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SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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Temporary restraining order halts issuance of Integrated Facility Licenses

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Late Wednesday evening, Jan. 3, Montgomery Circuit Court Judge James Anderson issued a temporary restraining order, banning the Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission (AMCC) from issuing licenses to five would-be Integrated Facilities – facilities with the ability to grow, cultivate, dispense, transport and sell medical cannabis. This comes a mere five days after the same judge signed a TRO blocking dispensary licenses from being issued on Dec. 29, 2023.

Unlike the TRO that was issued for the dispensary licenses that left Cullman County's Wagon Trail Med-Serv safe in the licensing process, this new TRO does affect CEO and President Joey Robertson and his facility Wagon Trail Med-Serv as it was in the running to receive their licensure from the AMCC and among the top five integrated facilities in the state of Alabama.

"We appreciate the judicial system and the rights that people have to air their grievances. We are still in a great position as the second-ranked awardee, unanimous approval by the AMCC; however, we would love for the judicial system to just let this move forward," said Robertson.

Although Alabama was one of the first states in the South to legalize medical marijuana in May » PAGE 8

Patterson appointed new CPD assistant chief


CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO
Then patrol officer Brandon Patterson is pictured with his wife Candace, daughter Katie and former Cullman Police Chief Kenny Culpepper in 2017.

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Police Department has a new assistant chief.

Patrol Officer Brandon Patterson was appointed to the assistant chief position this week by Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs. Former Assistant Police Chief Jason Mickle recently retired.

Police Chief David Nassetta congratulated Patterson on his appointment. Nassetta said Patterson has worked in law enforcement with the Cullman County Sheriff's Office and the Cullman Police Department on patrol since 2012.

Cullman Regional a 175-bed hospital after 2-phase expansion project
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Library's 2024 Winter Reading Challenge runs through Feb. 29



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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Jan. 5

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Jan. 5, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Dec. 28
- harassing communications; CR 1354
- receiving stolen property; possession of drug paraphernalia; attempt to elude police officer; CR 728
- harassing communications; Hwy. 69 S

Dec. 29
- harassment; CR 1807
- theft of property; Hwy. 278 E
- assault; CR 1220
- theft of property; Hwy. 69 N
- domestic violence; CR 571
- domestic violence; criminal mischief; CR 1371
- theft of property; CR 71
- assault; CR 699
- theft of property; CR 1354
- harassment; CR 1195
- permitting dogs to run at large; CR 116

Dec. 30
- domestic violence; Ridgeway St.
- assault; CR 161
- burglary; CR 1585
- burglary; CR 1043
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 490

Dec. 31
- theft of property; Alvis Dr., Hanceville
- domestic violence; resisting arrest; CR 1605
- domestic violence-elder abuse; CR 791
- harassment; CR 264

Jan. 1
- harassment; CR 222
- assault; CR 1242

Jan. 2
- criminal mischief; CR 1635
- theft of property; CR 398
- theft of property; CR 1678

Jan. 3
- theft of property; Hwy. 278 E
- theft of property; Hwy. 157
- theft of property; Neptune Dr.
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree; possession of drug paraphernalia; attempt to elude police officer; Hwy. 278 W
- burglary; Hwy. 278 W

ARRESTS

Jan. 1 – 3

Arnold, Zachary C.; 33
- public intoxication

Blumenfeld, Tamala R.; 56
- causing of delinquency, dependency or need of supervision

Burton, Christopher T.; 45
- arson-residence
- assault-aggravated assault-A to M-aggravated assault (attempted murder)

Cleghorn, Timothy D.; 58
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- attempt to elude police officer
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Collier, Nichole D.; 30
- larceny/theft-miscellaneous

Durham, David J.; 47
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Evans, Travis W.; 58
- FTA- larceny/theft-shoplifting less than $500

Farmer, Kimberly T.; 30
- Grand Jury- larceny/theft
- Grand Jury- financial exploitation of the elderly-1st degree

Ford, David L.; 45
- promote prison contraband (drugs)
- FTA- no seat belt
- FTA- driving while license suspended
- FTA- failure/refusal to display insurance
- FTA- failure to register vehicle
- FTA- speed above 45 MPH on county road
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Hancock, Patrick H.; 39
- Grand Jury- electronic solicitation of a child

Lindsey, Kevin C.; 40
- Probation Violation- possession of dangerous drugs

Looney, Blake S.; 23
- FTA- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle

McKinney, Michael S.; 55
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs

Perkins, Rusty L.; 45
- FTA- negotiating worthless instrument (2 counts)

Zettles, Douglas; 55
- forgery-checks (2 counts)
- possessing forged instrument (2 counts)
- illegal possession/use of credit/debit card
- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft, $1,500 - $2,500

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Jan. 3
- harassing communications; person
- theft of property-4th degree; Dollar General; Hwy. 278 W; miscellaneous; $25
- identity theft; person

Jan. 4
- theft of property-2nd degree; JELCO; John H. Cooper Dr. SE; sign; $2,000
- forgery-3rd degree; theft of property-3rd degree; person; forged check

ARRESTS

Jan. 3 – 4

Looney, Blake S.; 23
- FTA- theft of property-4th degree

Brant, Jared L.; 44
- possession/receiving controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Bartee, Katherine L.; 41
- FTA- expired tag
- FTA- driving without license
- FTA- insurance violation

Martinez, Tori M.; 30
- FTA- public intoxication

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

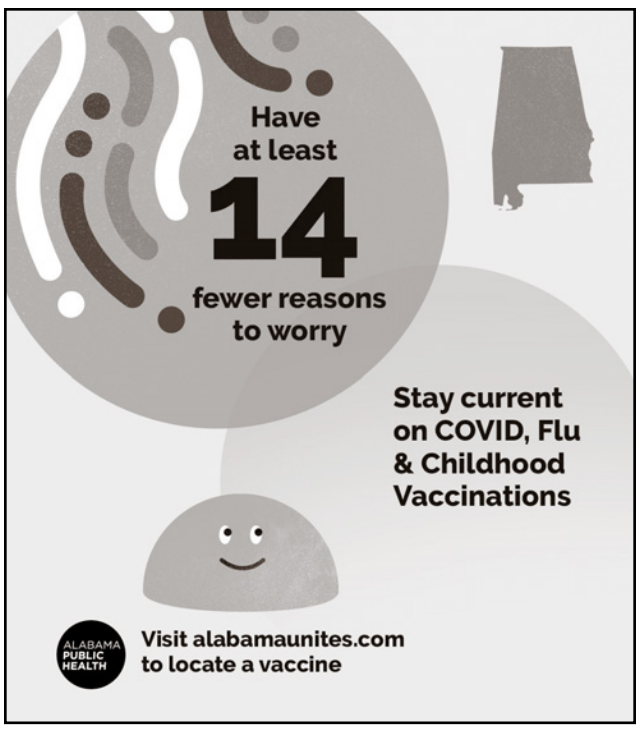
Find arrest and incident reports online Monday-Friday at www.CullmanTribune.com.

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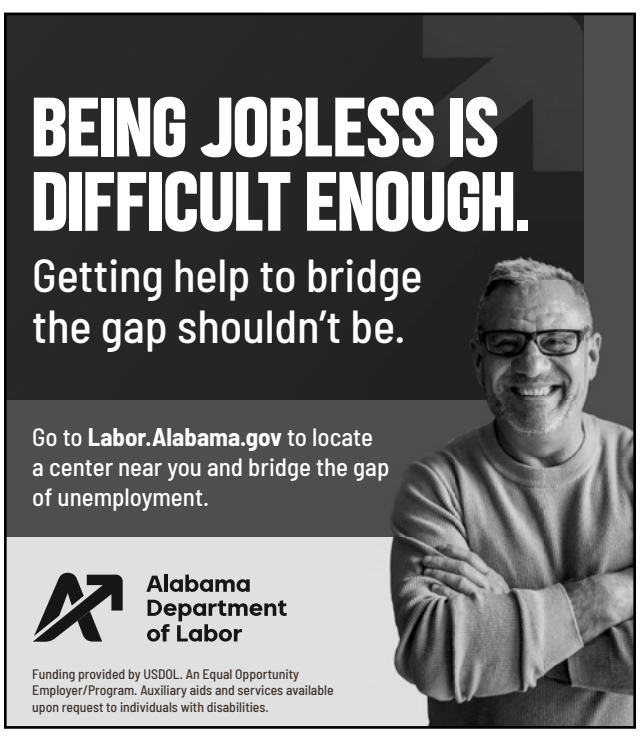
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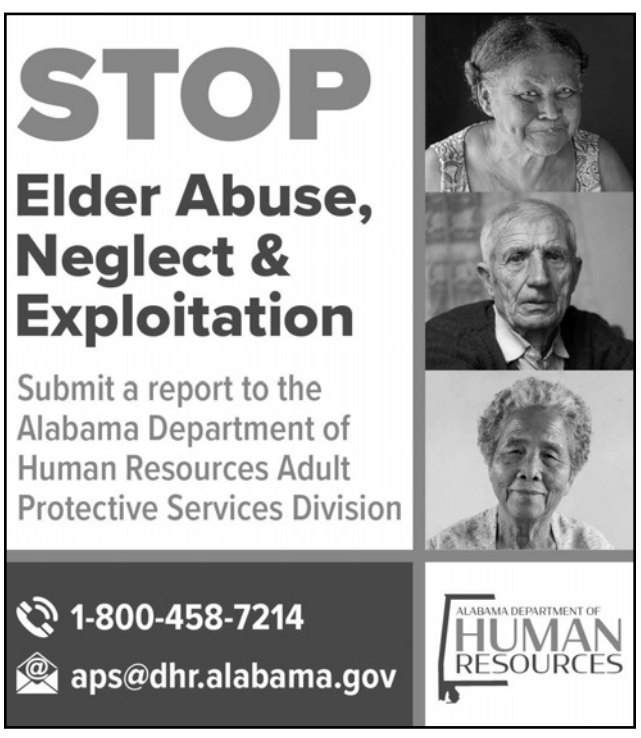
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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.

• Sunday, Jan. 7 - 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, Jan. 7 - 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 10. Praise & Worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd 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.

Cullman Education Retirees Association Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 18, at 11 a.m. at Stone Bridge Farms. Our speaker is Jill Jackson, president of Alabama Retirees Association. Afterward, there will be lunch and fellowship for those who choose to stay. New members and all education retirees are invited.

2024 Polar Bear Plunge

Saturday, Jan. 20, at 10 a.m. at WildWater and the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center. Prizes include four WildWater season passes and one annual family CWAC membership. Event benefits Special Olympics. You MUST be present to win! The event is FREE to enter, and we will be accepting optional donations at the event for our partner, Special Olympics! Register NOW to take the plunge: http://tinyurl.com/PolarBear-Plunge2024

19th Annual Empty Bowls of Cullman County Chili Dinner

Feb. 19, from 4-6:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. Featuring fun, fellowship, chili by Three Guys, grilled cheese sandwiches, handmade pottery bowls, silent auction and live Southern Gospel music. Special guest emcee Nate Williams from WXJC 101.1. Eat in, carry out or drive through. Tickets are $15 and are available at Cullman Caring for Kids and First United Methodist Church. Proceeds will benefit the Cullman Caring for Kids food bank.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JANUARY 6, 2024

Shiver for a cause at local Polar Bear Plunge Jan. 20

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Those brave enough to test the wintry waters at WildWater will take part in Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism's annual Polar Bear Plunge on Saturday morning, Jan. 20. By diving into the glacial outdoor pool, participants will be able to start the year with a splash, enjoy an opportunity to give back to Special Olympics of Alabama and possibly win big in the process with a four-pack of season passes to WildWater and a family membership to the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center up for grabs.

Registration for the plunge is free, but organizers encourage plungers to warm their hearts after a chilly dip and give to Special Olympics of Alabama at the event. WildWater General Manager Michael Schwitek said his team will be welcoming participants from all over north Alabama to show their support for Special Olympics of Alabama and continue fostering an inclusive environment for athletes with disabilities.

"Our annual Polar Bear Plunge is a fun and exhilarating way to support Special Olympics of Alabama," smiled Schwitek, who said all eyes will be on the prizes.

The Polar Bear Plunge is set for Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, at 10 a.m. Registration is open now.

The event is free, with an optional donation to Special Olympics of Alabama requested. WildWater is located at 1707 Main Ave. SW.

Get more info at www.cullmanrecreation.org/take-the-plunge-2024-polar-bear-plunge-at-cwac. To register, visit http://tinyurl.com/cprstplunge.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Brave souls, young and old, made a splash at Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism's annual Polar Bear Plunge Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023.

Local woman leading chronological Bible study, almost 100 strong

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County has a reputation for being a Bible centric. One local woman felt a calling that a reputation for being a Bible-believing area wasn't enough and has taken the lead in involving her community in a Bible study that is done chronologically.

Danielle Shedd has been involved in church her whole life. The seeds of Christianity that were planted long ago gave Shedd a purpose. That purpose led her to sharing her journey with other women who were also seeking a deeper connection with the Bible.

"It all started with me having a feeling and a calling to learn and have a better understanding of the Bible," said Shedd.

"First and foremost I wanted something that was literally just the Bible – not any changes. I wanted something that was in chronological order to help me to understand it; as you know the Bible was written by so many authors and can be a bit confusing.

"When you read it you can be thinking, 'What in the world did I just read?' I think that reading it in the order it happened will help with understanding."

Studying the Bible chronologically places each book, chapter and verse in the estimated time period when it would have actually happened in biblical times.

The books of the Bible are not arranged in any particular order and can be confusing to someone just embarking on their spiritual journey.

For example, the New International Version believes the book of James has strong similarities with other books in the wisdom tradition, but it is typically placed within a group of letters, suggesting that it, too, should be read as a letter.

Shedd said she searched far and wide for a program that would help her meticulously comb through the texts of the gospel, finally landing on an online program that checked each box left open on her list.

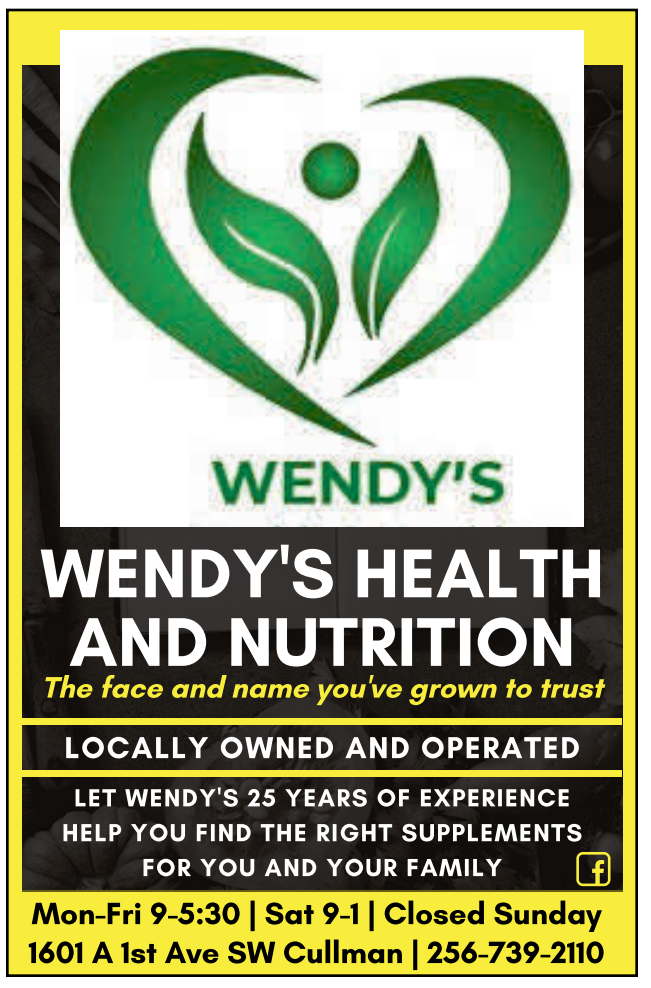
"The program we are following is The Bible Recap with Tara-Leigh Cobble. It's a study of reading the Bible in chronological order over the course of a year with videos that also help break it down and explain things further," said Shedd.

"For some reason I was pulled to this particular study; then the thought came to mind that doing life together is so much better.

"I decided to ask if anyone wanted to follow alongside and study with me to grow closer to God.

"The group of women rising up with me has now grown to almost 100 and it excites me so much to see so many women ready to grow deeper in love with God!

"We encourage each other, keep each other accountable, pray for each other and plan on meeting up maybe monthly to fellowship and talk about our studies."



Caution (from Front)

Kyle Kallhoff
Cullman City Schools

With another legislative session in Alabama right around the corner, along with a presidential election, "school choice" is quickly becoming a hot topic across the state. The phrase could mean anything from voucher systems to statewide open enrollment, depending on who is defining it.

As an advocate for public education and the superintendent of one of the best school systems in Alabama, I believe we need to be extremely cautious when it comes to any legislation or bills that will divert funds from our school systems. Taking money away from schools isn't the solution, it will only exacerbate the problems that students in Alabama face. We need to protect what is best for the students we serve, whether it be STEM education, multiple opportunities in fine and performing arts, advanced and dual enrollment classes, athletic programs or career technical education tracks aligned to student interest and the needs of the local workforce.

School choice already exists in Alabama

Did you know that we already have school choice in Alabama? In 2012, Alabama enacted the Alabama Accountability Act, which provides a scholarship program for low-income students to attend public or private schools. And in 2015, our state established The Alabama School Choice and Student Opportunity Act to provide for public charter schools as a part of the public education system of the state of Alabama. Those Acts are already in effect right now, and provide options for parents and families who are interested in pursuing them.

Schools in Alabama already face financial challenges

Unfortunately, Alabama does not fully fund education, which impacts many school systems that do not have the benefit of strong local support. A 2022 Report from the Education Law Center (W.K. Kellogg Foundation) analyzed 10 years of data sets to determine the condition of school funding in each state. Grades were assigned in three categories.

How did Alabama fare?

Funding Level: F
Funding Distribution: F
Funding Effort: C

Just some of the current public education funding gaps in Alabama include: Transportation is funded at just over 80%. The Numeracy Act is not fully funded. There are gaps in funding for nurses in order to have a certified nurse in every school building. There are gaps in funding for reading coaches which are required in every school with a K-3 configuration. There are gaps in special education funding versus what is needed to meet the individual needs of our students with IEPs. In addition, many school choice models do not consider the additional funding needed to educate and meet the needs of students with special needs. In some cases, non-public schools can choose to not enroll students with disabilities, or if they do, they are not equipped to meet their individual academic or behavioral needs.

All of the above are considered unfunded mandates, and they are challenges teachers, principals and counselors across the state are forced to grapple with year-in and year-out. Local revenues from each school system are used to close these funding gaps, and moving funds from schools that are already underfunded for an unproven "school choice" legislation could have dire consequences.

Therefore, we should pause and research the depths of any upcoming school choice legislation and make sure we are not diverting state funding for public schools — and more importantly ensure that any potential school choice legislation is positively impacting all of the students of Alabama.

Kyle Kallhoff
Superintendent,
Cullman City Schools



Library's 2024 Winter Reading Challenge runs through Feb. 29

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Calling all bookworms and book enthusiasts! The Cullman County Public Library System (CCPLS) is hosting its first Winter Reading Challenge – complete with prizes for every age group.

The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy reports that 130 million Americans – 54% of adults between the ages of 16 and 74 years old – lack proficiency in literacy, essentially reading below the equivalent of a sixth-grade level. Literacy rates in school-aged children have been steadily declining since schools were placed on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Literacy Institute reported that approximately 40% of students across the nation cannot read at their basic grade level.

Enter the CCPLS, whose staff brainstormed and concocted a challenge to entice individuals into reading. The cold weather reading event began on Jan. 2 and runs until Feb. 29. Participants are able to log their read books on a reading log that can be picked up at the main library circulation desk, or printed from http://tinyurl.com/CCPLSReadingChallenges.

"We are very excited about this reading challenge. We have some really great sponsors and prizes this year," said CCPLS Circulation Manager Laura Benton.

Children from preschool to age 12 can complete five activities from a table of 12 choices, return their paper with the appropriate options marked and receive a prize from the library's newly incepted "treasure box" filled with small toys and knick-knacks. Teens who complete their challenge will receive a coupon for one complimentary Frio's popsicle.

The adult reading challenge is a bit different, as participating adults must choose to read and log at least one book from five of the eight offered categories. Like the children and teenage participants, adult readers may return their completed logs to the CCPLS circulation desk and enter to win a larger prize. Four local sponsors have donated generously to the library's reading challenge; prizes from Karma's Coffee House, Werner's Trading Company, Monograms Plus and Nomadic Threads are on the table for the adult readers to win.

The main branch of the library is located at 200 Clark St. NE and can be contacted by phone at 256-734-1068. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Get more information at www.facebook.com/cullmancounty-publiclibrarysystem.



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman County Public Library System's Winter Reading Challenge runs until Feb. 29.

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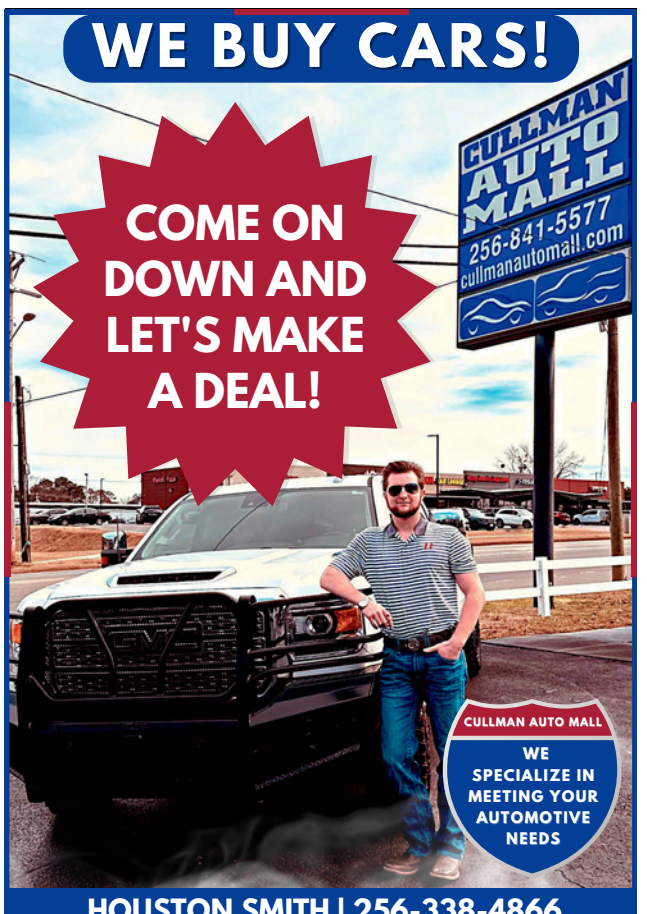
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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JANUARY 6, 2024

PREP BASKETBALL

Vinemont splits varsity matchups with Cold Springs

Sammy Confer
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VINEMONT, Ala. — It was a battle of the Eagles at Vinemont Thursday night as Cold Springs made the trip to take on its county rivals and both teams split the varsity matchups. In the girls' game, it was tight throughout, but some big plays late by Cold Springs helped the Lady Eagles get past Vinemont 60-56. In the boys' game, after a closely contested first half, Vinemont pulled away late in the second half to secure a 56-39 win over Cold Springs.

Cold Springs 60 - Vinemont 56 (Varsity Girls)
A trey by Whitney Quick put Vinemont on the scoreboard first, but a rebound and putback by Cold Springs' Malaya Taylor cut it to 3-2. Later on, five straight points by Ella Bruer gave Cold Springs a 7-4 lead. Another basket down low by Taylor made it a 9-5 game, but on the other end, an and-one by Reagan Robinson cut it to 9-8 with a little over four minutes to go in the opening quarter. A steal and layup by Bruer made it 11-8, but Caroline Miller drilled a trey from the right wing to tie the game up at 11. Baskets by Taylor, Maci Brown, and a rebound and putback by Ella Dickerson gave Cold Springs an 18-12 lead going into the second period.

A trey by Bruer and a basket by Kenady Graves pushed Cold Springs' lead to 23-12 early in the second, but Vinemont quickly cut into their lead after that. Vayda Yarbrough and Maggie Burks each put in a long-range shot to cut it to 23-18 with a little over three minutes to go in the first half. Four straight points by Robinson made it a one-point game, then after a Brown basket kept the Cold Springs lead at one at 25-24, a late layup by Robinson gave Vinemont a 26-25 lead at the half.

Vinemont got off to a strong start to the third quarter. Whitney Quick put in a three from the top of the key to make it a 29-25 game, then a layup by Robinson and a trey from the left corner by Mill pushed their lead to 34-25 with 5:50 left to go in the third. It was Cold Springs' turn to go on a run of their own, as back-to-back baskets by Brown and Dickerson made it a 34-29 game. A pair of Ciara Calvert free throws, a Brown trey, and another basket in the paint by Taylor gave Cold Springs a 36-34 lead.

Five straight points by Morgan Flanagan gave Vinemont the lead right back at 39-36, but a Bruer trey saw Cold Springs get the lead right back at 40-39 late in the third. The last shot of the quarter came from Miller, as her trey from the left corner, gave Vinemont a 43-41 lead going into what would be an exciting and incredible fourth quarter.

A pair of threes by Quick pushed Vinemont's lead to 49-45, then Dickerson started to get red-hot from the field. Three free throws by Dickerson made it a 50-49 game, but Robinson split her technical foul shots to make it a 51-49 game with 3:25 left to go in the contest. Quick put in a pair from the line to give Vinemont a 53-49 lead, but Dickerson banked in a short jumper and later drilled both free throws to make it a 54-53 game with 1:26 remaining in the game. Miller split her free throws to make it a two-point game, but Dickerson made another big shot down low to tie the game up at 55.

Carley Stephens split her free throws to give Vinemont a 56-55 lead. Vinemont was inbounding the ball late with a chance to burn some time off the clock, but a bad pass landed in the hands of Dickerson. She then drove down low and made the basket, plus the foul. She converted on her and-one opportunity to put Cold Springs on top 58-56 with 16 seconds remaining. Later on, Brown drilled both of her shots from the line to help seal the 60-56 win for Cold Springs.



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
Cold Springs' Ella Bruer posted 17 points in the Lady Eagles' win at Vinemont Thursday night.

Bruer led the way for Cold Springs with 17 points. Dickerson put up 16 points, with 12 of those points coming in the final period. Brown added 11 points, and Taylor put up 10 points. For Vinemont, Quick finished with 16 points. Robinson added 12 points, and Miller ended up with 11 points.

Vinemont 56 - Cold Springs 39 (Varsity Boys)
Colton Gillis put in the first three points of the game for Vinemont to give them the early lead, but Cole Bales drilled a trey to tie the game up at three. Jeremy Harbison put in a short jumper, then a driving layup by Bryson Bush and a pair of Harbison free throws gave Vinemont a 9-3 lead. Ethan Day put in a late trey for Cold Springs to cut it to 9-6, but a pair of free throws by Bush gave Vinemont an 11-6 going into the second period.

Baskets in the paint by Tycen Kilgo and Josh Winfrey made it an 11-10 game, and Bales put in a floater to give Cold Springs a 12-11 lead with 4:44 remaining in the first half.

Later on, baskets by Winfrey and Bales pushed Cold Springs' lead to 16-13 with less than three minutes to go in the first half. With 2:05 left to go until halftime, another trey by Day made it a 19-14 game. Late baskets by Bush and Kaden Graham cut it to a 19-18 game at the half.

Drew Dykes put in a tough shot down low gave Cold Springs a 21-18 lead early in the third, but Vinemont went on a little run to get the lead right back. Dawson Wilhite drilled a trey, Bush put in a shot in the paint, and Harbison added a three of his own to give Vinemont a 28-20 lead more than halfway through the third. Bales stopped the run with a pair of free throws to cut it to 28-23, but a trey by Bush made it a 31-23 game.

Another three by Harbison gave Vinemont the first double-digit lead of the game at 36-25 and they would end up taking a 36-27 lead into the final period.

Day drilled another three from the top of the key to cut it to 36-30, but Vinemont quickly pushed their lead to 44-31 behind baskets from Isaiah Jones, Wilhite, and Harbison. A layup by Clayton Terry and another three by Day made it a 48-36 game, but an and-one on the other end by Harbison quickly pushed Vinemont's lead to 51-36. Cold Springs wouldn't get any closer after that and Vinemont collected a 56-39 win over Cold Springs.

Harbison led the way for Vinemont with 19 points. Bush put in 10 points, and Jones added nine points. For Cold Springs, Day finished with 12 points and Bales added 11 points.

Cold Springs will travel to take on Cleveland Friday night and Vinemont will travel to face Brindlee Mountain Tuesday.

PREP BASKETBALL

Addison picks up 61-59 win over Falkville, Lady Bulldogs fall 59-38

Todd Walker
Tribune Correspondent

ADDISON, Ala. — Addison hosted the Falkville men's and women's basketball teams at lovely Allen Stephenson Gymnasium and the hometown Bulldogs came away with a split. Addison's Lady Bulldogs fell to the Lady Blue Devils in a game closer than the score would indicate 59-38 while the Addison men came away with a nail-biting, 61-59 win over the Falkville men.

Falkville 59 – Addison 38 (Varsity Girls)
The young Addison Lady Bulldogs led by their Head Coach Bailey Boland continue to learn on the job as they dropped a closer than expected game to the Falkville Lady Blue Devils 59-38. The young ones from Addison continue to improve each game and you can see it on the court as their play has improved immensely since opening day.

Falkville came out and won the opening period 16-8 which had the Lady Bulldogs playing very competitively with the veteran Blue Devils. Falkville's Ellie Cate Hill, who has seemingly been playing varsity basketball for Falkville since she was in the fourth grade, dominated. Hill had 8 points, to include two deep threes and 2 rebounds. Leah Pierce also added a three-pointer for Falkville. Addison was led by Karson Wyatt who had a monster game. Wyatt had three points and 4 rebounds in the period. Gracie Roberts drilled a three-pointer for the hometown Dawgs.

The second period had the Lady Devils winning it 13-8 but Addison was more than holding their own. Ever since Addison Senior Point Guard Hadley Butler returned from injury the Lady Bulldogs have had a much easier time bringing the ball up the court.

Pierce led Falkville with 5 points, while Abbey Grace Tomlin got started on her own great game as she had 4 points and a board in the period. Hill led the Lady Blue Devils with 4 rebounds. Addison's Emma Cleghorn and Wyatt had 4 points apiece while Wyatt snagged 4 rebounds. Falkville went into the half with a 29-16 lead.

The second half started out with each team scoring and the other team responding. Falkville then went on a 6-0 run to close out the period 15-8. Falkville's Tomlin owned the period for Falkville as she had 12 of their 15 points. Ivy Gilstrap had 3 rebounds to lead the Lady Blue Devils in the period. Addison was led by Wyatt who had 4 points and 7 rebounds. Roberts drained another three and Butler had 3 steals to lead the Lady Bulldogs. Addison was trailing 44-24 going into the fourth.

The fourth period was fairly even as Falkville outscored Addison 15-14 to take the game 59-38. Pierce led Falkville with 5 points while Hill and Tomlin had 3 points apiece. Hill led Falkville with 3 boards in the period. Addison was led by Wyatt who had 10 points and 3 boards.

Addison Head Coach Boland,

"We are getting better as a team. We are vastly improved since the opening game, and I couldn't be prouder of the girls. We do have to improve on the lulls that we get in during the game. It happens once or twice during the games where we just don't execute as well as we need."

The Addison ladies host county foe Meek tomorrow night at Addison. Falkville will host Lindsay Lane at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Unofficial stats
Addison was led by Wyatt who had 21 points, 18 boards and 3 steals. Roberts had 7 points and 2 steals. Cleghorn had 6 points and 7 boards. Butler had 1 point, 4 boards, 6 assists and 5 steals. Ava Bartlett had 2 points and 6 boards. Reese Osborne had 1 point and 2 boards. Mattie Johnson had 1 rebound.

Falkville was led by Tomlin with 21 points and 4 boards. Pierce had 16 points and 3 boards. Hill had 11 points and 10 rebounds. Kaitlyn Bullard with 5 points. Kenya Roberson had 3 points and 2 rebounds. Gilstrap had 1 point and 4 rebounds. Hannah Roden had 2 points and 1 board.

Addison 61 – Falkville 59 (Varsity Boys)
Addison hosted Falkville and these two teams match up really evenly. Addison won the first meeting 63-61 at Falkville in early December. This game promised to be just as exciting, and it didn't disappoint.

Addison jumped out 8-0 as the Bulldogs couldn't miss and the Devils couldn't find the range. Falkville fought back and cut the lead to 8-5 on a Caden Butler three. Butler shot the lights out all night and couldn't miss. Addison finished by winning the period 15-14.

Addison had balanced scoring as six different Bulldogs scored. They were led by Owen Pratt with 4 points and a Scout Flynn trey. Bradley Willette had 4 rebounds to lead the Dawgs. Falkville was led by Butler with 8 points. Eli Parris had 4 points and 4 rebounds.

The second period had Addison pulling away to win the period 17-10 to take a 32-24 lead into the half. Addison led 26-24 with 2:27 left in the half and then went on a 6-0 run.

Two Willette putbacks and an Elijah Roberts runner closed out the scoring. Roberts led Addison with 8 points while Pratt sank a trey. Kiah Lake, Jed Wilkins and Roberts had 2 rebounds apiece. Falkville was led by Logan Fowler had 3 points and 3 rebounds.

Falkville came out strong in the third period as they scored the first six points of the period. Butler and Dawson Fowler each had a three-pointer to cut the lead to 32-30. After an Addison timeout, they came out refocused and had a 9-0 run of their own.

Two Wilkins runners, a Willette put back, a Roberts jumper with a Lake free throw accounted for the nine points. The Addison run was stopped by a Dawson Fowler trey. Addison won the period 18-16 to go into the fourth period leading 50-40. Addison was led by Wilkins 9 points and 4 rebounds. Willette had 4 points and 3 boards. Falkville was led by Butler's 8 points. Dawson Fowler and Cedric Beavers had 3 points apiece. D. Fowler and Beavers also had 3 boards apiece.

The fourth period was great for fans. Addison's lead had been cut to 54-45 with 4 minutes to go in the game. Addison seemed in control and then Falkville continued their hot shooting from three land. Fowler nailed a three to cut the lead to 54-48. Willette rebounded a miss and put it back for the two-point bucket to extend the lead to 56-48.

Fowler then drove in for a layup to cut the lead to 56-50. Dawson Fowler then nailed a three-pointer with 1:43 left to cut the lead again to 56-53. Addison's Wilkins responded by making a layup to extend the lead to 58-53. Falkville wouldn't quit as Parris hit a three-pointer from the Lake, 58-56.

Wilkins drove through heavy man to man pressure and drove to the lane making an excellent pass to Willette who put it up for a bucket to extend Addison's lead to 60-56. With 43 seconds to go in the game Logan Fowler drained a deep three. Falkville refused to quit as they had cut the lead to just one, 60-59. Wilkins hit one of two free throws for a 61-59 lead.

Then with just 3 seconds to go in the game, a potential game winning three-pointer clanked off the front of the rim and bounced away harmlessly. Addison came away with another two-point victory over Falkville.

Addison Head Coach Scott Flynn said, "Proud of our guys. Falkville always plays us tough, and their number four (Caden Butler) shot the lights out tonight. All our guys played good tonight, but I would like to point out Elijah (Roberts) played his best game of the year tonight. Bradley (Willette) was dominant on the glass tonight and Jed (Wilkins) stepped up playing hurt tonight. We have a really big game tomorrow night as we host Meek. Not only is it a big area game but a county game as well."

Addison hosts Meek tomorrow night while Falkville will host Lindsey Lane Saturday at 3 p.m.

Unofficial stats
Addison was led by Willette with 16 points, 16 rebounds and 4 blocks. Wilkins had 14 points, 6 boards and 4 assists. Roberts had 14 points, 3 boards and 4 steals. Pratt had 9 points and 3 boards. Jacob McLamb had 2 points and 7 rebounds with 2 assists. Flynn had 3 points, 3 boards, 2 assists and 2 steals. Lake had 3 points and 5 boards. Hayden Holland had 4 boards. Kayden Dyson had 2 boards.

Falkville was led by Butler who had a game high 28 points. Dawson Fowler had 10 points and 9 rebounds. Parris had 7 points and 6 boards. Logan Fowler had 6 points and 6 rebounds. Beavers had 3 points and 3 rebounds. Jackson Edmonson and 2 points and 2 boards. Lincoln Jones had 2 points and 2 boards.

PREP SPORTS

A look back at some of the best games of 2023

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MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Fairview's Jake Harper (14) fights for yardage in the Aggies' 14-7 win over Lawrence County this season.

CULLMAN, Ala. — 2023 saw more than its fair share of amazing games and fantastic finishes. Here's my list of the best games that I covered last year.

Hanceville vs. Etowah (Basketball – Jan. 10)
Hanceville took on Etowah in a huge region game at home. The Bulldogs got off to a fast start to the game, jumping out to a quick 9-0 lead, and later on, a Zach Campbell trey pushed their lead to 21-8. A basket by Will Calvert and an and-one by Campbell gave Hanceville a 26-12 lead going into the second period. Five straight points by Brayden Harris gave the Bulldogs a 33-18 lead and later pushed their lead to 37-20. A late run by Etowah, though, cut it to 43-35. Layups by Campbell and Braxton Broad pushed Hanceville's lead to 48-35 at the half.

The Blue Devils went on a huge run to start out the third period as they made it a 48-43 game, but a Harris three gave the Bulldogs a 52-43 lead. Etowah wasn't done yet, as another run made it a 52-48 game, and later on, they scored six straight points to take a 56-55 lead. A late layup by Campbell gave Hanceville a 57-56 lead going into what would be a wild back-and-forth ending to the game.

Another fast start by the Blue Devils gave them a 63-57 lead early in the fourth quarter, but treys by Broad and Harris cut it to 65-63. Etowah later pushed their lead to 70-63 and then, to 75-68. Hanceville made things very interesting after that, as Harris got fouled after drilled another three. He completed the old-fashioned four-point play, then Campbell hit a pair from the line to cut it to 75-74. The Blue Devils, though, quickly increased their lead to 81-74, but the Bulldogs looked to go on one last run to get back in the game. Campbell put in a layup, then later on, put in a huge three to make it an 81-79 game, but three free throws by the Blue Devils helped them seal the 84-79 win on the road.

West Point vs. Brewer (Basketball – Jan. 13)
West Point faced off against Brewer at home in a huge area game. Offense was hard to come by early enough for both teams, and Brewer took a 9-4 lead into the second period. The Patriots quickly pushed their lead to 18-10 in the second and later, made it 21-12. Ashton Rodgers drilled a trey, and Pressley Burtis put in a jumper to cut it 21-17, but Brewer would end up holding a 27-20 lead at the half.

A hot start to the third quarter by the Patriots saw them push their lead to 31-20, but Rodgers brought the Warriors right back into the game, as he drilled a pair of treys and converted on his and-one opportunity, to make it a 33-29 game. Brewer held a 37-31 lead, but West Point looked to cut into their deficit even more. Burtis put in a pair of shots, and Rodgers drilled a floater to cut it to 39-37 going into the fourth quarter.

A layup by Jay Lamar tied the game up at 39 early in the fourth, but the Patriots scored the next six points to take a 45-39 lead. Kolten Perry put in a floater, then Rodgers split his free throws to make it a 45-42 game. Rodgers got fouled late in the game and drilled both shots from the line to cut it to 45-44. Brewer hit a pair of free throws of their own to take a 47-44 lead. Multiple attempts by West Point to tie the game up came up just short, and the Warriors dropped a heartbreaker at home to Brewer 47-44.

Cold Springs vs. Fairview (Basketball – Jan. 26)
The Cold Springs Lady Eagles faced off against the Fairview Lady Aggies in a semi-final game at the Cullman County Tournament. It was a low-scoring affair to start out the game. Cold Springs jumped out to a 6-0 lead, but Emma Garcia made both of Fairview's baskets in the first period, as the Lady Aggies made it a 6-4 game going into the second period.

A pair of Jayla Gorham free throws made it a 9-6 game, but a jumper by Ella Dickerson helped Cold Springs push their lead to 13-6. Dickerson added a pair of free throws to make it 15-6, but the Lady Aggies went on a little run of their own, as an Allison Davis made jumper cut it to 17-12. Erin Bailey drilled a trey to give the Lady Eagles a 20-12 lead, and they ended up taking a 22-14 lead into the locker room.

After an Ella Bruer trey made it 25-17, a pair of free throws by Gorham made it 25-19, and later on, a Golden trey cut it to 27-22. Cold Springs went on an 11-4 run, and a Maci Brown trey pushed their lead to 38-26. The Lady Eagles took a 38-28 lead into the final period.

Each team traded a trey to keep it at a 10-point game early in the fourth quarter, but the Lady Aggies looked to make a run of their own to get back in the game. Baskets by Ava Thomas and Garcia cut it to 43-37, and later on, Fairview made it a 45-41 game on layups by Thomas and Garcia. Darby Nichols knocked down a floater to cut it to 48-45, but a huge steal and a free throw by Bruer helped seal the 49-45 win for Cold Springs. That win turned out to be number 700 for coach Tammy West.

Hanceville vs. Cold Springs (Basketball – Feb. 2)
The Hanceville Lady Bulldogs hosted the Cold Springs Lady Eagles in a big county game. Cold Springs got off to a quick start, scoring the first five points of the game, and the three-ball helped them push their lead to 16-4. The Lady Eagles would take a 21-8 lead into the second period.

Cold Springs continued to add to their lead in the second, stretching their lead to 30-12 on threes by Ella Bruer, Kenady Graves, and Ciara Calvert. Hanceville went on a 6-0 run to cut it to 30-18, but Maci Brown and Ella Dickerson each put in a long-range shot to give Cold Springs a 36-20 lead at the half.

The Lady Bulldogs slowly start to cut into the deficit in the third period, as an and-one by Alex Twitty and a pair of baskets by Kate Sterling cut it to 38-29. The Lady Eagles quickly pushed their lead to 43-29 on another Brown trey, and they took a 43-31 lead into the final quarter.

Hanceville got off to a red-hot start to the final period, as Aaliyah Twitty and Katelyn Boyd each hit a shot in the paint, then Boyd drilled a long-range shot to make it a 43-38 game. Another made shot by Sterling and a huge and-one by Alex Twitty tied the game up at 43. The Lady Bulldogs ended up taking a 45-43 lead on a layup by Aaliyah Twitty. The game was tied at 47 after another made shot by Sterling, but five straight points by Cold Springs gave them a 52-47 lead. Savana McAnnally put in a pair of free throws to make it a three-point game, but a pair of Brown free throws gave the Lady Eagles a 54-49 lead. Cold Springs ended up barely getting past Hanceville 54-51.

West Point vs. Lawrence County (Softball – Feb. 27)
The West Point Lady Warriors hosted the Lawrence County Lady Red Devils in a big region game. West Point quickly got in the run column in their opening at-bats, as Bethany Minck launched a leadoff home run over the center field wall to give them the early lead. Singles by Maycie Brown and Brinlee Phillips put runners on first and second, then Sidney Burks connected on a three-run home run over the center field wall to give the Lady Warriors an early 4-0 lead.

Lawrence County got a run in the second and the third to make it a 4-2 game, but West Point made it 5-2 in the bottom of the fourth on a stolen base by Katie Beth Yovino. The Lady Warriors later made it 6-3 on an RBI single by Bethany Minck, but the Lady Red Devils quickly loaded the bases with one out. After a fly out, West Point was one out away from getting the win, but Lawrence County had other plans, however, as a bases-clearing double tied the game up at six. The Lady Warriors weren't able to break the tie in their half, so the game would be decided in extra innings.

Lawrence County quickly got three runs to take a 9-6 lead, but West Point answered right back in their half. Kara Jones hit an RBI single to make it 9-7, then after a double by Macayla Wilkins, Minck hit a two-run double to tie the game up at nine. A double-play, though, ended their half of the inning. The Lady Red Devils collected a run to take a 10-9 lead, and the Lady Warriors couldn't get anything going in their final at-bats, as they ended up dropping a heartbreaker to Lawrence County 10-9.

Fairview vs. Lawrence County (Football – Oct. 20)
The Fairview Aggies took on the Lawrence County Red Devils in a huge region game. It was a defensive battle to start out, as turnovers, a failed fake punt attempt, and several punts by both teams combined was the story for most of the first half. Another Red Devil punt gave the ball back to Fairview, and on the first play, an unsportsman-like penalty on Lawrence County on the first play gave the Aggies a first down at the 44. The Aggies' running game started to get going after that, as runs by Kolt Redding, Carson Jones, and Barrett York helped them get to the 11. Redding capped off the drive in style, as he found Jameson Goble in the corner of the end zone for a seven-yard score, to give Fairview a 7-0 lead at the half.

The third quarter was more of the same, as fans saw way more than their fair share of punts from their respective squads. Fairview looked to add to their lead after forcing yet another Lawrence County punt, but another fumble gave the ball back to the Red Devils. The Aggies were called for pass interference on the first play, then Lawrence County broke free for a 76-yard run to tie the game up at seven with 7:29 left to go in the game.

Fairview looked to break the tie on its next offensive possession. Big runs by Jake Harper, plus big passes from Redding to Cade Yeager, had the Aggies inching closer and closer to the end zone. A few plays later, Redding was able to find the end zone on a huge four-yard run to give Fairview a 14-7 lead with a little over three minutes to go in the game. The Aggies picked the perfect time to force their first turnover of the game, as Redding picked off a Red Devil pass with a little over two minutes to go in the contest. Jones picked up a huge first down, and Fairview kneeled a couple of times to help seal the huge 14-7 win at home.

Holly Pond vs. Falkville (Basketball – Dec. 12)
The Holly Pond Broncos took on the Falkville Blue Devils in a key region game at home. Holly Pond got off to a great start to the game, jumping out to a quick 6-0 lead on treys by Kollin Brown and Sawyer Olinger. A three by Carson Ryan and back-to-back baskets by Cade Allbright pushed the Bronco lead to 13-2. A big run by Falkville, though, saw them tie the game up at 13, and the first period ended with both teams tied up at 15.

The second period saw more than a handful of lead changes. A made jumper by Brown gave Holly Pond a 23-22 lead, but another run by the Blue Devils saw them take a 29-25 lead into the locker room. Falkville pushed their lead to 35-27 in the third period, but a pair of free throws by Olinger and a Nik Goodwin made shot in the paint made it a 35-31 game. A pair of Brown free throws cut it to 35-33, but the Blue Devils scored the final five points of the quarter, as they took a 40-35 lead into the final quarter.

Two more free throws by Brown made it a 42-36 game, but Falkville quickly pushed their lead to 45-36, and later on, to 51-42. The Broncos, though, looked to make things really interesting in the end. Goodwin drilled a big three to cut it to 51-45, and later on, Olinger banked in a long-range shot to make it a 53-48 game. Brown put in one of his own from the left wing to trim it to just a two-point game at 55-53, but a late layup and a free throw by the Blue Devils helped them seal the 58-53 win on the road.

Fairview vs. Good Hope (Basketball – Dec. 22)
The Fairview Aggies faced off against the Good Hope Raiders in a big county matchup. It was a close first quarter, as Good Hope held a slim 8-5 lead on a driving layup by Jacob Haynes. Five straight points by Tyler Cone pushed the Raider lead to 13-7, but a trey by Blake Rickard cut it to 13-11 lead. A pair of layups by Haynes gave Good Hope a 17-12 lead going into the second quarter.

A jumper by Tucker Malin and another basket in the paint by Haynes gave the Raiders a 21-14 lead early in the second, but Fairview went on a big run of their own. Baskets by Jac Dunn, layups by Rickard and Carson Jones, and a long-range shot by Kobe Payne, gave the Aggies a 25-23 lead. The Raiders finished the first half strong, as a rebound and putback by Weston Hancock, plus a Cone trey, gave them a 31-29 lead at the half.

Five straight points by Malin pushed the Raider lead to 36-29 and later on, baskets by Malin and Cone made it a 40-32 game. Four straight points by K'mal Bell increased Good Hope's lead to 48-38. The Raiders would push their lead to 54-41. After Fairview cut it to 57-46, a late basket by Bell saw Good Hope take a 59-46 lead into the final quarter.

Hancock put in three shots from the free throw line to give the Raiders a 62-46 lead early in the final period, but all of a sudden, Fairview started to claw their way back into the game. Landun Smith put in a shot in the paint, then Cade Yeager scored five straight points, and Rickard scored three straight points, as it was now a 62-56 game. Bell stopped the bleeding with a basket on the other end, but the Aggies were just getting started.

Jones put in a layup, then Payne banked in a short jumper, and Rickard put in a trey to cut it to 66-65. Jones collected a steal and a layup to give Fairview a 67-66 lead. Free throws by Payne and Rickard gave the Aggies a 69-67 lead, but a pair of free throws by Dakota Overton tied the game up at 69 with 25 seconds left to go in the contest, setting up the stage for the biggest shot of the game.

The Aggies carefully milked the clock and the ball ended up in the hands of Payne close to the out-of-bounds line. He ended up finding Rickard in the right corner for the enormous three to give Fairview a 72-69 lead. Good Hope had a chance to tie the game up on its final possession, but the three-pointer fell just short, and the Aggies picked up a huge three-point win at home.

Cold Springs vs. Winston County (Basketball – Dec. 28)
The Cold Springs Eagles hosted the Winston County Yellow Jackets on December 28th, as they looked to build some momentum going into the new year. Cold Springs got off to a 5-1 lead, but Winston County tied the game up at five. Cole Bales scored five straight points to give the Eagles a 10-5 lead, but a pair of treys by the Yellow Jackets gave them the lead right back at 11-10. Bales hit one of his own from long-range, as Cold Springs took a 13-11 lead into the second period.

Zane Brown and Ethan Day each hit a trey in the second to push the Eagle lead to 19-11. They continued to add to their lead after that, as Bales continued his red-hot start to the game, hitting another three, and converting his and-one opportunity, to give Cold Springs a 26-15 lead. Winston County cut it to 29-20, but the Eagles' red-hot shooting from three continued. Day and Bales each added a shot from long-range, and the Eagles ended up taking a 35-22 lead into the locker room.

The Yellow Jackets found their shooting stroke to start out the third quarter, as they scored the first 14 points of the third, to take a 36-35 lead. Josh Winfrey finally stopped the run with a jumper from the free throw line to give Cold Springs a 37-36 lead. Winston County went on an 8-0 run to take a 44-37 lead, but a basket in the paint by Bailey Gann cut it to 44-40. The Eagles went into the fourth quarter trailing, 46-40.

Tycen Kilgo collected a steal and ended up finding Bales for a basket to make it a 46-42 game. Day cut it to 46-45 on a trey, and later on, he hit a layup to make it a 51-50 game. Seth Ingram drilled a trey from the right wing to give Cold Springs a 53-52 lead, but a pair of Yellow Jacket baskets gave them the lead right back at 56-53.

The game got a little crazy after that, as a technical foul was called on Winston County for having too many players on the court. Bales put in both shots from the free-throw line to make it a 56-55 game.

The Eagles had a shot to win the game, and Day ended up getting fouled with 1.2 seconds left to go in the game. The freshman ended up hitting both free throws to give Cold Springs a 57-56 lead. The Eagles got a huge defensive stand on its final possession of the game, and they ended up getting a huge 57-56 win at home.

COLUMN

Grandparent's names - they call you what?

Joe Hobby
Contributor

From my personal perspective, one of the most wonderful things about having grandchildren (besides being able to give them back) is that we get to choose the names that they call us. I'm certainly glad this is the case, but considering how parents micromanage every aspect of their kid's lives nowadays, it's surprising that they even allow us this little perk. But they do. A survey found that 38% of all grandparents' names are chosen by the grandparents themselves. This comes as no surprise to me. Grand names are a source of pride - a badge of honor that can be compared and shared with all their contemporaries from high school reunions to church covered dishes.

With such leeway, you can expect some, shall we say, interesting grandparent names. MeeMaw, MomMee, Mawmaw, Pawpaw, Mimi, Nana, Momma, Mater, Marme, Mammu, Papu, Gran, Ga-Lu, YaYa, Grat, Grams, Pop Pop, Pops, Paw, Papa and no telling how many more.

At the risk of insulting someone, I think Big Momma may be one of the worst names for a grandmother ever.

It sounds like either a female head of a crime syndicate, or an older woman who's going to Weight Watchers.

Generally speaking, it seems that the grandmothers' names are more creative than those chosen by the grandfathers.

For example, I called my grandmothers MeeMaw and MomMee. I just called both my grandfathers "granddaddy."

My parents were known as Papa and Mate. My dad made sure that his grandfather name preference was known to everyone as soon as the first grandchild was born. "Mate" was a shortened version of Mater - which is Latin for mother.

Don't ask me how it came about - the only Latin anyone in my family knows is Pig Latin.

It didn't matter; I called my mother Mate for the last 30 years of her life.

When our time came, my wife wanted to be known as Mimi, a name that seems to be very much in vogue right now.

I asked to be called granddaddy. Sure it's vanilla - kind of basic; that's just fine with me.

Others obviously agree with my choice because it's the number one name for grandfathers.

However; there was a problem. When she was young, my first granddaughter Rilynne couldn't quite pronounce the word, so she condensed it down to Grinny. I kind of liked it.

It was cute, personal and distinctive. But just when I thought that name was going to be etched on my tombstone, she began to say the word correctly.

I won't lie, it made me a little sad. Everyone wants to be a one of a kind, and now I was just another granddaddy - although on rare occasions, she will still say, "Hey Grinny!"

Situations like this come about because the survey also found that 30% of all grandparent names have been given to them by the child themselves. I'm sure that's how some of the most affectionate, quirky grandparent names come about. It's a young child's attempt to pronounce a big adult word.

Soon I had a second granddaughter named Addy, and once again, an opportunity for a unique name presented itself. Addy's attempt to call me granddaddy came out as Day-Yay. Of course, I answered to it - who wouldn't?

Unbelievably, the name has stuck. Addy is almost 5 years old now and I'm still Day-Yay. In addition, Rilynne has picked up on it, and now she calls me Day-Yay about as often as she calls me granddaddy. Once again, I'm one of a kind.

Not all names have an origin in sentiment, affection or mispronunciation. One of my old comedian friends told me that she instructed her grandkids to call her GG. When I asked her why, she responded, "Because it stands for Gorgeous Granny. And I made sure they call their grandfather Bug."

"Bug?" I asked.

"Bug. Yep. B-U-G. It stands for Butt Ugly Granddaddy. I made that one up myself."

I had no doubt about that.

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

Order (from Front)

2021, a multitude of legal stalls have halted the license issuance schedule and sabotaged the process numerous times. Twice the vetting and consideration process for licenses has been restarted, due to questions about validity and accuracy in scoring methods used by the third party responsible for rankings.

Those questions and concerns led to a new TRO – bringing into question the validity of the third and most recent round of rankings.

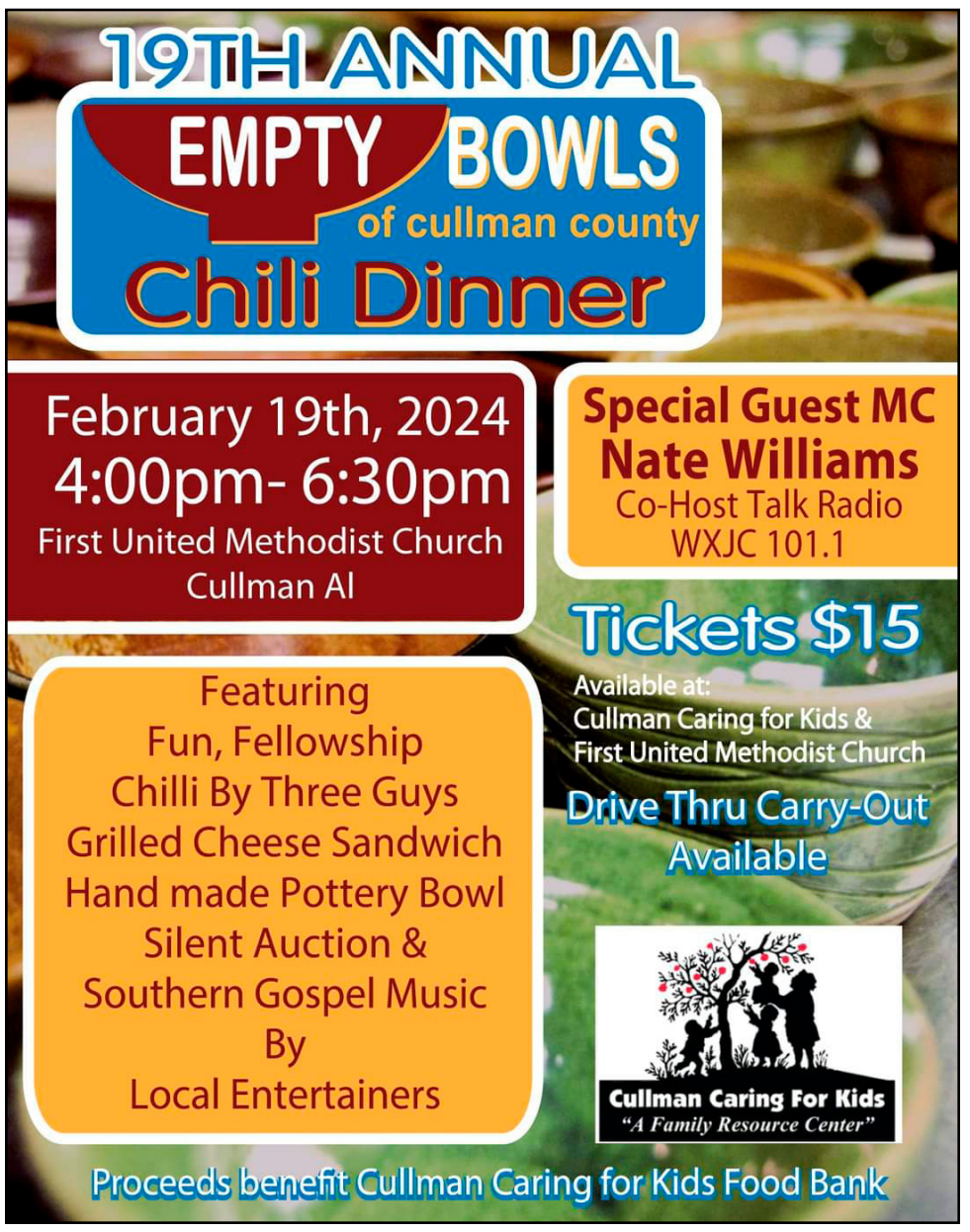
Robertson said of the AMCC and the medical cannabis program, "The integrity of the program is solid, but they had some learning curves and they made the best decision.

"I hope they're able to go forward with it. We have had such good support locally – it's been tremendous and so positive – we just want to get this medicine to people that need it."

A hearing on upholding or dismissing the newest TRO will be held on Jan. 25, 2024.

Read more at www.cullmantribune.com/tag/wag-on-trail-med-serv.

HOUSE FOR RENT
In town, 3 bedroom/2 bath, 310 Hoeppner Lane, appliances, central heat/air, in closed garage, no pets, no smoking, $1,500 a month, $1,000 deposit. Available January 8th, 2024. Call 256-734-4123.



LEGALS

PB WIL BK 120 PG 783 - 12/21/2023 02:10 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
BOBBIE T. SWANN,
Deceased.

CASE NO.: PC 2023-412

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to K. FALAN BRYERS, as Personal Representative of the Estate of BOBBIE T. SWANN, deceased, on the 21st 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.

K. Falan Bryers
Administrator

Jennifer Taylor
Attorney for Estate
200 Office Park Dr., Ste 303
Mountain Brook, Alabama 35223

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

ORDINANCE 656

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Page | 1 of 2

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

7. This ordinance adopted 28th day of December 2023, shall take effect after its publication as required by law, including notice, and public hearing, all in accordance with Section 11-52-1, et seq., Code of Alabama 1975, as amended.

Jim Sawyer
Mayor Pro tem

ATTEST:
Tania C. Wilcox, MMC



Page | 2 of 2

2 women sentenced for murder committed in Talladega National Forest

Staff Reports
Contributor

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Two women were sentenced Thursday, Jan. 4, for crimes committed in the Talladega National Forest, announced U.S. Attorney Prim F. Escalona and FBI Special Agent in Charge Carlton Peeples.

U.S. District Court Judge R. David Proctor sentenced Yasmine Marie Hider, 21, of Edmond, Oklahoma, to 35 years in prison and Krystal Diane Pinkins, 37, of Memphis, Tennessee, to life in prison.

Hider accepted responsibility and pled guilty to murder, kidnapping and robbery in October 2023. Pursuant to a plea agreement, Hider cooperated in the prosecution and testified against Pinkins at trial. Pinkins was convicted of murder, robbery and unlawful use of a firearm during a crime of violence in September 2023.

"My sincere hope is that these convictions and sentences bring justice to the victims and the victims' families, reassuring them that these defendants have been held accountable for their actions," Escalona said. "I want to thank our local, state and federal partners for their tireless efforts in this investigation."

According to court documents, on Aug. 14, 2022, college students from Florida – Adam Simjee, 22, and his girlfriend, Mikayla Paulus, 20 – were driving to Cheaha State Park, in Clay County, Alabama, to hike to the waterfalls.

The couple was flagged down by Hider to help "jump start" Pinkins' car, which was broken down. Hider robbed the young male and female and shot the male as he attempted to defend himself and his girlfriend. Officers found Hider with four gunshot wounds several feet away from where the murder occurred. Pinkins provided the firearm and assisted in the planning of the robbery. She watched from the woods as the robbery and murder took place. Pinkins was found six hours later at a secluded campsite.

The FBI and the Forest Service Law Enforcement Investigations - U.S. Department of Agriculture investigated the cases, with assistance from the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, Alabama State Park Rangers, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, St. Clair Correctional Facility K9 Tracking Team, District Attorney of the 40th Judicial Circuit of the State of Alabama- Joseph "Joe" D. Ficquette (which includes Clay County), Clay County Sheriff's Office, Cleburne County Sheriff's Office, Lineville Police Department, Ashland Police Department, Clay County Rescue Squad, Shinbone Valley Volunteer Fire Department, Tri-County Children's Advocacy Center and Jacksonville State University Center for Applied Forensics. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jonathan Cross and John B. Felton are prosecuting the case.



CONTRIBUTED

Adam Simjee, left, and his girlfriend, Mikayla Paulus, right, were the victims in the Aug. 14, 2022, crime.

Marine Resources asks anglers for help with fishing effort survey

David Rainer
Ala. Dept. of Conservation and Nat. Resources



DAVID RAINER

Alabama's iconic red snapper is one species that will be covered by the MRD pilot survey.

If you fish in Alabama coastal and/or offshore waters, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (ADCNR) Marine Resources Division (MRD) may soon ask for your help as it begins a pilot study in 2024 to gain data on recreational fishing effort for Alabama's private anglers and state for-hire captains.

Alabama's survey is similar to the effort survey currently used by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to estimate the fishing effort for its saltwater anglers. The survey is a partnership among NOAA Fisheries, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and the ADCNR/MRD.

MRD will contact licensed anglers and for-hire captains weekly to gather fishing trip information from the previous week.

"Over the last few years as we moved to the state management of red snapper and looked at how some other species are federally regulated, Alabama and some other states have had concerns about how the federal surveys have gone, especially when it comes to effort, how many people are participating in a fishery," said MRD Director Scott Bannon. "We feel that between the estimates of red snapper landings from the federal survey and Snapper Check, the Snapper Check estimates are much more representative of the amount of harvest occurring in Alabama. Fishing effort is where most of the difference between the two estimates comes from, and we feel like there are ways to estimate effort better.

"Florida has basically moved to its own system, and Louisiana and Texas have systems of their own. Mississippi and Alabama have chosen to have a trial year of 2024 to implement state data collection systems for all species. We're going to do some side-by-side comparisons of the federal survey numbers compared to the states' pilot survey numbers."

Significant changes were made within NOAA Fisheries' private recreational survey method in 2018. The largest of the changes was contacting individuals via mail from randomly selected mailing addresses in coastal states, which resulted in much higher estimates of fishing effort.

Those higher estimates were large enough to cause concerns within the marine fisheries management community regarding the accuracy of Alabama saltwater fishing effort.

The biggest contention has to do with Alabama's signature saltwater species – red snapper, which thrives off Alabama's coast. Alabama has the largest artificial reef zone (www.outdooralabama.com/saltwater-fishing/artificial-reefs) in the United States with nearly 1,100 square miles designated for habitat enhancement. Beginning in 2012, the populations of red snapper and other popular reef fish have been estimated annually through research from the University of South Alabama's School of Marine and Environmental Sciences. Recently, this research has been funded by anglers who purchase a Gulf Reef Fish Endorsement with their Alabama saltwater fishing license.

As many Alabama residents and offshore anglers remember, the Gulf states were granted state management of red snapper in 2018, which included using state data collection programs to monitor harvests. Along with small increases to the annual catch limit (quota), the red snapper seasons also increased since implementing state management. Bannon said that system worked very well. However, NOAA Fisheries insisted that harvest estimates from Mississippi, Florida and Alabama data collection programs be calibrated to recognize the difference between the federal effort surveys and the state surveys.

As a result of calibration, Alabama's private recreational anglers had a 51% decrease in the 2023 red snapper quota. Alabama's private recreational catch limit went from 1,122,662 pounds in 2022 to 558,200 pounds in 2023. For the 2024 season, MRD anticipates an increase in quota because of a calibration modification approved by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) in August 2023.

Bannon said that NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), has admitted its effort data might not be as accurate as once thought.

"The National Marine Fisheries Service recently came out with an announcement that their effort numbers for private recreational vessels in a subsample of East Coast states have been inflated by 30-40%, and they've known that since 2019," Bannon said. "They have admitted the data they are presenting to us may not be accurate. So, our goal is to develop a more accurate system so we can make better management decisions."

Bannon said the inaccuracy of the federal survey will be a topic of discussion at upcoming meetings of the Gulf Council. The Gulf Council meets Jan. 29 through Feb. 1 at the Hyatt Centric French Quarter in New Orleans, followed by a meeting April 8-11 at The Lodge at Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

"Alabama has been in the forefront of reef fish management for the last decade," said Conservation Commissioner Chris Blankenship.

"We have shown through Snapper Check that data collection at the state level is much more accurate in the red snapper fishery and can better be trusted for management decisions.

"As we have said for years, the estimates of effort and catch coming from the federal MRIP program is just not reflective of what we all see in our state. Their own staff has now admitted their system is potentially flawed. This new state-led survey is what we need to do to take away more of the uncertainty of red snapper harvest as well as the other federally and state-managed species."

Bannon said he wants anglers to be aware that those receiving a call for the pilot survey will see a 985 area code and the caller ID may say South Central Planning, the company hired to conduct the survey, which is the same company that is conducting the Louisiana survey.

"This will be a phone survey and email survey, and we want people to be aware of it, and we want people to participate, because we want to increase the accuracy and benefit the people of Alabama and all of the Gulf Coast," he said.

Each week, a current list of licensed saltwater anglers and state-licensed for-hire captains will be used to randomly select a small group of anglers who will be contacted to ask about fishing trips finishing in Alabama in the prior week. Anglers and for-hire captains will be contacted by email first.

If no email response is received within a day, telephone calls will be made over the next week. Surveys for private anglers will take very little time with only eight base questions to answer.

Results from the private angler surveys will be sent from the contractor to MRD staff. State charter captains will be contacted by MRD staff and asked similar questions.

"Our goal is to provide an account of fishing effort," Bannon said. "Effort (the number of fishing trips) is an integral part of the fisheries management equation."

It is anticipated MRD staff will be able to produce effort estimates on a weekly basis, a notable improvement to the minimum of 45 days needed to generate estimates within the federal survey.

By using the list of licensed anglers to contact, the accuracy and precision of the calculated effort estimates will likely increase. As part of the pilot study, catch estimates will be calculated for several species of interest, including red snapper, and compared to NOAA Fisheries' estimates.

"Although we intend to compare pilot survey estimates to federal survey estimates throughout 2024, it will take us until early 2025 to do the final comparisons," Bannon said. "There is a possibility that we could continue the pilot survey in 2025 if preliminary results show significant differences and we are able to put the funding in place.

"We really want to urge those who are contacted to participate. As I always tell people, the more real data you put into these surveys and evaluations of fisheries, the better the answers. You're making fewer assumptions when you have better answers.

"Our efforts and the cooperation of those who participate in the survey should help provide the best opportunities to participate in the commercial and recreational fisheries. If the pilot survey replaces the federal survey, it should positively affect everyone who fishes in the Gulf of Mexico as we make management decisions."

Cullman Regional (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Regional is now a 175-bed hospital after adding a total of 30 new beds to its critical care and medical surgical units. The two-phase expansion project included construction of a new four-story bed tower and a major renovation of existing patient care areas on both units.

When the new bed tower was completed in July, patient care was transitioned to the newly constructed areas and crews began a complete renovation of existing patient rooms. After recent approval by the Alabama Department of Public Health and the Joint Commission, the hospital has fully opened both units which have doubled in size.

"The units are seamless now. The renovated rooms have been elevated to match the functionality and aesthetic of the new rooms and everything is brand new," said Charna Brown, Cullman Regional chief nursing officer. "We're incredibly proud to care for our patients in such a modern, well-equipped and beautiful facility."

The new critical care unit (CCU) rooms feature many upgrades including state-of-the-art patient beds that use advanced technology to provide therapeutic and patient safety features. The rooms are spacious to accommodate medical equipment when necessary, and new communication tools and dedicated observation/workstations are located outside each room.

The new bed tower, part of a $30 million overall expansion project that also included renovating and enlarging the hospital's ER in 2022, was supported by U.S. Rep. Robert Aderholt, R-Alabama, with appropriated funds.

The bed tower was the third in a series of four major expansion projects the hospital will complete within three years including the ER expansion, an outpatient facility in Hartselle and a freestanding ER in Hartselle which will open this summer.

"North Alabama's population growth and our rapidly growing team of physician specialists are significant drivers for expansion projects like these," said Cullman Regional CEO James Clements. "As the hospital continues to grow, we're able to offer even more high-quality health care services to our local communities."



Obituary Announcements: Jan. 4-5

Janis Blair Witte, 73
Janis Blair Witte, age 73, of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024. Janis was born in Alabama. A visitation for Janis will be held Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024 from noon until 1 p.m. at St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church, 512 Second Avenue SE, Cullman, AL 35055. A celebration of life funeral service will occur Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, at 1 p.m., 512 Second Avenue SE, Cullman, AL 35055. An interment will occur Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, at Cullman City Cemetery, 812 Ninth Street SE, Cullman, AL 35055.

Bobby Wayne Ellenburg, 88
Memorial service for Bobby Wayne Ellenburg, age 88, of Baileyton, is Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, at 3 p.m., with Ken Forrest and Brock Johnson officiating. Service will be held at Hebron church of Christ, located at 3382 Hulaco Road, Joppa, AL 35087. Family will welcome visitors from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m., with the service following. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Ellenburg was born Nov. 20, 1935, to Jasper Lee Ellenburg and Eunice Mary Lou Harper Ellenburg. He passed from this life on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Fred Ray Ellenburg, and Buddy Ellenburg; sisters, Freeda Gill-Jones, Ione Earwood-Holmes. He is survived by his beautiful wife of 67 years, Annette "Bet" Ellenburg; two sons, Wayne (Dawn) Ellenburg, Jr., and Roger (Vicki) Ellenburg; grandchildren, Miranda (Phil) Duke, Melissa Ellenburg, Victoria (Jackie) Parcus, Brianna Lyle, Mandy (Casey) Mack, Mary Elizabeth (Zach) Nelson, William (Jeslyn) Pittman, Hannah Ellenburg, Harper (Caley) Ellenburg; great-grandchildren, Hailey, Abby, Jack, Frankie, Brunson, Pittman, John Howell, Capps, Mae, Rose, and Fox; a host of family and friends. Bobby was a loving husband and father, but he loved his Lord most of all. In this life, he was an United States Air Force veteran. He was also the 65 and Over Alabama State Golf Champ and he won Buck Shear Tournament 3 times. He and his wife, Bet, each won their division of the Cullman County Championship, as well. He was thoughtful, quiet, and sincere man who led by example and will never be forgotten in the lives he impacted. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew and loved him. Flowers are welcome, or in lieu of flowers, family is asking donations be made to West Virginia School of Preaching at P.O. Box 785, Moundville, WV 26041, phone number 304-845-8001. To sign the online guestbook, please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Doris Marie Morgan, 75
Doris Morgan stepped into heaven to be with her Lord on Jan. 3, 2024, at 75 years of age. The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 6, 2023, at Crosshaven Church (9131 U.S. Highway 31, Hanceville, AL 35077). Burial will take place at Hopewell Cemetery in Hanceville. Pastor Jason Murphree will be officiating the services. The family will welcome friends at Crosshaven Church on Friday, Jan. 5 from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. and on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2023, from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. She became a Christian at a young age and started playing the piano and organ in church when she was 11 years old and played for over 40 years. She lived a full happy life. She took great joy in her family (including her church family), traveling, and loved being a selfless friend to everyone. Doris was born on June 15, 1948, in Hanceville and passed away Jan. 3, 2024, at her residence in Hanceville in the arms of her loving husband. She was preceded in death by her parents, Woodrow and Blanche Alldredge. Survivors include her husband Jimmy Morgan, children Kristi Morgan (David) Belew and Jason (Katherine) Morgan; grandchildren, Savannah Belew, Logan Belew, Allyson Belew, Kelsie (Jason) Graffagnino; great grandchildren, Archie Graffagnino; sisters Carol (Bobby) Dyer and Jane (George) Ponder; and a host of relatives. In lieu of flowers the family request donations be made in her memory to the purchase of Gideon Bibles- Mail to: The Gideons International Processing Center, P.O. Box 97251, Washington, DC 20090-7251.

Louise Alberta Stamos, 69
Louise Alberta Stamos, 69, of Haleyville, Alabama, passed away Jan. 3, 2024, at her residence. She was born April 19, 1954, to the late Albert Cushing and Lucy Dickinson. Louise enjoyed word search puzzles, attending church, cleaning her home, having dinner with her sisters, spending time with her grandkids and she loved her job at Walmart. Louise was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary and loved attending the meetings. Louise is survived by her son, Donald "Buddy" Kindard (Adrienne).; daughter, Tina Morrison; brothers, George Gray, Larry Gray (Cathy); sisters, Betty Jackson (Paul), Patricia Wallace (David); grandchildren, Amanda Sha Kinard, Jasmine Pierce, Elizabeth Kinard, Riley Burnett, Jacob Morrison (Amber), and Stone Morrison (Kimberly); several great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gus Stamos; parents, Albert Cushing and Lucy Dickinson Gray; brothers, Jessie Gray, Bill Garrison; grandma, Lizzie Beasley, and the father of her children Donald Kinard. Visitation will be from noon until 2 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Haleyville on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024. The Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024. Burial will be at Mt. Zion Baptist Church Cemetery.

Rhonda Carol Rusk, 68
Rhonda Carol Rusk, age 68, of Bremen, Alabama passed away on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024. Rhonda is survived by her sister Laurie (Benny) Washburn; her brothers David Davis, Richard (Julie) Davis, and Randall Davis. Rhonda was preceded in death by her parents Herman and Mildred Inez Baty Davis. A visitation for Rhonda will be held Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, from noon until 1 p.m. at Valley View Baptist Church, 4191 County Road 35, Hanceville, AL 35077. A funeral service will occur Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, at 1 p.m., 4191 County Road 35, Hanceville, AL 35077. An interment will occur Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Valley View Baptist Church Cemetery, 4191 County Road 35, Hanceville, AL 35077.

Burlon D. Mathis, 85
Funeral services for Burlon D. Mathis, 85, of Hanceville, will be 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, 2023, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at New Prospect Cemetery in Hanceville. Bro. Doug Pitts will be officiating. Visitation for the public will be from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday at the funeral home prior to the service. Mr. Mathis was born on Jan. 11, 1938, in Taylorsville, Mississippi. He passed away at his residence in Hanceville on Jan. 4, 2023. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Mathis Family.

Terrell Barr Linton, 59
Terrell Barr Linton departed this life peacefully in his sleep on Jan. 3, 2024, at the age of 59. A revered father, brother, son, and uncle, Barr was also recognized as a discerning businessman and an avid world traveler. Born on Aug. 11, 1964, to Terry and Gail Linton in Cullman, Alabama, he was a graduate of Cullman High School in 1982. Barr pursued higher education at Birmingham Southern College, where he excelled, graduating summa cum laude with a degree in economics in 1986. His academic journey continued with a Rotary Scholarship at the University of Bristol, followed by a distinguished graduation from Yale Law School, where he held the title of executive editor for The Yale Journal on Regulation. Barr's professional path began with a clerkship in the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, before practicing corporate law in San Francisco and London. He later transitioned into investment banking and lived in Greece, a country he adored, before returning to his home state of Alabama. In Birmingham, Barr continued practicing law and ultimately used his legal expertise to help build a successful company working in clean fuel technology. Beyond his professional accomplishments, Barr was a man of broad perspectives and deep empathy. His greatest joy was found in his three daughters, with whom he shared a love for the world. Barr believed in the enriching power of travel and the beauty of experiencing different cultures and people. Regularly, he took his daughters on journeys to various parts of the globe, introducing them to his many cherished friends and favorite places. Each journey they embarked upon was a reflection of Barr's commitment to lifelong learning. He was not a tourist in his travels, but a true explorer at heart, seeking to instill the same sense of wonder and global consciousness in his daughters. Even at home, Barr remained a family man and a mentor. His dinner table was always open to friends and relatives, filled with meaningful conversation and shared laughter. Barr was devoted to the well-being of his daughters, but also to all others that had the fortune to cross paths with him. Barr's impact was also visible through his philanthropic efforts. A passionate supporter of the Vascular Birthmark Foundation, Barr was driven to fund countless medical research for the betterment of children across the globe. Furthermore, Barr was committed to expanding access to education at his alma mater, Birmingham Southern College, through countless grants for needy students. Barr's generosity of spirit was boundless, and his willingness to help others achieve their dreams was a testament to his character. He will be profoundly missed. He is survived by his daughters Annette, Andie, and Juliana Linton; father Terry Linton; brother Rand Linton (Christina); sister Kara Roberts (Lee); and nephews Linton and Anderson Roberts. He was preceded in death by his mother, Gail Anderson Linton, and grandparents Ellis and Nellie Anderson, and Dan and Claudia Linton. A private service for the immediate family will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, at the Cullman Heritage Funeral Home and Crematory in Cullman, Alabama. A Celebration of Life for all family and friends will follow at 1 p.m. on the same day at the same location. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in Barr's memory to the Vascular Birthmark Foundation (birthmark.org) or a charity of one's choice.

Michael Wayne Pair, 66
Funeral service for Michael Wayne Pair, age 66, of Falkville, will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Tim Aires and Rev. Darryl Bailey officiating; burial at Ebenezer Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Pair retired with 32 years of service with the Morgan County Road Department. Mr. Pair passed away on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, at Cullman Regional. He was born, Aug. 19, 1957, to James Pair and Gladys Pair. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, TJ King and Burton King; and sister, Mary Lou Dale. Survivors include his wife, Bonnie Ruth Pair; daughters, Melissa (Tim) Gandy and Brandi (Jason) Taylor; grandchildren, Dustin Woodall (Caree Alexander), Lance Gandy (Katlyn Cartee) and Tammie (Kyle) Wilkerson; great-grandchildren, Bentley Woodall, Jaycee Woodall, Lakelynn Bonds, Dayton Prewitt, Ella Nicole Taylor and Waylon Wilkerson.

Sandra K. Mann Wiley, 81
Sandra K. Mann Wiley, 81, of Lexington, passed away Jan. 4, 2024. She was born September 11, 1942, in Louisville, Kentucky. Sandra enjoyed playing games on her phone, especially color by number. She loved collecting Paparazzi jewelry, her family, and giving the grandkids a hard time. Visitation will be held on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Double Springs where the funeral service will be on Sunday at 2 p.m. Interment will follow in Henryfield Cemetery in Haleyville, Alabama. Brother Dino Atkins will officiate. Sandra is survived by her daughters, Darlene Pickens and Judy K. Colburn; sons, Steve Mann, and Travis Mann Jr; grandchildren, Amy Rich, Jeremy Pickens (Marie), Kayla Kepner (Jason), RJ Mann (Sara), Dillon Pickens (Ashley), great-grandchildren; Alanna Havner (Andrew), Seanna Estes (Tate), Tammy Kepner, Savannah Kepner, Vaughn Mann; great-great grandchildren, Madelyn Pickens, Lillian Pickens, Aiden Pickens, Aron Pickens, and Shane Pickens; animals, Peanut, Pee-wee, and Lil Bit; grandpups, Bella and Sophia. She was preceded in death by her spouses Carmen Wiley and Travis Mann; parents, William Schloemer and Martha Connors.

Free Obituary Listings

Have your funeral home contact us

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

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Oh, the places 2023 took me

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Well, somewhat unbelievably, here we are again at the beginning of another new year. I have become somewhat of a seasoned veteran at these trips around the sun. Although I've been here quite a few times now, the amazing thing about a new year is that we never fully know what to expect, because we don't always know where the coming year may take us. We may be pleasantly surprised by some of the people and places along the way, and possibly even be disappointed by a few. So, having said all that, where have we been this year?

2023 took me through my second full-year of retirement. I must say, I think I'm enjoying this retirement thing too much. I don't have to work anymore, but I can if I choose. The amazing part is I still get paid, even if I don't work!

This past year took me back to Lanett, Alabama, every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. There I had the privilege of serving as pastor of Lanier Baptist Church for my second year. It's only a 30-minute drive from my home in Opelika, and I love going there. This sweet church has welcomed us in and they have become family.

This year also took me across town to Angel's Antiques. There I have a place to sell my woodshop creations, books, and Jean's floral creations and goodies.

This year also took us on the road again. We started the year with a quick trip to Louisianna for a couple of days. Ole Billy Bob did a program for the seniors at First Baptist Church in Covington. Jean and I had wonderful time. It's always fun when you get that close to New Orleans and crawfish etouffee! I had a close encounter of the best kind with a bowlful that was about the size of a washtub! I also met David there, who came to Opelika later that year to be my partner in a pickleball tournament. We didn't medal in that tournament, but only for one reason...we didn't win any games! We did, however, go home with free Paddles at the Plex sweatshirts

During the summer, 2023 took us to Hawaii for nine days. The Land of the Ferrell Chickens, otherwise known as the island of Kawaii, was an amazing place. This island was by far the most beautiful of the three I've visited there. We watched in awe as a giant sea turtle came on shore and laid her eggs in the sand, while we sat on the beach and ate Puka Dogs. We closed out the summer with a trip to Kentucky, where we toured a life-sized replica of Noah's Ark, and then spent a week driving back down the world's longest yard sale.

We brought back almost everything...except the Ark!

In the fall, 2023 took us for a week in Johnson City. East Tennessee, and the Appalachian Mountains, are lovely anytime, but especially in the fall.

We closed out the year with an unexpected trip. It was the shortest one, mileage wise, but the longest one in so many other ways. We traveled a few miles to East Alabama Medical Center, where I spent the week before Christmas. They raised my hood, changed my oil, and rebuilt my engine. I'm almost ready to pull out of this garage and hit the 2024 road!

When all was said and done, I am so thankful that last year was not my last year. It almost was, or at least, easily could have been. I'm looking forward to 2024 and my eleventh year of writing this column! May you have a blessed year!

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

HISTORY

Files from yesteryear: 1936

From the files of 1936

Ralph H. Sanders is the new minister at the First Christian Church in Cullman. He is a native of Savannah, Georgia.

Mr. and Mrs. Bertis Rascoe are building a new home in West Cullman.

From January 1, 1935 to June 30, 1935, there were 198 marriage licenses issued in Cullman County.

A Hartford man was paid 12 cents a pound for the first bale of cotton ginned in Cullman County.

Doctor Byron Gibson, of Barberville, Kentucky, attended the funeral of his aunt, Miss Katherine Gurley, on Monday. Mr. and Mrs. Joe H. Ray attended the funeral of their cousin, Mrs. Sam Bradford, at Bethsadia, on Tuesday afternoon.

Mrs. Kittie Smith, who has been nursing Miss Katherine Girley, has returned to her home at Reform, Alabama.

Mr. and Mrs. Hermon Calvert of Akron, Ohio left Wednesday for their home.

Mr. and Mrs. T.W. Quattlebaum and daughter, Thelma, of Birmingham have returned home after a visit with her sister, Miss Daisy Quattlebaum.

Doctor and Mrs. Jack Fisher of Moulton spent Sunday in Cullman as the guests of Doctor Fisher's mother, Mrs. O.M. Fisher.

A good selection of beds and springs for $5.00. Ad.

Mr. Paul Motzkus had the misfortune of losing a fine mule last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Ervon Thompson have moved to Cullman.

Mrs. Dora Bridges and son, Floyce and Mrs. Luther Wood and daughter, Ola, visited Mr. and Mrs. Walter Garner at Simcoe.

Mr. and Mrs. Coleman Parker visited Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Parker on Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Ruby Cheatom has gone to her home in Akron, Ohio.

A razor bought 200 years ago is still being used by Oliver Ballard of Ionia, New York.

Miss Nadine Allen was the Sunday afternoon guest of Miss Nova Self.

Miss Charlie Thompson left on Saturday for a visit to her parents at Marion, Alabama.

Doctor and Mrs. McAdory were in a Gulf storm, while on a fishing trip to Gulf Shores.

Cullman County has reported twelve cases of infantile paralysis.

Keep smiling, cooler weather is around the corner.

POET'S CORNER

Hope is a Thing With Feathers | By: Emily Dickinson

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

0I've heard it in the chillest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

JAN. 6

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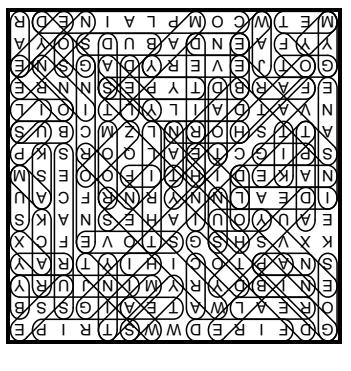
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

JAN. 6

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6	5	7	4	3	8	9	2	1
9	1	3	6	8	7	5	4	2
7	6	8	5	4	2	3	1	9
2	4	5	9	1	3	7	8	6
4	7	9	2	5	1	8	6	3
5	8	1	3	7	6	2	9	4
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for Residents and Businesses
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with Bi-monthly Recycling Pickup
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2024
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WE WILL MEET OR BEAT ANYONE'S PRICE ON COMPARABLE MANUFACTURERS AND SIZES!
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MON-TUES-THURS-FRIDAY 8:00-5:30
WEDS 8-12 | SAT 8:00-2:00
256-352-2221
...IN THAT WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS CHRIST DIED FOR US. ROMANS 5:8

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!

United Way hosting Business Alliance Breakfast Jan. 11

Cayla Grace Murphy
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CONTRIBUTED
Several local businesses and dignitaries attended United Way of Cullman County's Business Alliance Breakfast last year on Oct. 20, 2023.

CULLMAN, Ala. — The United Way of Cullman County is set to host its annual Business Alliance Breakfast at East Side Baptist Church on Thursday morning, Jan. 11, 2024. The meeting is a chance for local business and company owners of any size to enjoy a fresh, hot breakfast while they learn more about what the United Way and its partner agencies do for the community.

United Way Board Chairman Brian Poole believes the Business Alliance is a great avenue for entrepreneurs to bolster their positions in the economy and starts a trend of giving back to the community they serve.

"It shows industry leadership as it engages and inspires our community and sets a standard of giving back!" he exclaimed, noting that every niche of business is welcome to attend and learn more about the needs residents are facing.

"Membership is made up of all different business disciplines, and we're always looking for more like-minded businesses to join. The cost for each business is only $120 per year. While that doesn't seem like much, as of today, the local alliance has given back over $7,000 to our community," Poole explained, saying that as the Alliance moves into another year, he expects that number to grow.

"United Way considers it a blessing to work with all of these businesses and business leaders, and we are very excited as this program moves into its third year!" smiled Poole.

The United Way Business Alliance Breakfast will be held Thursday morning, Jan. 11, 2024, at East Side Baptist Church, beginning at 8 a.m. The United Way asks that interested businesses please RSVP by Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024, by calling the United Way office at 256-739-2948.

Hope Horses Spirt Night at Johnny's Jan. 16

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Local nonprofit Hope Horses is known for benefiting participants through adaptive therapeutic riding by building core strength, fine and gross motor skills, socialization and confidence.

Hope Horses relies on different fundraisers throughout the year to support its therapeutic riding program.

Executive Director Kelsey Scott said a Spirit Night fundraiser will be held Tuesday, Jan. 16, from 4-8 p.m. at Johnny's Bar-B-Q at 1401 Fourth St. SW in Cullman. "The fundraising event is to dine in or carry out and simply let them know you're there to support Hope Horses," Scott said. "A portion of the proceeds will go towards the Hope Horses therapeutic riding program."

Those interested in getting involved, donating or learning more about Hope Horses can email volunteer@hopehorsesinc.com. Get more information at www.hopehorsesinc.com.

Link brings back V.i.P.S. mentorship program

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Link of Cullman County has reestablished its Volunteers in Public Schools, or V.i.P.S., mentorship program to serve West Elementary and Parkside students for the spring semester. The program, a collaborative effort between The Link and Children's Trust Fund, is designed to offer students who may benefit from one-on-one mentorship an opportunity to grow and succeed through more hands-on mentorship and guidance than is typically offered in a school setting.

"We had the program in the past, but it has not been active since COVID," said Dakota Trammell, literacy coordinator at The Link.

"We are relaunching with those two schools and hoping to expand next fall."

Trammell explained how the program works, noting that guidance counselors and teachers work together to identify students who might benefit from having a mentor, and The Link and Children's Trust Fund team up to train volunteer mentors to meet the needs of those students.

"We train and work with the mentors to prepare them to work with their mentee. Mentors meet with the students on a regular basis at school during a time that matches both of their schedules," said Trammell.

With mentor training right around the corner, Trammell encouraged those who may be interested to make contact and get involved.

Trammell smiled, "It's a great opportunity to invest into a child's life and give back to the community. It's also a great need.

"Schools reached out and asked for us to bring the program back, and we are so excited to be back in the schools again!"

Those interested in serving as a mentor for K-8 students through Volunteers in Public Schools can contact Dakota Trammell at dakotatrammell@linkingcullman.org or call 256-798-2034.