

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OBITUARIES

Beverly Ann Chambless, Carolyn Kay Zimmerman, Jimmy Dale Bradford, Faith Moody-Hammock, Terre Gail Gouge Long, Willard Ryan Drummond, Marvin Carl Ermshar, Judy Ann Parker, I.V. Pickering, Bonnie June Thompson

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WEATHER

54 34

SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

INCREASING CLOUDS

Arrests and Incidents
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Community Calendar
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BRANDON EVANS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Addison splits county matchups at Meek

» PAGE 4

Hanceville's Nail pleads guilty to 15 misdemeanors, resigns

Sawyer assumes interim mayor of Hanceville

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Longtime Hanceville Mayor Kenneth Nail on Tuesday, Dec. 19, pleaded guilty to 15 misdemeanor counts of using his office for personal gain. As part of the plea deal, Nail resigned from office. He was ordered to pay a combined $4,000 in restitution to three individuals, a $2,500 fine, perform 120 hours of community service and be on probation for 15 years, which prohibits him from working for any public or governmental entity.

Nail was indicted back in November 2023 of 15 felony counts, but the plea deal lowered those to misdemeanors.

"The trust between the people and their government must remain strong. Mr. Nail plead- » PAGE 4



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Kenneth Nail is seen in 2019. »

Cullman Tree Commission searching for volunteers, introduces new arborist



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman Tree Commission met Tuesday, Dec. 19, introducing new City Arborist Shane Bevins.

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — At its meeting on Dec. 19, the Cullman Tree Commission discussed the inaugural Festival of Trees and the possibility of continuing this new "tree-dition" in future holiday displays. It also introduced Shane Bevins and the new city arborist.

Commission Chairman Barry Slatton and others have high hopes for next season's Festival of Trees, although one thing is desperately needed: volunteers.

"You cannot do any kind of a big event without people who are willing to help monetarily, with time and with support. It takes everybody and I thank each one of you," said Volunteer Consultant Phyllis Hain. "I feel like our opening ceremony was a huge success with the time crunch that we had."

Longtime commission member Peggy Harris is choosing to retire from her voluntary seat, leaving a hole that needs to be filled. Slatton called for volunteers to be members of the commission – possibly a new board member.

Said Slatton, "We need to find someone who is interested in what we do to be on our board. We would like someone that is possibly retired, or who has the time to make the meetings."

The annual Arbor Day Poster Contest » PAGE 5

Berlin could join proposed state recreational trail system



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Berlin Town Council

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County school see wide-ranging growth on state report card

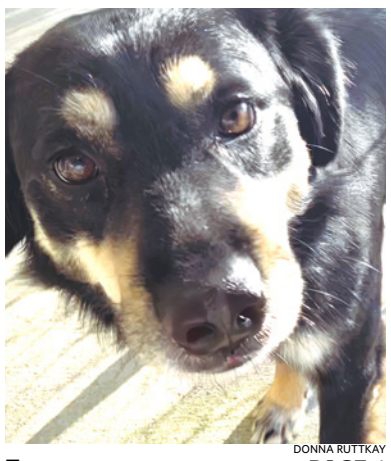
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Cullman Fire Rescue Santa Ride heading through town this Friday

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PET OF THE WEEK

Treasure your time with Trevor



DONNA RUTTKAY

Trevor

» PAGE 6



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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 20

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 20, 2023. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

No arrests or incidents reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Dec. 18

- criminal mischief-3rd degree; City of Cullman; Cleveland Ave. SW; damaged property
- theft of property-3rd degree; Home2Suites/ person; cash

Dec. 19

- unauthorized use of vehicle; person
- criminal trespass-2nd degree; Publix; Cullman Shopping Center
- forgery-3rd degree; theft of property-1st degree; person; cash
- theft of property-1st degree; Cullman Smoke & Vape; cash

ARRESTS

Dec. 18 – 19

Ragsdale, James D.; 37

- FTA- switched tag
- FTA- driving without license

Cantrell, Jerimiah R.; 27

- FTA- false information to law enforcement
- FTA- public intoxication (2 counts)
- FTA- driving while license suspended
- FTA- insurance violation

McKinnon, Roger L.; 60

- FTA- theft of property-4th degree

Reynolds, Edwards R.; 31

- DUI (other substance)
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

CCSO arrest roundup

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) made several arrests over the last week, including:

Dec. 15

Deputies were informed of a subject who appeared to have passed out behind the wheel of a vehicle in the parking lot of a business in the Berlin community. Michael David Shultz, 37, of Cullman, was located in the reported vehicle.

A subsequent search of his person allegedly yielded a large amount of narcotics (over 13 grams) and paraphernalia. It was also determined that he had an outstanding warrant.

Shultz was arrested and charged with unlawful distribution of methamphetamine, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia and a traffic offense (failure to appear).

Dec. 16

Deputies arrested Angela Gail Chambers, 49, of Hanceville, on multiple failure to appear warrants stemming from an incident that occurred earlier this year.

Her charges include two counts of child abuse, possession of dangerous drugs and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

Deputies arrested Brian Scott Willingham, 47, of Gadsden, on an outstanding warrant stemming from an incident that occurred in 2016.

Willingham is charged with reckless endangerment.

Dec. 17

Deputies located a vehicle parked in the roadway in the Hanceville area. Dustyn Herndon Allred, 28, of Cullman, was located behind the wheel of the vehicle, which was still running.

Allred appeared to be asleep. After several attempts, deputies were able to rouse Allred. Deputies determined that Allred had an outstanding warrant.

A subsequent search of the vehicle and his person allegedly yielded narcotics.

He was arrested and charged with unlawful possession of methamphetamine and burglary (failure to appear).



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Michael David Shultz


CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Angela Gail Chambers


CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Brian Scott Willingham


CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Dustyn Herndon Allred

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama, will hold a public hearing on January 22, 2024, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the Lucille N. Galin Auditorium at City Hall, 204 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055. At this time, anyone wishing to be heard in favor of or in opposition to the adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-08 (set forth in full below) will be given an opportunity to speak. - Wesley M. Moore, City Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 – 08

AMENDING THE CURRENT ZONING ORDINANCE AND ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, TO RE-ZONE CERTAIN PARCELS OF PROPERTY AS SET FORTH HEREIN

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Under the authority of Chapter 52, Articles 1 through 4, Section 11-52-1 through Section 11-52-84, Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, and specifically Sections 11-52-77 and at the request of property owner, the petitioner, the following describe the tracts or parcels of land, to-wit:

Property Owner: Blue Hole, LLC.

Lot 2. Legal Description: A TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING 11.14 ACRES OF LAND, MORE OR LESS, AND BEING A PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER AND A PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER, ALL IN SECTION 18, TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 3 WEST, CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 18 AND RUN THENCE NORTH 87 DEGREES 38 MINUTES 22 SECONDS WEST (BEARING BASED ON AL. STATE PLANE, WEST ZONE, NAD 83, GRID) AND RUN ALONG THE ACCEPTED SOUTH LINE, A DISTANCE OF 657.92 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 49 MINUTES 52 SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE OF 159.45 FEET TO A POINT ON THE NORTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF U.S. HIGHWAY NO. 31 AND BEING IN A CURVE TO THE LEFT, HAVING A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 04 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 34 SECONDS, A RADIUS OF 1,979.85 FEET, A CHORD BEARING OF NORTH 76 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 31 SECONDS WEST AND A CHORD LENGTH OF 146.58 FEET; THENCE RUN ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE AN ARC DISTANCE OF 146.61 FEET TO A SET REBAR (CONN-17831); THENCE NORTH 16 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 20 SECONDS WEST, DEPARTING SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 412.09 FEET TO A SET REBAR; THENCE NORTH 49 DEGREES 09 MINUTES 40 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 437.20 FEET TO A SET REBAR; THENCE SOUTH 82 DEGREES 05 MINUTES 26 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 269.56 FEET TO A SET REBAR; THENCE NORTH 48 DEGREES 11 MINUTES 10 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 146.94 FEET TO A SET REBAR; THENCE NORTH 65 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 43 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 40.24 FEET TO A SET REBAR; THENCE NORTH 86 DEGREES 23 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 162.40 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST BANK OF RYAN'S CREEK; THENCE RUN IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION FOLLOWING SAID WEST BANK THE FOLLOWING 3 COURSES: SOUTH 22 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 15 SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE OF 115.36 FEET; SOUTH 09 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 15 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 190.67 FEET; SOUTH 26 DEGREES 23 MINUTES 33 SECONDS EAST, A DISTANCE OF 64.96 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 38 MINUTES 35 SECONDS WEST, A DISTANCE OF 316.90 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

within the city limits of Cullman, Alabama, and lying and being in Cullman County, State of Alabama, designated as Agriculture District AG-2 on the Zoning Map of the City of Cullman, Alabama under Ordinance No. 2004-03 and as may be reflected in any comprehensive master plan for the City of Cullman, Alabama, be, and is hereby changed from AG-2 Agricultural District and AG-1 Agricultural District.

SECTION 2. That this ordinance be published at least once a week for two consecutive weeks in advance of its final passage in a newspaper with general circulation within the City of Cullman, Alabama, the first publication of said notice and ordinance being verbatim and the second publication either verbatim or synopsized, with the last publication being at least 15 days prior to the date set for public hearing and passage of said ordinance.

SECTION 3. That a public hearing be held relative to the passage of this ordinance on the 22nd day of January, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., at which time interested parties and citizens shall have the opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance and any changes relating thereto.

SECTION 4. That all notices as required by law be given by the City Clerk concerning said public hearing, and in addition thereto, a certified letter be sent by the Clerk to all contiguous property owners at their last known addresses as shown by the tax records for the City of Cullman, Alabama.

SECTION 5. That upon final passage of this ordinance, all zoning maps, master comprehensive plans or any other documents of the City of Cullman, Alabama, in conflict with this ordinance are hereby changed and amended to reflect the changes and amendments herein.

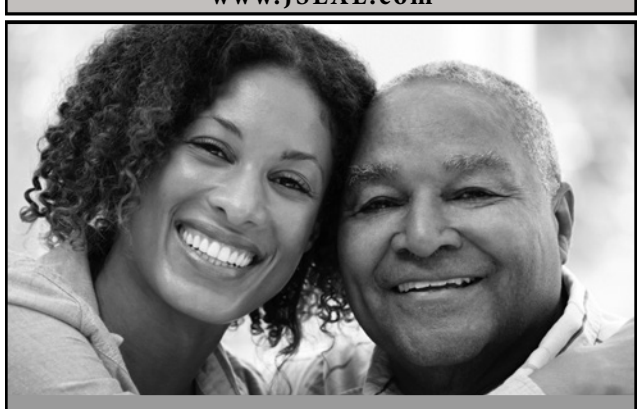
SECTION 6. Should any part or portion of this ordinance be held invalid, unenforceable or unconstitutional, for whatever reason, by a court of competent jurisdiction, such ruling shall not affect any other part or portion of this Ordinance.

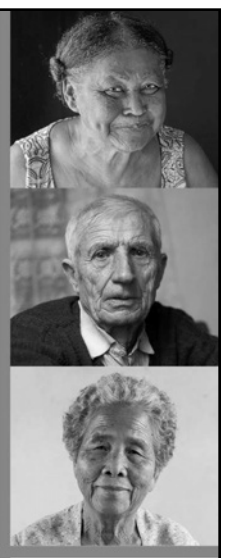
SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage or adoption as required by law, including notice, publication and public hearing, all in accordance with Section 11-52-1, et seq., Code of Alabama 1975, as amended.

Submitted by Wesley M. Moore, City Clerk


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ALABAMA PUBLIC HEALTH
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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.
• Friday, Dec. 22 - 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Bring a dish, dessert or drink for a potluck meal at 6:15. Nursery provided!
• Sunday, Dec. 24 - 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. 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.

Dates
• 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

COMMUNITY CORNER



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Robin Winton - Newsroom Manager
Janet Chandler - Marketing Specialist

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
DECEMBER 21, 2023

PREP BASKETBALL

Addison splits county matchups at Meek

Todd Walker
Tribune Correspondent

ARLEY, Ala. — Addison traveled a few miles south to take on a big county rival in the Meek Tigers. The Lady Bulldogs dropped the opener in a closer game than the final score would indicate, 59-38. The Addison men came away with a 64-48 win in a game that had numerous large scoring runs by each team.

Meek 59 – Addison 38 (varsity girls)

To say that the young ladies from Addison are off to a slow start would be an understatement as they have only one win so far this season. But with only one girl with starting varsity experience on the roster, and she has been injured since game one, they are getting better with each week. This game started out with both teams playing pretty well, but Addison struggled with Meek's press, which the Lady Bulldogs have had problems with all year.

The Meek Lady Tigers won the period, but only 13-11. Addison was led by youngin Ava Bartlett who played her best game of the year. Bartlett had 5 points and 4 rebounds in the period. Gracie Roberts had a trey at the buzzer and Karson Wyatt had 3 points and 3 rebounds to pace Addison. Meek was led by their all everything guard Aleah Addison. You leave this girl open at your own risk. Aleah had 7 points to lead Meek. Three other Lady Tigers, Addisyn Williams, Lainey Phillips and Peyton Johnson, had a bucket a piece in the period.

The second period had the Lady Tigers stepping up the pressure and forcing the young Bulldogs into numerous turnovers. Addison was outscored in the period 20-10 to go into the half down 33-21. Roberts led Addison with 5 points while Emma Cleghorn and Kabri Dyson chipped in 2 points apiece. Bartlett led the Dawgs in rebounds with 2. Meek was led once again by Aleah Addison who had 11 points in the frame. Phillips had 5 points of her own.

Addison came out in the second half and played one of their best quarters of the season. They outscored the ladies from Meek 13-11 to cut the Lady Tiger lead to ten at 44-34. Addison started off the second half on a 6-0 run to cut the lead to 6.

Wyatt and Cleghorn hit shots in the paint while Roberts notched 2 free throws. Meek responded with a run of their own. Zoe Hearn had a putback while Aleah had another bucket and Phillips hit 2 free throws. Roberts led Addison with 7 points while Wyatt had 3 points and 4 boards. Meek was led by Phillips with 4 and Aleah with 3.

The fourth period started off well but ended horribly for the Lady Bulldogs. Addison cut the Lady Tiger lead back down to nine at 47-38 with 4:19 to go in the game. Wyatt had a putback and Bartlett hit a free throw.

Then the bottom dropped out as Meek went on a 12-0 run the rest of the way to salt the game away 59-38. Aleah had 9 points in the period, outscoring the Lady Bulldogs by herself 9-4. The Lady Tigers won the period 15-4 and the game 59-38. A game that the Lady Bulldogs should feel better about themselves all except that last five-minute stretch.

Addison Head Coach Bailey Boland said, "Again, proud of the girls. They don't quit and they are full of effort. I told them the score got away from us at the end and we have to play every minute and until the whistle sounds. I asked them did the loss for like a twenty-point loss and to a girl they said no. We are getting better, and we are improving each week. We just have to keep working hard in practice and keep the positive attitude that we have. Every minute on the court for these young ladies is a learning lesson and they need to soak it all up to improve each and every day."

Unofficial stats

Addison was led by Roberts with 15 points and 2 steals. Wyatt had 10 points, 11 rebounds and 5 steals. Bartlett had 8 points, 7 rebounds, 3 steals and a block. Cleghorn had 2 points, 2 rebounds and 2 steals. Dyson had 3 points and 4 boards. Mattie Johnson had 3 boards and a block. Reese Osborne and Morgan Lee had a rebound apiece.

Meek was led by Addison with a game-high 30 points and a board. Phillips had 13 points and 4 rebounds. Williams had 5 points and 4 boards. Johnson had 4 points and 12 rebounds. Hearn had 3 points and 2 boards. Rilee Williams had 4 points. Chloe Gilliland had 2 boards.

Addison 64 – Meek 48 (varsity boys)

The Addison boys' team got off to an extremely hot start against the Tigers as Addison outscored Meek 20-6 in the first period. Addison's pressure defense smothered the Tigers and forced numerous turnovers and came away with some easy buckets of their own. It didn't help that Meek's young men struggled to hit open looks the few times they got any. Addison was led in scoring by Jed Wilkins with 8 points. Bradley Willette had 8 points to include 2 three-pointers from the top of the key. Willette is a big man that can hit the open trey if you give it to him. Jake McLamb had 2 steals while Hayden Holland had 3 assists in the period. It was probably the second-best period that Addison played the entire season except for the opening period against Lynn a few weeks back. Meek had no answers as Jarrett Benson scored 3 points and Braxton Dickerson had 2. You will hear more from Mr. Dickerson and Benson later in the game.

The second period had Meek finally waking up. Addison may have lost a little intensity, but Meek still upped their game a notch or two in the second. Meek won the period 19-16. Meek started the second on a 9-2 run and absolutely caught on fire from the home side corner. Dickerson nailed back-to-back treys from the corner while Benson hit one as well. Meek ran their offense to perfection as their corner shooters were wide open and didn't miss. Meek would hit 5 out of 6 threes in the second to scratch back into the game. Meek had cut the Addison led to 28-25 with 2 minutes to go in the half when Addison came back. Addison went on an 8-0 run to close the half and to up their lead back to 11 at 36-25. Addison stepped up their defense and picked up a couple of Wilkins lay ups while Scout Flynn made his varsity debut by hitting a deep three. McLamb also hit a floater for the Bulldogs. Addison had survived the Tiger surge.

Whatever Meek Coach Bryan Woods said to his Tigers at the half worked because they came out fired up and red hot again from outside. Meek has some shooters. Meek absolutely dominated the glass in the third period, getting second and sometimes even third chances. They won the rebounding battle 9-3 in the third. Meek won the period too 18-9. Meek came out and jumped on Addison 9-2 as Little Evan McCay, Cam Deaver and Dickerson each nailed a trey. Jarrett Benson and Parker Ferguson handled the glass with 3 boards a piece. Addison was led by a McLamb trey. At the end of the horror period for the Bulldogs their lead had been cut to 45-43 and Meek held the momentum going into the fourth period.

Like I mentioned earlier, this was a game of runs. Addison came alive and scored the first seven points of the period to stretch their lead back to 52-43. Two Wilkins layups and a McLamb three-pointer pushed the lead. Meek had no answer as Addison clamped down on the defensive end, not allowing any open looks. Addison Coach Scott Flynn was up constantly urging his guys to play tough defense and they listened. Meek started a little comeback as they cut it to 53-48 on a Dickerson three-pointer and 2 Ferguson free throws.

Then Addison's leader and point guard, Wilkins got knocked hard to the floor on two consecutive drives with no foul call. To say that Mr. Wilkins got a little upset would be an understatement. He showed no outward emotion but let his play do the talking the rest of the way. With three minutes left in the game, Wilkins rebounded the ball and went coast to coast for a lovely one-handed dunk that brought the Addison crowd and bench to their feet. That for all intents and purposes was the end of the game. Addison playing inspired defense went on to score the last 13 points of the game to take the game 64-48. Wilkins led Addison in the fourth with 9 points and 4 boards. McLamb had 9 points and 3 steals. Meek had Dickerson's trey and the two Ferguson free throws. Addison dominated the fourth period 19-5.

Addison Head Coach Scott Flynn said, "Big area and county win for us tonight. We move to 3-0 in both and all three of our area wins were on the road, so we get Meek, Sumiton Christian and St. Bernard at our place so we are set up nicely for us to hopefully finish out and win the area. I know everyone loves offense and so do I, but this team wins with defense. Like I've told our guys all year, you play good defense, it leads to easy baskets. I am blessed that this team hustles and is disciplined. Look, it takes a lot of energy and effort to play our style of defense. My guys hustle and play hard, and we can be physical if we have to be. Couldn't be prouder of the team."

Unofficial stats

Addison was led by Wilkins with a game high 23 points, 10 rebounds and 3 assists. McLamb had 17 points, 5 boards and a season-high 4 steals. Willette had 10 points and 2 boards. Kiah Lake had 6 big points and 4 boards. Elijah Roberts had 5 points, 2 assists and 3 steals. Flynn had 3 points and 2 assists. Kayden Dyson had 3 rebounds and 2 assists. Hayden Holland had 2 boards, season high 4 assists and 3 steals.

Meek was led by Dickerson with a team high 20 points and 3 rebounds. Benson had 15 points and 9 rebounds. Ferguson had 6 points and 6 boards. McCay had 3 points and 3 boards. Deaver had 3 points and 4 boards. Bentley Williams had 1 point and 3 boards. Briley Bowling had 1 rebound.

AHSAA releases 2024-26 fall sports classifications

Nick Griffin
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MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The AHSAA's Central Board met Monday morning to hash out the fall sports classifications for the 2024-26 school years and after a long deliberation, the board released new regional, sectional and area maps for fall sports. A couple of notable moves among local schools are Holly Pond moving back up from Class 2A to 3A and Hanceville making the move down to Class 3A from Class 4A.

2024-26 FOOTBALL REGIONS

1A, Region 7
- Addison
- Meek
- Cherokee
- Hackleburg
- Phillips
- Shoals Christian
- Vina
- Waterloo

2A, Region 6
- Cold Springs
- Cleveland
- Coosa Christian
- Falkville
- Southeastern
- Susan Moore
- West End

3A, Region 5
- Vinemont
- Hanceville
- Carbon Hill
- Gordo
- Hale County
- Midfield
- Oakman
- Phil Campbell

3A, Region 8
- Holly Pond
- Asbury
- Brindlee Mountain
- Collinsville
- Fyffe
- Geraldine
- Sylvania
- Whitesburg Christian

4A, Region 5
- Good Hope
- Cordova
- Curry
- Fayette County
- Haleyville
- Hamilton
- J.B. Pennington
- Winfield

5A, Region 7
- West Point
- Ardmore
- Brooks
- East Limestone
- Lawrence County
- Priceville
- Russellville

5A, Region 8
- Fairview
- Arab
- Brewer
- Boaz
- Douglas
- Guntersville
- Sardis
- Scottsboro

6A, Region 7
- Cullman
- Athens
- Columbia
- Decatur
- Hartselle
- Jasper
- Muscle Shoals

2024-26 VOLLEYBALL AREAS

1A, Area 14
- Addison
- Meek
- St. Bernard
- Cullman Christian

2A, Area 11
- Cold Springs
- Falkville
- Winston County

3A, Area 11
- Hanceville
- Holly Pond
- Vinemont
- Locust Fork

4A, Area 13
- Good Hope
- Danville
- East Lawrence
- West Morgan

5A, Area 14
- Fairview
- Arab
- Guntersville
- Scottsboro

5A, Area 15
- West Point
- Brooks
- Lawrence County
- Russellville

6A, Area 13
- Cullman
- Jasper
- Mortimer Jordan

2024-26 CROSS COUNTRY SECTIONS

1A-2A, Section 3
- Cullman Christian

1A-2A, Section 4
- Cold Springs

3A, Section 3
- St. Bernard
- Holly Pond
- Vinemont

4A, Section 3
- Good Hope

5A, Section 4
- Fairview
- West Point
- Arab

6A, Section 5
- Cullman

SWIMMING & DIVING SECTIONS

1A-5A, Section 3
- Arab
- St. Bernard

6A-7A, Section 3
- Cullman

Nail (from Front)

ed guilty, admitted to his misconduct, and also apologized to the citizens of Hanceville for his actions," Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker said in a statement.

"I believe this swift resolution is balanced and shows both consideration for admitting guilt and that elected officials who violate the public trust will be held accountable."

Nail told The Tribune, "I'm glad it's over. I did what was best for me and my family. I love Hanceville and I never intended to violate any rules or laws."

Hanceville Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Sawyer is now interim mayor until a permanent appointment is made by the council to finish Nail's term, as sanctioned by the Alabama League of Municipalities' "Handbook for Mayors and Councilmembers" Chapter 2, Section 18, Article A which states:

"Chapter 2, Sec. 18. Vacancy in the Office of Mayor
(a) Cities and Towns under 12,000 in Population.
In the event of a vacancy, for any cause, in the office of mayor of a municipality of less than 12,000 in population, the council shall fill the vacancy either from its own membership or from outside the membership of the council. While the Attorney General has opined that a councilmember may vote for himself or herself in an election to fill a vacancy in the office of mayor, AGO 2001-048, the League recommends contacting the Alabama Ethics Commission before doing so. A councilmember so appointed need not go through the formalities of resigning his or her seat on the council. His or her office is vacated by operation of law when he or she assumes the duties of mayor. AGO to Miss Thornburg, September 14, 1966.

Any person appointed by the council to fill such a vacancy must meet all of the qualifications prescribed for the office of mayor. The council may not evade its responsibility for making such an appointment by calling a special election. 74 Q. Rep. Att. Gen. 8."

Alabama Code 11-44G-2 defines the scope of appointment after a mayoral vacancy and gives a limit of 60 days to do so before a special election must be called.

With 60 days upon resignation for an appointment, the clock has started ticking for the Hanceville City Council to find a suitable replacement.

Sawyer explained that it is up to the council to appoint whomever they deem fit for the position, and the appointee does not necessarily have to be another council member or even himself as pro tempore.

"I would step up and do the job to finish this term out," he explained when asked if he would be up to the position, noting that while it would solve one challenge for the council, it would present another as an appointment for his position would need to made also.

"But, if I'm appointed, then that vacates my seat, then the city council will have to appoint somebody else to come on the council to fill my seat."

Hanceville City Clerk Tania Wilcox clarified that if there is not an obvious choice for council appointment, there would still be enough members to qualify as a quorum.

Sawyer maintained that whether he only serves as interim mayor or is appointed to finish the remainder of Nail's term, Hanceville residents can expect business as usual on behalf of the council as it moves forward.

"There's no intent right now for the city council to make any major changes or anything like that. We're just going to try to carry on the day-to-day operations of the city, keep providing the services and do the very best we can with what we've got," Sawyer said.

Prior to entering into the plea agreement, Nail issued a public apology, stating, "Today, I am pleading guilty to fifteen (15) misdemeanor ethics violations. I am truly sorry for the harm and inconvenience brought about by this. I never wanted to bring any negativity to Hanceville. I love Hanceville and the people of Hanceville. I would never do anything to intentionally harm the city. Again I am truly sorry."

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Berlin (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

BERLIN, Ala. — The Berlin Town Council this week heard about a new project that could connect Berlin to a statewide network of recreational trails. The "Sweet Trails Alabama" project, according to its website, seeks to "identify possible routes, trail communities, outdoor recreation economy sites" to "create new opportunities in health and wellness, tourism, economic development, entrepreneurial growth, quality of life, workforce development, community engagement, and natural resource conservation."

Town Clerk Keirstyn Montgomery told the council that a recent meeting of the project's planners shared the possibility of connecting Gadsden and Cullman with a trail that would pass through Berlin, with another trail connecting Berlin to Alabama Highway 69, via County Road 747, on its way to Guntersville.

The council agreed to seek more information on the project as it considers the development of walking trails at the planned town park around the Berlin Farmers Market.

In other council business, Mayor Patrick Bates told the council that he is talking to Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview, about possible Community Block Development Grants through the North Alabama Regional Council of Governments, to help cover the cost of resurfacing County Roads 1612 and 1614, beyond the original projected cost.

An earlier estimate of $90,000 for the project included only a 4-inch deep base, raising questions about the long-term durability of the resurfaced roads.

Additionally, according to Bates, the Cullman County Water Department has proposed replacing water mains along the roads in conjunction with the reconstruction.

The Berlin Volunteer Fire Department also requested the installation of a 6-inch main in the area, to place a fire hydrant near residences there.

Bates also noted that the pad for the community storm shelter has been completed, and installation of the shelter itself could begin in 30 days, allowing time for curing of the pad.

Barring unforeseen problems, the shelter should be in place before the start of the 2024 storm season.

Berlin Town Hall will be closed from Dec. 22, 2023, through Jan. 2, 2024.

The Berlin Town Council meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month. The public is invited to attend.

Commission (from Front)

was on the table for discussion as well. Fifth graders from East Elementary, West Elementary, Cullman Christian School, Sacred Heart and St. Paul's all have the opportunity to create a masterpiece and win a cash prize – $50 for first place and $25 for second place – as well as a handmade Arbor Day-themed quilt for the first place winner. Posters will be judged by the commission on Feb. 5, 2024, at the Cullman County Extension Office, with a ceremony scheduled for Feb. 20, to recognize and award the winners.

Member B.J. Morgan updated the board on the progress of the city's arboretum, housed at Sportsman Lake Park, saying, "There really is no update on the Arboretum, everything has kind of been put on hold with that right now due to the Christmas display."

In other business, the commission discussed adopting a commission emblem.

The next Cullman Tree Commission meeting will be on Feb. 20 at 10 a.m. at Cullman City Hall.

Santa Ride (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Fire and Rescue will host its annual Santa Ride event this Friday, Dec. 22, from 5-9 p.m. The big man himself, Santa Claus, will hop aboard a fire engine and be escorted around town, down neighborhood streets to wave at good boys and girls.

Lt. Matthew Wade said he took part in a Santa Ride when he worked in Jefferson County, and he pitched it to Cullman Fire Rescue. The local firefighters loved the idea.

"In the past, we tried to visit as many streets as possible – it ends up being a long night for Santa," Wade said. "So we go basically go as long as we can.

"We have a route from Station 3 and follow the preplanned route."

Wade said Cullman's Santa Ride has been happening for four or five years, and the coverage area has grown tremendously.

"We will have one firetruck, three to four firefighters and our Santa on board," he said.

"This will be strictly volunteer work from the guys at Cullman Fire Rescue. Wade said participants will be able to track Santa with the "Glympse" app – just search for "Cullman Santa Ride" on the app.

The Santa Ride will start off in the northwest part of the city and go counterclockwise, ending in the northeast section of town.

It will follow this route:

- Oak Hill Drive
- Allendale Lane
- Dogwood Lane
- Peach Tree Lane
- Northwood Drive
- Acorn Avenue
- Pinewood Drive
- Woodland Street
- Edgewood Drive
- Daisy Street
- Pecan Avenue
- Edgewood Street
- David Drive
- Culpepper Street
- Primrose Drive
- Tanner Drive
- Northwest Drive
- Northwest Lane
- Ragsdale Road
- Lake David Drive
- Rosemont Avenue
- First Street Southwest
- 13th Avenue Southwest
- Lakeshore Drive
- Deer Run Drive
- Denson Avenue
- Greenbriar Drive
- Sheraton Road
- Ellsworth Drive
- Ellsworth Loop Road
- Addison Way
- Fisher Street
- Mack Avenue
- Sandy Avenue
- Larry Street
- Dialsdale Drive
- Johnson Street
- Waddell Avenue
- Christopher Street
- Dialsdale Lane
- Adelsheim Circle
- Elm Drive
- Briarwood Lane
- Teakwood Drive
- Cottonwood Lane
- Brown Drive
- Hart Drive
- Leeman Drive
- Douglas Street
- Jennifer Avenue
- Magnolia Lane
- Oak Meadow Drive
- Fox Meadow Trail
- Fox Meadow Drive
- Meadowbrook Drive
- Creek Circle
- Kessler Drive
- Churchill Circle
- 14th Street Southeast
- Bower Drive
- Wisteria Street
- 11th Street Southeast
- Sixth Avenue Southeast
- Convent Road
- Wishing Well Drive
- Clearwater Drive
- Stonewater Drive
- Longbrook Drive
- Greenwood Drive
- Orchard Drive
- Hillcrest Road
- Morning Drive
- Larkwood Drive
- Briarcliff Road
- Manor Drive
- Brentwood Drive
- Evans Drive
- Austin Drive
- McAfee Road
- Pine Hill Drive
- Seven Bark Drive
- Whispering Pines Drive



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Trevor (from Front)

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Trevor, an approximately 1-year-old male Aussie and Border Collie mix with a dark coat and signature Border Collie brows, is available for adoption at Cullman County Animal Shelter.

Trevor is the perfect embodiment of a strong and silent type, an unassuming kind of guy with a low-to-medium energy level. He's quiet and thoughtful, and will glance over to you for encouragement. He's as loyal as they come, and hopes to find someone loyal to him, too! Trevor truly loves the presence of humans and will treasure his time spent with you as he walks alongside you through all the twists and turns of life. According to shelter volunteer Donna Rutkay, he is "worth his weight in gold" and is the "consummate therapy, companion and reading fellow!" Are you ready to treasure your time with Trevor? Head over to Cullman County Animal Shelter at 935 Convent Road NE, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for a meet and greet. His adoption fee includes neuter, DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet and microchip. Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmananimalshelter@co.cullman.al.us.

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the entire contents of storage unit A17, rented to Devin Marsh, whose last known address is 360 Co. Rd. 402, Killen, AL; and unit B11, rented to Mandy Lucas, whose last known address is 441 Co. Rd. 134, Bremen, AL 35033: and any other abandoned units, will be sold at auction or otherwise disposed of on Saturday, December 23, 2023 at 8:00 a.m. at Bailey Rentals Self Storage located at 7710 Highway 31, Hanceville, Alabama, 35077 according to the signed or verbal contract for past due rent and fees.

BAILEY RENTALS SELF STORAGE (256) 531-4498

PB ADT BK 68 PG 2 - 12/11/2023 04:06 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD 2023-038

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION PETITION OF RITA CASEY AND KENNETH CASEY TO ADOPT C.L.G. a minor child.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: **TO ANY UNKNOWN OR UNDISCLOSED FATHER OF C.L.G. WHOSE IDENTITY, WHEREABOUTS, RESIDENCE AND/OR ADDRESS IS UNKNOWN OR UNDISCLOSED.**

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of C.L.G., a minor child (born on January 22, 2010, to Ashley Lee Griffin) was filed on the 5th day of May, 2023, in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, by Rita Casey and Kenneth Casey, Petitioners. Please be advised should you intend to contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 11th DAY OF December, 2023.

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

PB MIN BK 220 PG 557 - 11/28/2023 02:20 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF
M.G.W.D.
A minor child.
D.O.B. 12/16/2008
CASE NO.: PC2023-360

NOTICE OF PETITION AND DECLARATION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF MINOR CHILD

TO: KENNETH RICHARD DEES AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF A CHILD BORN TO STACY MCKEE OAKES KNOWN AS M.G.W.D.

A Petition to Change Name of Minor was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Stacy McKee Oakes, Petitioner. If you should contest this name change, you must file a written response within Thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with Counsel for said petitioners, whose name and address are shown below, and with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 28th DAY OF November, 2023.

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

Jason P. Knight
Attorney for Petitioner
210 Second Street, Se
Cullman, AL 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
SYBLE F. OSMER) CASE NO PC 2023-265
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: JAMES ROBERT WEBB, JR., MICHAEL KEVIN SCHAFER, JR., MAGEN LASHAY SCHAFER, ANITA FAY DAVENPORT, LORETTA LYNN SHAFER AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES

The Petition of William Osmer to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Syble F. Osmer, deceased, has been set for hearing on the **15th day of February, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.**

All persons are hereby given notice to appear, and contest said petition if they think proper.

Done this the 20th day of December, 2023.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper

Pam E. Nail
Attorney for Petitioner
200 Second Avenue, SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

PB WIL BK 120 PG 526 - 12/12/2023 09:59 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF SARAH SUE REYNOLDS, Deceased. * **CASE NO.: PC2023-392**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to SANDRA COX as Personal Representative of the Estate of SARAH SUE REYNOLDS, deceased, on the 11th day of December, 2023, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

SANDRA COX
Personal Representative

Rachel Fleming
Attorney for Petitioner
1490 Northbank Parkway, Suite 246
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35406

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

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

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

PB WIL BK 120 PG 565 - 12/12/2023 11:50 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO.: PC 2023-388

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARTHA ANN BEELER, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Henry Stewart Beeler, Jr., on the 12th day of December, 2023, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Henry Stewart Beeler, Jr.
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
THELMA JEAN SEENES) CASE NO PC 2022-262
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND
AMENDED PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: JESSICA MARIE SEENES, JONATHAN SEENES AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES

The Petition of Rose Marie Shaffer to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Thelma Jean Seenes, deceased, has been set for hearing on the **15th day of February, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.**

All persons are hereby given notice to appear, and contest said petition if they think proper.

Done this the 20th day of December, 2023.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney for Petitioner
1939 Main Avenue, SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

MYRA MARIA CHRISTINA MARTIN, DECEASED CASE NO. PC 2023-283

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF MYRA MARIA CHRISTINA MARTIN, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Lisa Gurganus on the 21st day of September, 2023, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Lisa Gurganus, Personal Representative (Administrator),
and
Steven C. Smith, Attorney for the Estate

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721
Fax: (256) 734-4774
e-mail: steve@smithandsmithllp.com

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

VICKIE LYNN HOOPER, DECEASED CASE NO. PC 2023-366

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF VICKIE LYNN HOOPER, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Eric Steven Heald on the 11th day of December, 2023, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Eric Steven Heald, Personal Representative (Administrator),
and
Steven C. Smith, Attorney for the Estate

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721
Fax: (256) 734-4774
e-mail: steve@smithandsmithllp.com

Card (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — In the recently-released Alabama State Department of Education Report Card, Cullman County Schools had overall score improvements at 23 of it 28 schools. With a district-level score of 89, Cullman County is tied with Madison County for first place among county school systems in north Alabama and ranks fourth among county school districts in the entire state.

In looking at the individual criteria that makes up the overall score, one area in which Cullman County Schools excelled is Academic Growth. The district has a perfect score of 100%.

"I am really excited that our district had 100% growth," said Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette. "This means regardless of where our students came to us academically, we helped them achieve more. Our teachers are helping them learn, even in cases where a student may have special needs or is struggling by living in poverty."

Cullman County Schools has a free/reduced lunch rate of 69.17%, and more than 23% of its students require Special Education services.

"We have some unique challenges in our district, and some would think those numbers would be reason enough to settle, but we're never satisfied," said Barnette.

"We are only three points away from being the top county system in the state. More importantly, when you look at the challenges some of our students battle every day, and then you look at the progress we've made, I'm very proud of where we are as a school system. This is the core of our vision."

The Cullman County Schools vision statement, which is part of its five-year strategic plan, reads as follows: "Cullman County Schools, in partnership with our community, will be the driving force to empower all students with skills and knowledge that are vital to becoming responsible, successful, well-rounded citizens in a rapidly changing society."

For more details on the Alabama State Department of Education Report Card, visit https://reportcard.alsde.edu/SelectSchool.aspx.

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Obituary Announcements: Dec. 18-20

Beverly Ann Chambless, 65
Beverly Ann Chambless, age 65, of Holly Pond, passed away Friday, Dec. 15, 2023, at Huntsville hospital. She was born Jan. 19, 1958, in Hinton, West Virginia. Beverly loved cooking, baking, fishing, crocheting, movie trivia and spending time with family. She was very active in the band with her children. She graduated from Monroe High School in 1976 and graduated from Miami University with an RN degree. She owned the B&B country kitchen in Cullman at one point. Preceding her in death were her father, Lewis Gene "Nick" Yancey, her beloved husband Frank Chambless, one brother Frank Neal Hollon. She is survived by her mother, Shirley Brooks, daughter Lora (Robert) Shavers, daughter Sarah Chambless, son Steven (Brandi) Brewster, grandchildren Aubrey Shavers and Samuel Brewster, three sisters Kimberly Helmick, Sandra Mobley, Donna Leach, brother Darrell Yancey and a host of nieces and nephews. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Carolyn Kay Zimmerman, 94
Memorial service for Carolyn Kay Zimmerman, 94, of Cullman, is Sunday, Jan. 7, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Dorsey Creek Church in Dodge City. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Carolyn was born Jan. 7, 1929, to Earnest Kay and Emma Nelson Kay. She passed from this life on Monday, Dec. 18, 2023. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Edward 'Shelley" Zimmerman; son, Truman Zimmerman; grandson, Kevin Scheer. Survivors include her daughter, Cathy (Kerry) Scheer; daughter-in-law, Lynn Zimmerman; grandchildren, Stacey Weaver, Kyle (Leslie) Scheer, Cassie (Dalton) Drew, Taylor (Candice) Zimmerman; great-grandchildren, Andrew (Emma) Weaver, Kyle Austin Scheer, Jr., Kaide Scheer, Elle Scheer, Lexie Scheer, Garrett Scheer, Ava Drew, Reese Drew, Eliza Drew; a host of family and friends. Visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Jimmy Dale Bradford, 82
Jimmy Dale Bradford, age 82, of Vinemont, Alabama passed away on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023. Jimmy is survived by his cousins, nieces, and nephews. Jimmy was preceded in death by his parents George and Leona Bradford; brothers, T. J. Bradford, Herman Bradford, Bill Bradford and his sister, Betty Parker. A visitation for Jimmy will be held in the chapel on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023, from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue, NW, Cullman, AL 35055. With the funeral service starting at 2 p.m. in the chapel. An interment following at Bell Springs Baptist Church Cemetery, Falkville, Alabama. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Faith Moody-Hammock, 81
Hanceville Funeral Home announces the passing of our very own and beloved, Faith Moody-Hammock, 81, of Hanceville, Alabama. The funeral service will be held at noon Friday, Dec. 22, 2023, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will take place at Union Hill Cemetery in Hanceville. Reverend Paul Campbell will be officiating the services. The family will welcome friends at the funeral home on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023, from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. and on Friday, Dec. 22, 2023, from 9 a.m. until noon. Faith was born on March 27, 1942, in Hanceville and passed away on Dec. 18, 2023, at her residence in Hanceville surrounded by her family. She was preceded in death by her parents, James Dee and Mattie Mae Hooper-Moody; and her sister, Alice Coyne. Survivors include her long-time companion, George Dodd; children, Jeff "Bart" Hammock (Vicki), Nancy Hammock-Keith (Jason) and Jamie (Jenny) Hammock; grandchildren, Justin Hammock (Erin), Jamie Hammock (Jessica), Morgan Hammock, Mallory Hammock, Joseph Keith, Jacob Keith, Mattie Claire Keith, and several step-grandchildren; great grandchildren, Levi Hammock, Emie Hammock, Oliver Hammock, Aubrey Hammock, Halle Hammock; and several step great-grandchildren; sisters, Brenda Holloway (Tommy), Cherri Ainsworth (Mike), and Donna Guthrie (John); and a host of many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. In lieu of flowers the family request donations be made in her memory to the Hanceville Methodist Building Fund-Mail to: P.O. Box 255, Hanceville, AL, 35077 or Union Hill Church of Christ Cemetery Fund-Mail to: 3320 County Road 509, Hanceville, AL 35077 Serving as pallbearers will be Alan Baker, Mark Bement, Tim Compton, Brant Evans, Charles "Kayro" Gamble, Lane Horton and Terrell Mahaffey.

Terre Gail Gouge Long, 66
Terre Gail Gouge Long, age 66, of Arley, passed away Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023, at Cullman Regional Medical Center. She was born Aug. 16, 1957, to Norman and Hilda Gouge. Terre is survived by her brother, Bill (Ramona) Gouge; nieces, Andrea (Thomas) Lee and Samantha (Garrett) Gouge; nephew, William "Billy" Gouge; and a host of great nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Louis Wayne Long and parents, Norman and Hilda Gouge. Memorial services will be held at a later date.

Willard Ryan Drummond, 55
Funeral service for Willard Ryan Drummond, age 55, of Cullman, will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. prior to the service. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Drummond passed away on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, at Cullman Regional. He was born July 5, 1968, in Cullman, Alabama, to Willard Avery Drummond and Frances Eleanor Dean. He was preceded in death by his father, Willard Avery Drummond; stepfather, James Dean; and grandparents, Charlie and Zelda Drummond and Onnie and Audrey Freeman. Survivors include his son, Colby Ryan Drummond; mother, Frances Dean; brothers and sisters, Ritchie Lee Drummond (Wenona F. Ordonez), Jamie Dean Crook, Rendell (Julie) Drummond, Jason Dean (Carissa Corbin), and Amanda Dean (Mike) Cotton; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Marvin Carl Ermshar, 85
Memorial service for Marvin Carl Ermshar, age 85, of Cullman, will be at 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 2, 2024, at Cullman Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements. Mr. Ermshar passed away on Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, at Woodland Village Health Care. He was born Jan. 14, 1938, in California to Lawrence and Thelma Ermshar. He was preceded in death by his wife, Linda Ermshar; parents; brother, Ronald Ermshar; sister-in-law, Caryl Ermshar. Survivors include his son, Kurt J.D. (Elizabeth) Ermshar; daughters, Kimberly Love and Victoria R. (Marc) Karsten; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brothers, Douglas (Suzie) Ermshar and Edwin Ermshar; sister-in-law, Arlene Ermshar; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Judy Ann Parker, 75
Judy Ann Parker, age 75, of Hanceville, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023, at Cullman Regional. She was born Nov. 10, 1948, in Cullman, Alabama, to Floyd McDowell and Ophelia McDowell. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Kristina Harris; parents; and brother, Gary McDowell. Survivors include her husband, Wayne D. Parker; son, James (Lamonica) Harper; grandchildren, Deserie Young, Kaleene Whitlock, Chloe Harper, Caitlin Harper, and Chelsea Harper; and brother, Quinnen McDowell.

I.V. Pickering, 81
I.V. Pickering, age 81, of Vinemont, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023, at Cullman Regional Medical Center in Cullman, Alabama. She was born to Matthew Trussell and Dorthy Christine Watts in Arley, Alabama on Sept. 13, 1942. I.V. retired from the Alabama Department of Corrections as a talented communication supervisor. I.V. grew up in West Hollywood, Florida in Broward County. At the age of 16, she with her siblings and parents, moved to Okeechobee, Florida. She later graduated high school in Martin County Florida in 1960. She attended Dunklin Memorial Baptist Church in Indian Town in Martin County, Florida. Here she later met and married her husband of 62 years, Abriel George "Jody" Pickering on May 27, 1961. I.V. is survived by her husband, Abriel George "Jody" Pickering; son, Joey Wayne Pickering (Brittany); grandchildren, Heather Pickering Wade (Michael) and Joshua Braxton Pickering; two great grandchildren, Izabella Wade and Gabriel Wade; sisters, Geraldine Trussell Bates (Jerry) of Cullman Alabama, and Kathleen Trussell Jenkins (Bill) of Okeechobee, Florida; and a host of family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Mathew Trussell and Dorthy Christine Watts Trussell; brother Roy Trussell; and sister Dianne Trussell Potter. Visitation will be on Saturday, Dec. 23, 2023, from 1 p.m. until p.m. Service will be at 2 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Addison, Alabama. Burial will be at in Hillcrest Cemetery in Addison.

Bonnie June Thompson, 91
Bonnie June Thompson, age 91, of Vinemont, Alabama passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023. Bonnie is survived by her sister-in-law Laverne Stokes-Laney; her sons Nathan Thompson(Anna) and Benton Thompson(RoseAnn), her grandchildren Dustin Thompson(Cortney), Blake Thompson(Jen), Karlie Amonite and Courtney Stokes(David) and her great grandchildren Gracie,Tyce and Tray Thompson, Tripp,Olen and Theodore Stokes, Klaire and Kate Amonite. Bonnie was preceded in death by her husband P.A. Thompson; her parents Theodore Sephas and Delia Bell Woody-Stokes; her brother Woody Bell Stokes; her granddaughter Stacey Lynn Thompson, and her sisters Esther Willodean Wilson and Betty Jean Woods. A celebration of life visitation for Bonnie will be held Friday, Dec. 22, 2023, from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue, NW, Cullman, Alabama 35055, followed by a celebration of life funeral service at 11 a.m. Bonnie will be laid to rest in Blair Community Cemetery.

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