in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the following described property will be sold at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door of said County, in Cullman, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on January 8, 2024:

All that tract or parcel of land tying and being Lot 5 of the Redivision of Lot 18 of Saddlebrook Estates and unrecorded redivision, more particularly described as follows Commencing at an iron pin found at point purported to be the southeast corner of Lot 18 of Saddlebrook Estates as recorded in Plat Book 7, Pages 151 :& 152 in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama. Being more particularly described as follows: thence North.89 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds West 31.44 feet to a point on the West margin of Neptune Drive; thence along the West margin of said drive North 3 degrees 57 minutes 24 seconds West 308.71 feet to a point on the South margin of Mercury Drive; thence along the South margin of said drive as follows: thence North 88 degrees 24 minutes 31 seconds west 279.02 feet to a point; thence North 87 degrees 51 minutes 39 seconds West 15.09 feet to a point, the point of beginning for the property herein described; thence leaving the. south margin of said drive South 4 degrees 11 minutes 17 seconds West 147 68 feet to point thence South 68 degrees 30 minutes 26 seconds West 104.28 feet to a point; thence North 4 degrees 11 minutes 17 seconds West 188.02 feet to a point on the South margin of said drive; thence along the South margin of said drive as follows: thence South 89 degrees 14 minutes 52 seconds East 70.51 feet to a point; thence South 87 degrees 51 minutes 39 seconds East 29.49 feet to the point of beginning containing 0.38 acres more or less.

The following manufactured home to be auctioned separately and together with the real estate:
2002 Southridge manufactured home, Vin No. 1SRP17181AAL and 1SRP17181BAL located thereon.

Said sale is made for the purpose of paying the mortgage debt and cost of foreclosure.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as part of the foreclosure process.

EvaBank, Mortgagee
Thomas W. Russell
Attorney for Mortgagee
2915 Clairmont Ave.
Birmingham, Alabama 35205
The Cullman Tribune-December 16, 23, 30, 2023

PB MIN BK 220 PG 896 - 12/14/2023 02:57 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ELSIE BELL LEONARD, Deceased. * **CASE NO.: PC 2023-383**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to JOEL MARK LEONARD, as Administrator of the Estate of ELSIE BELL LEONARD, deceased, on the 14th day of December, 2023, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

Joel Mark Leonard
Administrator

J. Bradley Wilson
Attorney for Administrator
Baggett & Wilson, LLC
206 Ninth Street Southwest, Suite 102
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

Please publish the above Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

STATE OF ALABAMA)
)
COUNTY OF MORGAN)

IN THE PROBATE COURT

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

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on August 31, 2011 by Dale Sheftick and wife, Angela Perez Sheftick and Silva Santana Perez, an unmarried woman, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book MTG 1657, Page 865 in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the following described property will be sold at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door of said County, in Cullman, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on January 8, 2024:

Beginning found rebar iron marking the Northwest corner of said forty; South 0°14'21"E along the West line of said forty a distance of 409.86 feet to a found capped 1/2 inch rebar iron; thence South 89° 37' 08" E a distance of 293.26 feet to a found capped rebar iron and the true point of beginning of the property herein described; thence from said true point of beginning run North 0° 00'07" E a distance of 50.16 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron; thence South 83° 44' 40"E a distance of 234.06 feet to set 5/8 Inch rebar iron; thence North 15°13'08" E a distance of 140.18 feet to a found capped rebar iron; thence South 89° 56'11"E distance of 99.23 feet to a found capped rebar iron; South 0°11'08" E. a distance of 381.94 feet to the found capped rebar iron; thence South 89° 37'41" W, a distance of 369.95 feet to a found capped rebar iron; It's North 0° 00'07" E. a distance at 224,52 feet to the true point of beginning and containing 2.54 acres more or less.
Said property subject to all rights-of-way or easements of record. Also a 24 foot easement for ingress -- egress along an existing gravel drive more particular described as being 12 feet either side of the following described centerline: committing a found rebar iron marking the Northwest corner of the Northwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of said Section 23; thence South 89°43' 34" E. a distance of 402,96 feet; thence South 33° 28'32"E distance of 75.31 feet; thence South 32° 39' 23" E, a distance of 222.27 feet; thence South 89° 56' 11" E a distance of 99.23 feet; thence South 0° 11' 08" E. a distance of 140.08 feet to the true point of beginning of said centerline; thence from said true point of beginning fall of said centerline by following bearings and distances: North 89" 07'20" E, 25.26 feet; North 82° 00' 04'E. 34.51 feet; North 65° 01'55" E., 69.29 feet, North 63° 16'44" E 119.02 feet; North 55° 15' 40" E., 49.23 feet; North 40°50'09" E., 9.89 feet; North 28° 34'19" E., 20.01 feet, North 12° 16'· 19" E., 27.45 feet, and North 1°17'10" W. a distance of 198.36 feet to the south right of way of County Road 1338, Said easement being a part of the Northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 23, T9S, R3W.
Said property subject to the following described Ingress-egress easement: a 24 foot easement for ingress-egress along an existing gravel drive more particularly described as being 12 feet either side of the following described centerline:
commencing any found rebar iron marking the Northwest comer of the Northwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of said Section 23; thence South 89° 43' 34" E. a distance of 402.96 feet; thence South 33° 20' 32" E, a distance of 75,31 feet; thence South 32" 30' 23"E a distance 222,27 feet South 89° 56'11" E a distance of 99.23 feet; thence South 0°11'08" E, a distance of 140,08 feet to the true point of beginning of said centerline; thence from said true point of beginning fall of said centerline by the following bearings and distances: South 89° 07' 29" West 49.87 feet, South 83°55'52" West, 27.43 feet, North 82° 46'23'W., 33.69 feet in North 55° 01' 16" W. a distance of 27.79 feet. Said easement being a part of the West half of the Northwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of Section 23, T9S, R3W,

Said sale is made for the purpose of paying the mortgage debt and cost of foreclosure.

EvaBank, Mortgagee
Thomas W. Russell
Attorney for Mortgagee
2915 Clairmont Ave. S
Birmingham, Alabama 35205
The Cullman Tribune-December 16, 23, 30, 2023

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
DECEMBER 16, 2023

ACES: Mistletoe- holiday friend or forest foe?

Cole Sikes
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. — At Christmastime, many people may find mistletoe to be a natural ornament that signifies the holiday season. However, forestry experts with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System may not botanically consider it romantic, merry or bright. This is because mistletoe, in its most natural form, is parasitic — making it appear a little less jolly outside the home.

History and folklore

Most people recognize mistletoe from the tradition of sharing a kiss while standing under its sprigs. The lesser-known fact about this tradition is that it started approximately 2,000 years ago.

Historians believe that mistletoe's romantic origins likely began with the Celtic druids of the first century. These tribes of Europeans shared many religions and culture. They made homesteads in areas known today as Ireland, Great Britain, Spain and France.

The first evidence of this tribe is documented by the Roman Empire, ruler over most of southern Europe during the seventh and eighth centuries. The Romans referred to the Celts as Galli, translating to barbarians. Mistletoe locally blossomed in the winter, making the Celts associate the plant with a symbol of life. This later influenced the druids to feed the plant to their people in hopes to restore fertility.

A popular belief of mistletoe folklore derives from mythology. The Norse god, Odin, had a son, Baldur, who was destined for death. Odin's wife, Frigg, the goddess of love, secured a promise of life with all the natural world's plants and animals in hopes that they would not harm Baldur.

However, Frigg did not make a pact with mistletoe, leaving it as a threat. The infamous and scheming god, Loki, made an arrow using the plant, which was later used to kill Baldur, who was thought to be invincible.

The myth says later that Baldur was resurrected, which influenced Frigg to use the plant as a symbol of love. She then vowed to kiss all those who passed under it, leading to today's tradition.

Biology

Although there are at least 30 species of mistletoe in the Unites States, only one is native to Alabama. Phoradendron leucarpumis, commonly referred to as American mistletoe, is typically in holiday décor.

This Alabama-native species is a small evergreen shrub that grows on hardwood tree branches.

Its leathery, opposite leaves and white berries give this plant its identity. The plant spreads via birds when they eat the berries and deposit the seed to a new location. A sticky outer layer helps the berry stick and eventually germinate into the host plant.

Nancy Loewenstein, an Alabama Extension forestry, wildlife and natural resources specialist, said mistletoe, away from a holiday party, is hemiparasitic, or partially parasitic.

"Mistletoe uses water and nutrients from its host tree but produces its own sugars through photosynthesis," Loewenstein said. "A few mistletoe plants on healthy trees typically have little significant impact. But large numbers can reduce tree vigor. This is especially the case during drought conditions, when mistletoe plants use water that the host tree can little afford to lose."



ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

Mistletoe on a hardwood tree branch

If choosing to decorate with real mistletoe, be sure to keep it out of the mouths of children and pets because of its toxicity. Although moderately poisonous, when eaten in large quantities, mistletoe can cause symptoms of intestinal irritation, diarrhea, vomiting, difficulty breathing, slow pulse and lower blood pressure.

Friend or foe?

In the sense of holiday cheer, make sure that mistletoe remains solely as a decoration and tradition this year. Keep this plant away from the mouths of loved ones, and teach others about mistletoe at your next Christmas party.

If you find that your trees are overrun with mistletoe, information on controlling this parasitic plant is available in the Alabama Extension publication, "Controlling Mistletoe in Trees" at www.aces.edu.

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 14-15

Roy Wayne Stevenson, 62

Roy Wayne Stevenson, 62, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Thursday morning, Dec. 14, 2023. Mr. Stevenson was born in Booneville, Mississippi, to James B. and Annie Kathryn Davis Stevenson on Dec. 21, 1960. Roy and Edith decided to leave Mississippi and found themselves in Alabama. They fell in love with the area and decided to make it their home. They married here and over the years they were blessed with a beautiful a family. Roy was a poultry farmer and he worked in the industry for the past thirty-two years. He enjoyed fishing, camping, and traveling when he had the time. Roy was a wonderful husband to his wife, Edith, of forty-four years and was a loving father and grandfather to his children and grandchildren and he will be missed greatly. Mr. Stevenson is preceded in death by his parents, and his brothers and sister. He is survived by his wife, Edith Moss Stevenson; children Thomas Stevenson (Chariti), James Stevenson (Teryn), Chancey Stevenson (Anthony); and his grandchildren, Zoi Stevenson, Troy Stevenson, and Nova Stevenson. Funeral services for Mr. Stevenson will be held at 2 p.m., on Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Andy Cofer officiating. Friends are invited to join the family for a time of visitation prior to services, beginning at noon and concluding when services begin. Burial will follow services in Mt. Carmel Cemetery. The family will be accepting flowers, but in the event you had rather make a donation in Roy's memory, please consider making a donation to Children's Hospital. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Stevenson family.

Thomas Edward Watkins, 82

Thomas Edward Watkins, age 82, of Cullman, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023, at Cullman Health Care Center. He was born Dec. 4, 1941. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Cathy Watkins; and sister, Kay Watkins. Survivors include his daughter, Jennifer Beasley (Brian Oswalt); son, Christopher Lee (Rebekah) Cash; and grandchildren, Laci Beasley and Zach Beasley. There are no services planned at this time.

Johnny Harvey Shaw, 85

A Celebration of Life service for Johnny Harvey Shaw, 85, of Crane Hill, will be Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023, at 4 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home chapel. Family will welcome friends from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. to visit. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Johnny was born April 18, 1938, to John Nelson Shaw and Mittie Jane Gardner Shaw. He passed from this life on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Rene Shaw; grandson, Blake Shaw; good friend, Kathy Spisto. Survivors include his son, Billy Shaw; sister, Doris (Jonas) Simmons; grand-daughter, Kortni Shaw; great-grandchildren, Raelynn and Cameron. Johnny was proud of the service and time he gave back to the AA community through mentorship, speaking, and simply the good words he encouraged others with daily. He had the blessing of traveling to Okinawa multiple times with his good friend Kathy and he loved his family there. Johnny loved his son and his family and enjoyed his time with Jonas and Doris very much. He will always be missed by those who knew and loved him. Visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Carlyn Georgia Welch, 93

Graveside service for Carlyn Georgia Welch, 93, of Cullman, will be Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, at 1 p.m. at Cullman Memory Gardens, with Pastor John Bussman officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Welch was born May 10, 1930, to George J. Schlegal and Lydia Rose Hellwig Schlegal. She passed from this life on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Donald J. Welch; daughter, Sandra Gail Derby; grandson, Joshua Wallace. Survivors include her son, Randy (Lisa) Welch; three grandchildren, Matthew J. Welch, Jeremy (Amy) Wallace, Tenneill (Matt) Manning; four great-grandchildren, Olivia Wallace, William Wallace, Lucas Manning, Macie Manning; a host of family and friends. Carlyn, better known as Corky" was always humming a tune and her motto was "Cheers to the Good Life!" Her nickname originated from her younger days when she was well known for doing the Jitterbug. Corky loved travelling and being with family. She was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and had an impact on everyone she met. She was a vivacious and joyful woman who lived her life to the fullest. Visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Dorothy Ann Brown, 88

Dorothy Ann Brown, age 88, of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023. Dorothy is survived by her daughter Brenda Kay (Robert Keith) Brown Pace; and her son David Keith Brown. Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband Alfred Gerald Brown; her parents Thomas Benjamin and Pearlie Edmondson Rheinhardt Veal. A celebration of life visitation for Dorothy will be held Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m.at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue, NW, Cullman, AL 35055. A funeral service will occur Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, at 2 p.m., 1901 Second Avenue, NW, Cullman, AL 35055. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Free Obituary Listings

Have your funeral home contact us

Email: robin@cullmantribune.com • Phone: 256-739-1351

Complete obituaries may be found free of charge at CullmanTribune.com/obituaries.

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Cullman, Alabama 35055
www.cullmanfuneralhome.com

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Have you ever seen stars?

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



One of my "I think I have too many" hobbies is woodwork. I love to build things. While this is a fun hobby, it can also be a dangerous one. Anyone who operates tools, especially powered tools like saws that cut at high speeds, runs the risk of injury.

Another hobby of mine is playing stringed instruments and trying my best to sing along while I play. Ordinarily, the best stringed-instrument players are those who have all ten digits still attached to their hands. When I got my first powered miter saw, a dear older friend warned me that those saws are not smart. He said, "They don't know the difference between wood and bone!" Thankfully, I have never cut off a finger, but last week, I may have knocked some sense into myself.

It seems that the tool I have the most trouble with is the powered belt sander. I have one that is stationary and one that is portable. On more than one occasion, I have gotten my fingers too close to the belt on the stationary one. The tips of my fingers, as well as my knuckles, should be smooth enough for paint by now! The portable one is my greatest nemesis! Once, the belt caught the electrical cord and rolled it right inside the sander.

Getting that thing back out was more fun than removing a fish hook from a big catfish after he has swallowed that thing deeper than the fish swallowed Jonah! I spliced the wires back together and wrapped enough electrical tape around them to gain a first-and-ten! Last week, as I sanded a table top, that bump of electrical tape caught on the edge of the table and the sander pulled the cord into two-pieces again. To prevent a shocking experience, I unplugged the sander from my extension cord. I repeated the process of putting the wires back together. When I bent over and plugged the cord back in, I immediately heard the sander come on, just before it slammed into the side of my head. I had forgotten that I had locked the trigger in the on position. My belt sander knocked me into the prone position. A belt sander has two-long rollers on each end that looks like a miniature version of an asphalt packer. Running unattended, those things can take off faster than the Road Runner running from Wile E. Coyote. It shot right off the end of the table and right up the side of my head! I did not hear birds singing, but I sure saw some stars!

What I did was not wise. I am thankful that I had no serious injuries, other than my ego! I didn't need stitches, and I don't have a black eye or swollen lip. I didn't even go into concussion protocol, but I had a dandy of a headache and a sore noggin for a few days.

A long time ago, some men who were very wise (much wiser than me), saw stars too, but not from a power tool and not by accident. God gave them a star. They followed that bright-shining star, and it led them directly to the Christ child that had been born in Bethlehem. The gospel according to Matthew said, "The star went before them until it came and stood over where the young child was." It was there that they found Jesus, fell down and worshipped, and gave him gifts. We can do the same thing, and we don't even have to see stars to do so! Merry Christmas!

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

HISTORY

Files from yesteryear: 1936, 1950

From the files of 1936

The dry season threatens the water supply in Cullman and Cullman County.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Crouen are visiting relatives here, before leaving for California, to make their home.

Glen Jetton, of Gold Ridge spent Saturday night with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Jelton.

Everyone should please remember the church supper at Mr. Tom Brown's on the fourteenth of this month. It will be a good chicken supper.

There was a good singing at George Williamson's on Sunday afternoon.

The candy making at Mr. Herbert Brock's on Saturday night was enjoyed by all attending.

Mr. C.H. Grob is opening a new Western Auto Associate Store.

Colonel Thomas W. Millican, Ezra Williamson and Roy Ingle spent Monday in Scottsboro.

Alvin Camp spent the weekend at home with his parents.

Mrs. William Lessman is critically ill at her home on the Bremen road.

New members of the Hanceville Culture Club are Mrs. Joe Ray, Mrs. Fred Shauer, Mrs. James Edmondson and Mrs. Finley.

Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Johnson of Tuscaloosa spent Sunday in Cullman as the guests of their daughter, Mrs. H.B. Rowe and Mr. Rowe.

Doctor Sidney Morrow, of Birmingham, spent Sunday in Cullman as the guest of his mother, Mrs. Bess Morrow.

Fred Peinhardt spent Thursday in Birmingham.

The Panama Community is about finished picking cotton.

Most families need to inspect their buildings and other surroundings to see if everything looks safe from fire and accidents.

There will be a chicken supper at Walter School on Friday night.

Leroy Box died in Plains, Texas, at the age of 55 years. He has three sisters, Daisy, Lillie and Sardis.

From the files of 1950

Tom Muse has retired at the age of 65. He spent several days in Bremen, Georgia last week visiting his 105 year old mother.

Doctor Harry Fuller is heading a committee to raise money for new Cullman High School band uniforms.

Thomas Daniel Sloan, age 78, was fatally injured on Sunday afternoon about 1:30 when he was hit by an automobile.

A couple of bootleggers made the mistake of driving with lights too dim. When officers stopped the vehicle to investigate the lights, they smelled a strong odor of "corn whiskey." Officers found 29 gallons of Wildcat whiskey.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Holcomb's house and all the furnishings were completely destroyed by fire on Saturday at New Harmony.

Those attending the White City Home Demonstration Meeting on October 5th at Mrs. Herman Jones house were Mesdames, Clyde Kanady, Grover Cook, T. Brooks, Jack Morgan, Senior, Jack Morgan, Junior, Calvin Ryan, C.H. Thigpen, Vesta Hicks, E. Hestla, Roy Grubbs, R.A. Jacobs, Clyde Ryan, R.O. Trimble, J.B. Keller, Max Meyer, M.E. Wamp and Miss Della Harbison.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Bishop of Birmingham visited Mr. and Mrs. William J. Daniel and family on Sunday.

Audry Lee Moore of Spring Hill is now employed at Walgreen's.

Mr. and Mrs. R.M. Phillips, of Route One, Cullman, celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary on October 8th at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cosper Speegle. There were eleven children, forty-three grandchildren and nineteen great- grandchildren present.

Hoover Cobb of Piney Grove was seriously injured in an automobile accident a few days ago.

POET'S CORNER

The Oxen | By: Thomas Hardy, 1840-1928

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.
"Now they are all on their knees,"
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
"Come; see the oxen kneel,

"In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,"
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so."



CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

DEC. 16

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D	T	L	I	L	A	G	E	G	H	O	I	E	C	C	H	G	G	V
X	T	L	K	K	U	R	J	P	R	H	F	I	D	H	X	E	E	E
P	S	B	I	E	L	N	O	X	U	E	R	I	R	I	Y	O	R	R
U	T	U	N	R	Q	N	E	N	E	M	V	R	G	E	K	R	C	B
D	B	C	G	E	U	L	E	K	I	A	E	I	X	F	F	G	L	I
G	S	K	K	D	A	K	M	J	D	N	R	I	U	B	R	E	E	L
A	A	N	E	W	N	I	J	Q	I	H	R	K	T	E	E	D	M	L
L	M	E	L	A	T	H	N	L	E	A	P	A	Y	N	D	A	E	T
V	R	R	L	L	R	N	A	G	P	G	R	K	C	D	L	V	N	E
I	I	L	Y	S	I	K	U	P	Q	F	G	Q	O	E	Y	I	S	R
N	C	T	X	H	L	O	E	N	B	Z	W	T	B	R	N	S	W	R
P	E	T	E	A	L	E	X	A	N	D	E	R	B	F	N	P	G	Y

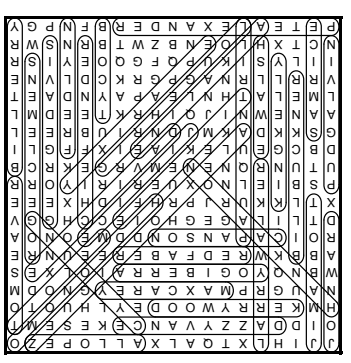
Al Kaline
Al Lopez
Alex Rodriguez
Bill Buckner
Bill Terry
Cap Anson
Chief Bender
Cy Young
David Cone
Dazzy Vance
Ed Walsh
Eppa Rixey
Fred Lynn
George Davis
Hank Aaron
Hideo Nomo
Jim Abbott
Jim Rice
John Ward
Kerry Wood
King Kelly
Larry Walker
Lou Gehrig
Max Carey
Mel Ott
Paul Quantrill
Pete Alexander
Pud Galvin
Red Faber
Roger Clemens
Sam Rice
Tim Keefe
Tom Seaver
Ty Cobb
Yogi Berra

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

DEC. 16

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

ANSWERS:



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

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

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