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VOL. 151 • 50¢ PER COPY | SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 6

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80 YEARS

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80 YEARS ANNIVERSARY 1943-2023

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2023 coroner cases, by the numbers

Lauren Estes
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County Coroner Jeremy Kilpatrick responded to almost 80 cases in 2023 related to deaths by unnatural causes. These include homicide, suicide, overdose, motor vehicle crash fatality, aircraft fatality, drowning and other (accident/pending, etc.)

Kilpatrick said that in 2023 in Cullman County, there were 21 suicides, 21 overdoses, 21 motor vehicle crash fatalities, one aircraft fatality, seven accidents (including two drownings), five homicides and three cases pending determination of the cause of death.

According to Kilpatrick, 2022 numbers in Cullman County were comparable to 2023 numbers. In 2022, there were 17 suicides, 29 overdoses, one homicide and 30 traffic fatalities.

Cullman Police Chief David Nassetta provided specific numbers for the city.

"In 2023 we had one suicide, six overdoses, four motor vehicle fatalities, three homicides – one was the accidental death at Publix," Nassetta said. "In 2022, we had one suicide, zero overdoses, one homicide and two motor vehicle fatalities."

Nassetta said he immediately noticed the difference in the numbers of overdoses between 2022-2023.

"The last three to four months, we have noticed many overdoses occurring in comparison to 2022." Nassetta said. "I believe the issue we are seeing is some of the drug overdoses are related to the drugs being laced with fentanyl, but I can't say for sure until the toxicology reports confirm that. The one thing I can add is that if we can raise awareness about the issue of fentanyl being used in the illicit manufacture of narcotics then maybe it will discourage their use and or encourage abusers to get treatment for the addiction." » PAGE 10

Cullman County Schools names Salazar, Smith 2024 Elementary, Secondary Teachers of the Year



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Left to right (front row) are Director of Instructional Programs Tonya Cupp and 2024 CCBOE Secondary Teacher of the Year Lucretia Smith; left to right (back row) are West Point High School Assistant Principal Shannon Anderson, West Point High School Principal Dr. Wesley Black, Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette, Assistant Superintendent Richard Orr, Director of Federal Programs Angie Yarbrough, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator Margaret Guthrie and Secondary Curriculum Coordinator Kim Lindsey.

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County Schools would like to congratulate the 2024 Elementary Teacher of the Year and the 2024 Secondary Teacher of the Year.

ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Kristy Salazar, librarian, Parkside School

Kristy Salazar is the librarian and Parkside School. She has 21 years of experience, with 19 of those years in the classroom setting.

"Mrs. Salazar has been vital to integrating STEM education and includes these lessons in her daily library schedule," said Caleb Elrod, Parkside School principal.

"She is part of the leadership team and strives daily to ensure our students are granted the best opportunities."

SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Lucretia Smith, math, West Point High School

Lucretia Smith teaches mathematics at West Point High School.

She coaches the math team and has also taken additional courses in order to teach dual enrollment classes to her students.

"Mrs. Smith creates a positive and supportive learning environment in which students feel comfortable taking risks and asking questions," said Dr. Wesley Black, West Point High School principal.

Smith also offers tutoring to her students » PAGE 5

Cullman County VOAD opening additional warming stations Jan. 15-16
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The Link searching for volunteers to staff warming shelter Jan. 15-16
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Hanceville council appoints Sawyer mayor



CAYLA GRACE MURPHY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Jimmy Sawyer, left, stands with wife, Bonnie, as he is sworn in as mayor of Hanceville by Kim Reburn on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024.
» PAGE 8

Washington's DeBoer named new Head Football Coach at Alabama



CONTRIBUTED

Washington Head Football Coach Kalen DeBoer is leaving the Huskies to take over as the new head coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide

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Bill Smith

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Jan. 12

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Jan. 12, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Jan. 8

- domestic violence; CR 798
- assault; CR 623
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 992
- harassment; CR 1221
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; CR 437

Jan. 9

- possession of marijuana; Hwy. 278 E
- theft of property; fraudulent use of debit card; Wesley Ave. NE
- permitting dogs to run at large; CR 532
- domestic violence; CR 677
- theft of property; 2nd St. SW, Garden City
- domestic violence; CR 1435
- possession of marijuana; possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1435

Jan. 10

- menacing; CR 160
- domestic violence; CR 773
- burglary; theft of property; CR 831
- assault; CR 160
- burglary; CR 223
- theft of property; Hwy. 69 S
- domestic violence; CR 1772
- harassment; 2nd Ave. SE
- possession of marijuana; CR 437
- burglary; CR 2121
- theft of property; CR 68
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Welcome Rd.

ARRESTS

Jan. 8 – 10

Adkins, Samuel P.; 19

- assault-domestic-simple assault-family
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of marijuana
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Bailey, Christopher J.; 31

- Probation Violation- larceny/theft-theft of property-2nd degree, $1,500 - $2,500

Brannan, Christopher M.; 48

- illegal possession of credit/debit card
- possessing forged instrument

Cain, Nathan W.; 40

- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- damaged property-criminal mischief

Davidson, Erin M.; 35

- FTA- driving while license suspended

Gold, Tomas A.; 53

- violation of domestic violence protection order

Hines, Timothy W.; 52

- burglary-residence-no force
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Hollis Jr., Robert L.; 46

- tax/revenue-licenses required, exceptions and fees

Johnson, Kinsey B..; 28

- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Jonson, Ollie H.; 77

- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- possession of marijuana- 2nd degree (2 counts)
- FTA- possession drug paraphernalia

Kelso, Dustin A.; 33

- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Lamb, Casey C.; 42

- public intoxication
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Mayer, Larry S.; 37

- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Noble, Cassidy D.; 32

- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Ragsdale, James D.; 37

- stolen vehicles-auto theft
- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft, $1,500 - $2,500
- burglary-non residence-force
- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft, less than $500

Satritis, Jonas; 68

- DUI (commercial motor vehicle)

Sawyer, Timothy R.; 64

- public intoxication

Sickler, Michael S.; 35

- possession of marijuana -2nd degree

Smith, Cameron L.; 34

- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA- permitting dogs to run at large

Waldrop, Joshua N.; 44

- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Wolford, Ayla E.; 31

- FTA- operating vehicle with expired tag

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Jan. 8

- domestic violence-3rd degree-harassment; person; 2nd Ave. NE

Jan. 10

- leaving scene of accident; person; Cherokee Ave SW and Swafford Rd. SW; damage to 2011 Hyundai Sonata; $2,000
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; Olive St. SW; damage to 2016 Chevy Silverado; $500

Jan. 11

- theft of property-4th degree; person; cash; $315
- burglary-3rd degree; person; Interbitzen St. SW

ARRESTS

Jan. 11

Owens, Glenda M.; 44

- possession/receiving controlled substance

Thomas, Jennifer A.; 40

- theft of property-4th degree

Prudhome, Michael L.; 54

- ignition interlock

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

CCSO arrest roundup

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – The Cullman County Sheriff's Office made multiple unrelated arrests over the last weekend, including:

Jan. 2

Deputies conducted a traffic stop in the Bremen community. David Lee Ford, 45, of Bremen, was identified as the passenger of the vehicle in question.

Deputies determined that Ford had multiple outstanding warrants. He was placed under arrest for the warrants and transported to the Cullman County Detention Center.

Ford allegedly denied having any illegal items on his person. A subsequent search of his person at the Detention Center allegedly yielded marijuana.

Ford is charged with promoting prison contraband (drugs) (failure to appear), five traffic violations (failure to appear), unlawful possession of dangerous drugs (failure to appear), unlawful possession of marijuana (failure to appear) and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia (failure to appear).

Jan. 3

Deputies arrested Patrick Heath Hancock, 39, of Decatur, on a grand jury warrant that stemmed from an incident reported in June 2023.

He is charged with electronic solicitation of a child.

Deputies attempted a traffic stop in the Spring Hill area of U.S. Highway 278. The driver of the vehicle allegedly refused to stop. The pursuit continued into the city limits of Cullman where the vehicle ultimately stopped.

Timothy Darren Cleghorn, 58, of Arley, was identified as the driver of the vehicle.

A subsequent search of the vehicle allegedly yielded paraphernalia and marijuana.



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
David Lee Ford



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Patrick Heath Hancock

Cleghorn was arrested and charged with attempting to elude, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia and second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana.



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Timothy Darren Cleghorn

Colbert County man convicted of capital murder could be nation's 1st execution by nitrogen hypoxia

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

ATMORE, Ala. – Following a federal court ruling, Alabama may become the first state to execute a prisoner by nitrogen hypoxia, which suffocates by replacing oxygen with nitrogen. Kenneth Eugene Smith, 58, of Florence, who was convicted of capital murder in 1989 and again during a retrial in 1996, requested the method before an attempt to execute him by lethal injection failed in November 2022. After the failure of the injection, Smith's request was granted. He then filed suit against the State of Alabama, claiming that nitrogen hypoxia would violate his constitutional rights and advocating the use of a firing squad under protocols currently used by the State of Utah. The Federal District Court for the Middle District of Alabama denied his latest request, and Smith faces execution on Jan. 25, 2024.

Following the federal court's decision Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall on Jan. 10, 2024, issued a statement saying, "With today's order, Alabama is an important step closer to holding Kenneth Smith accountable for the heinous murder-for-hire slaying of an innocent woman, Elizabeth Sennett. Smith has avoided his lawful death sentence for over 35 years, but the court's rejection today of Smith's speculative claims removes an obstacle to finally seeing justice done."

Marshall's statement further read: "In March 1988, Charles Sennett, the pastor of the Westside Church of Christ in Sheffield, Alabama, sought to hire a hitman. Reverend Sennett, who had incurred substantial debts and was having an extramarital affair, had taken out a large insurance policy on his wife. His scheme was to have his wife murdered, which would enable him—in one cowardly fell swoop—to escape both his financial obligations and his marital vows.

"Through an intermediary, Reverend Sennett hired Kenny Smith and Smith's friend, John Parker, for $1,000 each to conduct the murder. Elizabeth was ambushed, violently punched, beaten, and bludgeoned, and stabbed over and over again with the six-inch survival knife that Smith and Parker had brought with them. In addition to countless lacerations and abrasions that she sustained to her body, Elizabeth suffered a total of ten stab wounds—eight to her chest and two to her neck—which proved fatal.

"Kenneth Smith was tried for his crimes in 1989 and again in 1996. In both trials, Smith was convicted of capital murder by a jury of his peers and sentenced to death for his crimes. He was previously scheduled to be executed on November 17, 2022."



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Kenneth Eugene Smith

Relay For Life kicking off Jan. 18 to gear up for April events

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Relay For Life of Cullman County, known for hosting an annual event dedicated to raising funds and awareness for cancer research, has announced the dates and locations for its 2024 season. This year's Relay For Life will take place at Depot Park in downtown Cullman on Saturday, April 27, from 5-10 p.m.

The Relay For Life Survivors Breakfast will be April 24, at 7 a.m. at Cullman Church of Christ, and the Survivors Dinner will take place at 5 p.m. on April 27, across the street from Depot Park.

Relay For Life 2024 kicks off on Thursday, Jan. 18, at 5:30 p.m. The first meeting of the year will take place in the fellowship hall of Cullman First Baptist Church, where participants, sponsors and supporters will come together to launch this year's campaign.

Expressing heartfelt gratitude to the community, Relay volunteers, dedicated teams and generous sponsors, event team leadership chairperson Helen Allen emphasized the significant impact of collective support on the success of Relay For Life.

"We extend our sincere appreciation to the community, Relay volunteers, hard-working teams and sponsors who have generously contributed to our cause in the past.

"Without your unwavering support, Relay For Life would not exist, and crucial funds for vital programs aimed at eradicating cancer would be unattainable," remarked Allen, highlighting the importance of education, prevention and early detection in the fight against cancer.

"A cancer diagnosis is devastating, but catching it early provides patients with a much greater chance of survival, avoiding the treatments we all fear," Allen explained. "Supporting research is crucial for developing more effective tests and treatments. We must continue to back these efforts for the benefit of future generations."

Relay For Life is a movement that brings people together to honor cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost and collectively fight back against a disease that has touched countless lives.

This year, the theme is "An Era of Hope," symbolizing the progress made and the optimism for a future free from the burdens of cancer.

All are invited to join in the fight against cancer, celebrate survivors and contribute to the ongoing progress in cancer research.

To register a team, donate or learn more, visit www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal or contact Helen Allen at 256-709-4019 or helenma1941@gmail.com.

For more information about the American Cancer Society, including access to 24/7 assistance, visit www.cancer.org or call 800-227-2345.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

Church Services-Spirit Life Church of GOD
• Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Mondays-Fridays-Free hot meals for children Mondays 11 a.m.-noon, Tuesdays 1-2 p.m. and Wednesdays-Fridays 11 a.m.-noon. Cullman Housing Authority Community Center 1545 Vine Circle SW. Please call Kristie 256-636-5362 for more information. Eat in or take out. Sponsored by Kids Loving Kids, Raising Arrows Ministry and Spirit Life Church.
• Kids Loving Kids Birthday Blessings serves children ages 1-18 in need of assistance to celebrate their birthdays. Register your child and pick up a birthday box with cake mix, icing, sprinkles, decorations and toys! Pickup is the last weekend of the month. Saturday (5100 Curry Highway Suite 100-B Jasper, AL 35504) from 3-5 p.m. or the last Sunday of the month at Spirit Life Church Cullman from 12:30-1 p.m. Birth certificate is required at the time of box pickup. Register at https://form.jotform.com/203435614640045. For more information, text or call 205-717-7478.
• Saturday, Jan. 13 - 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast. Come join us for fellowship!
• Sunday, Jan. 14 - 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. 14 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area. Call Guy Sunter at 727-215-9092 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise & Worship and message by Steven East at 11.
• Sunday, Jan. 14 - 5p.m. Healing Service: Miracles, Signs & Wonders follow those who believe! Join us and invite others to join as well.

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

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

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

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

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

Cullman County Cattlemen's & Cattlewomen's Associations Annual Meeting
Saturday, Jan. 13, at 5 p.m. at Stone Bridge Farms, 281 County Road 717. Registration is at 5. A charcoal grilled ribeye steak dinner will be served at 6. Come and join us. It's time to get out of the house and enjoy an evening with friends. We have several members who have not yet renewed their memberships. If you're one of them and are unable to attend and renew, please do so by mail to P.O. Box 643. Cullman, AL 35056. You can also renew at our Memorial Day Ribeye Steak Sandwich Cookout May 24-25, 2024. We need you. The cattle industry needs you. Meeting will start at 7.

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.

Fairview High School 1963 Luncheon/Meeting
Friday, Jan. 19, 2024, at 1 p.m. at the Golden Corral, 1720 Cherokee Ave. SW in Cullman. For more information, call Joyce Williams Rodgers at 256-339-3451.

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/PolarBearPlunge2024

Pleasant View Singing
Sunday, Jan. 21, at 5 p.m. with Dry Creek. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278, approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. For more information call 256-796-5986 or 256-338-9202.

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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HumbleRoots,LLC
Published daily Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: robin@cullmantribune.com

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CULLMAN.....$125.00
OUTSIDE CULLMAN.....$250.00

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JANUARY 13, 2024

Town of South Vinemont set to create planning commission

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. — At its monthly meeting on Jan. 9, the South Vinemont Town Council had the first reading of a proposed new ordinance that would form a planning commission.

"The whole thing about this is we want to plan how this town will look in five years, in 10 years," said Councilman Chris Thompson. "It's a growing town, everything is coming from Cullman, so we need pillars of the community to get involved."

The proposed ordinance reads:

"BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH VINEMONT, ALABAMA AS FOLLOWS:

Section I. The Town Council of the Town of South Vinemont hereby established the Planning Commission of South Vinemont

Section II. The Planning Commission shall consist of nine members consisting of the following: The Mayor or his designee, one of the Administrative Officials of the Town selected by the Mayor, a member of the Town Council selected by the Town Council and six members appointed by the Mayor who are residents of the Town of Vinemont.

Section III. The term of office of the Planning Commission shall be as follows: The Mayor and the Administrative Official selected by the Mayor and the member of the Council shall have terms of office on the Planning Commission corresponding to his/her current election term of office on the Council. The six residents appointed by the Mayor shall each have a six-year term of office on the Planning Commission unless filling a vacancy as set forth in Article IV -Vacancies, as listed below.

Section IV. Any vacancy among the Commission membership caused by death, resignation, or removal for cause shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment by the Mayor; except for Council Member whose unexpired term shall be filled by a selection by Council from among its remaining members.

Section V. All members of the Planning Commission serve without actual compensation but may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in connection with their official duties. The Mayor, Administrative Official, and Council Member receive no compensation for their work in the Planning Commission over and above the regular salaries of their respective municipal offices.

Section VI. The Planning Commission shall elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman from among the six resident members. The Secretary for the Commission shall be the Town Clerk. The terms of office for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be for one year or until a successor is elected. Officers shall be eligible for re-election.

Section VII. The Planning Commission shall create its own By-Laws to govern the meetings and actions of the Planning Commission and its members in accordance with State Law.

Section VIII. The purpose of this Ordinances are hereby declare severable. In the event any portion of the Ordinance is declared or held invalid such invalidity shall not affect any other portion of the Ordinance.

Section IX. Th e Planning Commission shall have all the power conferred upon it by Title 11-52-6, 11-52-7, and 11-52-8 of the Code of Alabama 1975 et. seq. and as amended and shall perform said duties within its jurisdictional limits in accordance with Title 11-52-1 et seq. Code of Alabama 1975 as amended."

The second and final reading of the proposed ordinance will take place at the next council meeting on Feb. 13, with the work session beginning at 5 p.m. and the meeting following at 6. Residents are invited to attend the meeting.



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The South Vinemont Town Council held its first reading of a new proposed ordinance at its January meeting.

Cullman County VOAD opening additional warming stations Jan. 15-16

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) is pleased to announce it will be able to open four warming stations Monday and Tuesday nights, Jan. 15-16 as the temperatures reach frigid single digits.

Shelters will open both nights at 6 and close at 8 the following morning. Residents planning to stay overnight at the warming stations will have to check in by 9 p.m.; if no one is on site by 9 p.m., the shelter will close for the night.

Shelters are listed below, along with what each will be providing.

Camp Liberty

- 15719 Alabama Highway 157, Vinemont, AL 35179
- Camp Liberty, located in the Battleground area, will require everyone staying at the warming station to bring their own pillows, air mattresses, food, etc.

The Link of Cullman County

- 708 Ninth St. SE, Cullman, AL 35055
- The Link will have cots and blankets provided by the Red Cross.

Trinity Pentecostal Church

- 307 Whaley Ave., Hanceville, AL 35077
- Trinity Pentecostal will provide soups and sandwiches during the day in addition to being open as a warming station. Red Cross will be providing cots and blankets.

Hanceville Civic Center

- 902 Commercial St., Hanceville, AL 35077
- Hanceville Civic Center will have sandwiches and water provided by Hanceville First Baptist Church, as well as cots and blankets provided by the Red Cross.

Unsheltered International

- 479 County Road 827 Cullman, AL 35057
- Unsheltered International will be open next week Monday through Friday, Jan. 15-19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will provide snacks and drinks.

Cullman County VOAD Chairman Waid Harbison said he appreciated all the local churches, nonprofits and government organizations working together to get the warming stations opened. Now the big push is to make sure people who really need to get to the sites are able to get there.

"We have so many people in Cullman County that may be seniors, disabled people or just neighbors we may know without heat. A lot of these folks may not have social media or get other news sources, so if you know someone within your church, a neighbor or anyone in the community who needs to utilize the warming stations, please help us by reaching out to them individually to make sure they can utilize the stations!" Harbison emphasized.

Harbison also expressed gratitude to the Cullman Emergency Management Agency, sharing "We also want to thank Tim Sartin and the guys over at Cullman County EMA for all they do to make sure the community is taken care of with all the pre-planning before disasters, and being hands on during and after disasters. VOAD exists to get volunteer organizations including churches and nonprofits working with local government organizations including Cullman County EMA during disaster planning and recovery efforts. It is a great organization because of how much stronger we all are together."

For more information on shelters, contact Harbison at 256-708-1650.

Op-Ed: Unions want to target one of Alabama's crown jewel industries, automotive manufacturing, but I'm standing up for Alabamians and protecting our jobs.

Kay Ivey
Alabama Governor

Sept. 30, 1993, marked a watershed moment in Alabama history. That is the day Mercedes-Benz went against the grain and chose our state to be the home of their first U.S. manufacturing facility. It was a decision that changed the future of our state like no one could have imagined.

Fast forward more than thirty years to January 2024, and Alabama is a top five automotive manufacturing state with five worldclass Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) – Mercedes-Benz, Honda, Hyundai, Toyota and Mazda.

These manufacturers are key drivers of our economy, but who drives their success? The answer is nearly 50,000 hardworking Alabamians in the automotive manufacturing sector.

The men and women who work in Alabama OEM facilities and about 150 supporting supplier employers are highly skilled and highly paid. Helping create these types of opportunities is a major reason I sought public office in the first place.

Opportunity is why I focus on education, workforce development and economic development.

Every person who wants a good job in Alabama should be given every advantage the state can provide to land that job, turn it into a career and support their family with it.

Let's take a step back to look at Alabama's success in automotive manufacturing.

Mercedes-Benz came to Tuscaloosa in the 1990s and brought a host of its suppliers.

More followed: Honda began producing vehicles in Lincoln in 2001; Hyundai production in Montgomery began in 2005; Toyota started manufacturing engines in Huntsville in 2003, then in 2018, Toyota announced a joint venture partnership with Mazda to form Mazda Toyota Manufacturing in Limestone County.

Today, all of that investment equates to a 1.3 million annual vehicle production capacity; more than $9 billion in annual exports; production of 15 different cars, SUVs and trucks, including three cutting-edge, all-electric vehicles; and it ranks Alabama the number 3 state for vehicle exports and the number five state for total auto production.

Alabama has become a national leader in automotive manufacturing, and all this was achieved without a unionized workforce. In other words, our success has been home grown – done the Alabama way.

Unfortunately, the Alabama model for economic success is under attack. A national labor union, the United Automotive Workers (UAW), is ramping up efforts to target non-union automakers throughout the United States, including ours here in Alabama.

Make no mistake about it: These are out-of-state special interest groups, and their special interests do not include Alabama or the men and women earning a career in Alabama's automotive industry.

As governor, my special interest is the well-being of our great state and each of the five million Alabamians who live here, who have an opportunity to succeed here and can be proud to raise a family here.

I will always stand strong for our hardworking men and women, as well as our world-class employers.

When Alabamians are successful, our state is successful.

Alabama has a proud industrial past. Alabama is a leader in innovation and opportunity.

It is a state where employers want to do business because they know they can succeed.

And Alabama is a state that has proven it can be a worldwide leader in automotive manufacturing.

Alabama embraced a watershed moment in 1993, and we may soon face another watershed decision when the UAW asks nearly 50,000 Alabamians: Do you want continued opportunity and success the Alabama way? Or do want out-of-state special interests telling Alabama how to do business?

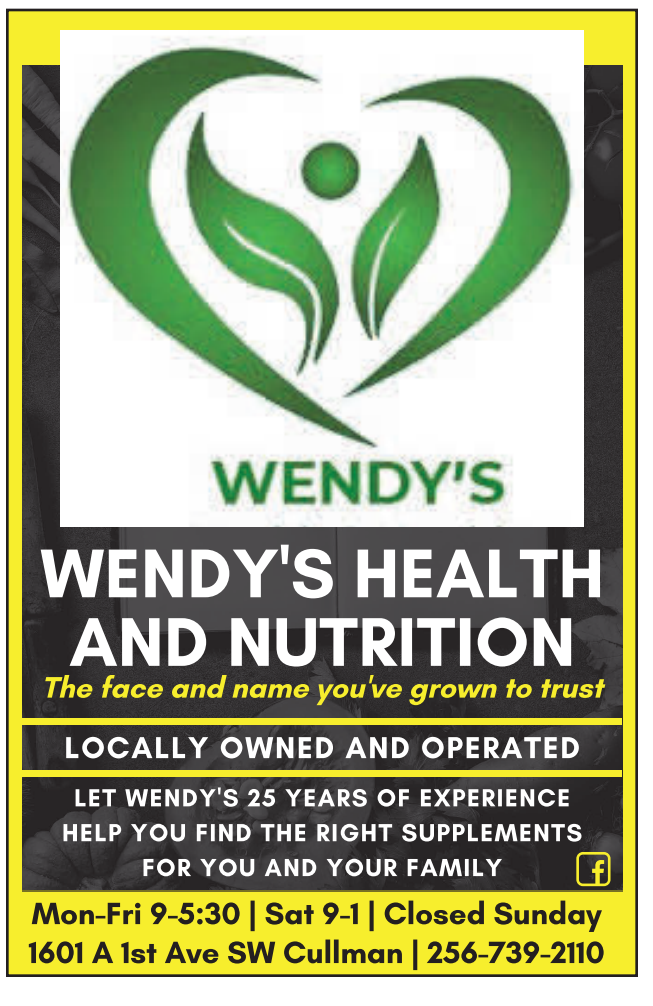
For me, the choice is clear. I stand by our proven track record of success.

That is why I will always proudly support the great Alabama employers and the best employees in the world.

That is why I will continue to make education, workforce development and economic development my top priorities.

Alabamians work harder than anyone, we make the best automobiles in the world, and we must not let UAW tell us differently.

Alabama Governor
Kay Ivey



Scholarship audition dates set by Wallace State Fine and Performing Arts

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Students who love to sing, dance, act, play an instrument, or even work behind the scenes may attend upcoming auditions at Wallace State Community College to earn scholarship money for their education.

The college's Fine and Performing Arts programs will host scholarship auditions on Friday, Feb. 9, and Friday, March 1, from 8 a.m.-noon at the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts. The auditions are open to all current and incoming students, with scholarships to be awarded beginning with the Fall 2024 semester.

The Wallace State Performing Arts programs consists of vocal and instrumental ensembles, dance and theatre.

Students can audition for more than one ensemble across all programs. Recipients are required to be full-time students taking 12 or more credit hours, maintain a GPA of 2.5 and meet other requirements specific to each program.

The Performing Arts programs that offer scholarships include instrumental groups: Concert Band, Jazz Band and Percussion Ensemble; vocal groups: Concert Choir, Wallace State Singers and Vocal Jazz; the Allegro Dance Theatre; and Wallace State Theatre, including performance and technical scholarships.

The ensembles perform independently and cooperatively in many productions each semester. There are numerous travel opportunities each year, as well.

The ensembles have travelled nationally and internationally to perform, including trips to Europe, Washington, D.C., and Orlando.

Participation is open to all Wallace State students, regardless of their major.

Audition requirements and registration links can be found under the Scholarship Information link at www.wallacestate.edu/fpa. Registration for auditions is encouraged but not required. Students should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and a scholarship application before a scholarship can be distributed.

For more information contact Amy Seymore at 256-352-8277 or amy.seymore@wallacestate.edu.



CONTRIBUTED

Members of a Wallace State Community College instrumental group with the Fine and Performing Arts program, perform during an annual spring performance. The program will hold scholarship auditions for the 2024-2024 academic year Feb. 9 and March 1 from 8 a.m.-noon at the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts.

Teachers (from Front)

before and after school.

The math team she coaches has been Cullman County Grand Champion every year since 2005 and was crowned State Champion in 2018.

She was voted Teacher of the Year by the student body last year.

Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette is always excited to celebrate the systems incredible educators.

"I have visited Mrs. Salazar and Mrs. Smith's classrooms multiple times and they both are exceptional," said Barnette.

"Not only are they effective instructors, but they love and care for their students and the students know that.

"Both ladies are perfect examples of the quality of individuals we have working for our school system.

"I wish the committee could have selected 20 teachers of the year because we have so many deserving educators."

Every school in the district was given an opportunity to nominate one teacher for consideration.

The nominees were presented to a Central Office committee which chose the winners.

Both Salazar and Smith will now prepare an extensive application to the Alabama State Department of Education to be considered for the Alabama Teacher of the Year.



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Left to right are Assistant Superintendent Richard Orr, Secondary Curriculum Coordinator Kim Lindsey. Shane Barnette, Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette, 2024 CCBOE Elementary Teacher of the Year Kristy Salazar, Parkside School Principal Caleb Elrod, Parkside School Counselor Kim Crumbley, Director of Federal Programs Angie Yarbrough, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator Margaret Guthrie, Director of Instructional Programs Tonya Cupp and Parkside School RTI Coordinator Nanette Clark.

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Nick Saban announces retirement after 17 seasons at Alabama

Josh Maxson
UA Athletics

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. – Alabama's Nick Saban, who has won more college football national championships than any coach in the modern era, announced his retirement on Wednesday.

"The University of Alabama has been a very special place to Terry and me," Saban said. "We have enjoyed every minute of our 17 years being the head coach at Alabama as well as becoming a part of the Tuscaloosa community. It is not just about how many games we won and lost, but it's about the legacy and how we went about it. We always tried to do it the right way. The goal was always to help players create more value for their future, be the best player they could be and be more successful in life because they were part of the program. Hopefully, we have done that, and we will always consider Alabama our home."

Saban spent 28 years as a college head coach at Toledo (1990), Michigan State (1995-99), LSU (2000-04) and Alabama (2007-23). He won seven national titles in those 28 years, his first at LSU in 2003 before capturing six championships at Alabama (2009, 2011-12, 2015, 2017 and 2020). He also coached the Miami Dolphins for two seasons (2005-06).

"Simply put, Nick Saban is one of the greatest coaches of all time, in any sport, and The University of Alabama is fortunate to have had him leading our football program for the past 17 seasons," said Alabama Director of Athletics Greg Byrne. "Throughout his career as a head coach, his teams have won seven national championships, 11 conference championships and 312 games, and he's developed an NCAA-record 49 NFL first-round draft picks and, most importantly, hundreds of college graduates. He is the consummate coach, mentor and leader, and his impact is felt far beyond the football field.

"Coach Saban and Ms. Terry have touched countless lives in our community and the state of Alabama with the work they've done through the Nick's Kids Foundation. While his time as our coach may have come to an end, his legacy will live on forever. What an honor it has been for us to have a front-row seat to one of the best to ever do it. A truly remarkable career for Coach Saban."

Saban's teams won three national championships during the Bowl Championship Series era and three more after the start of the College Football Playoff. In 10 seasons of the CFP, Saban's Crimson Tide teams qualified eight times.

"Words cannot adequately express our appreciation to Coach Saban for his exemplary leadership and service to The University of Alabama over the past 17 years," said Alabama President Stuart R. Bell. "His commitment to excellence has set the standard for our program, both on the field and in the classroom. We are grateful for the lasting impact he has made on the lives of our student-athletes and the incredible memories his teams have created for our students, alumni, fans and supporters.

"Coach Saban and Ms. Terry are tremendous ambassadors for The University of Alabama and our community and we celebrate their many contributions and indelible legacy."

Saban compiled a 297-71-1 (.806) collegiate coaching record, including a 206-29 (.877) mark in Tuscaloosa. His teams won a combined 11 SEC titles, going 11-1 in SEC Championship Games, including nine at Alabama (9-1 record) and two at LSU (2-0 mark). He also won 15 games with the Dolphins in 2005-06.

In Saban's six national championship seasons at Alabama, his teams went 21-2 against top-10 opponents, and, since 2008, the Crimson Tide was 37-15 overall against top-10 teams. Alabama was also ranked No. 1 in the Associated Press Poll for at least one week for 15 straight years (2008-22), which broke the record of seven established by Miami (1986-92).


UA ATHLETICS

Saban coached four Heisman Trophy winners, joining Notre Dame's Frank Leahy for the most in college football history. He is the only coach to ever coach Heisman Trophy winners at three different positions (RB, WR, QB). The Alabama program had just six individual national award winners when Saban arrived on campus, but Crimson Tide players have secured 60 national awards since 2008.

His players at Alabama have won 66 All-America honors by 58 different individuals over the past 16 seasons. Eight players have been named two-time All-Americans along with 46 consensus honors and 25 unanimous selections. Will Anderson Jr. became the first two-time unanimous All-American in Alabama history.

Saban's success has also translated to NFL success for his players with a record 49 players chosen in the first round of the draft (44 at Alabama). His Alabama players have been paid over $2 billion over the last 16 NFL seasons.

Alabama's success on the field over the past 17 seasons has coincided with the Tide's success in the classroom. Since Saban's arrival in 2007, Alabama football has seen a total of 656 degrees earned, including 103 master's degrees.

The Sabans Nick's Kids Foundation is a vibrant example of the family's continuing concern for disadvantaged children. Since Nick and Terry arrived in Tuscaloosa, over $12 million has been distributed to students, teachers and children's causes at over 150 charities through the Nick's Kids Foundation.

Get all the latest information on the team by following @AlabamaFTBL on X and Facebook and AlabamaFBL on Instagram. General athletic news can also be found at UA_Athletics on X and Instagram and AlabamaAthletics on Facebook.

PREP CHEER

'God gave you a purpose': Cold Springs' Jaci Baker enjoying sophomore season

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. — Cold Springs sophomore cheerleader Jaci Baker is cheering on the varsity squad for the first time and is really enjoying her time with the squad. She's so happy to be cheering alongside some great teammates and has learned a lot from them so far.

"It's been wonderful. I love everything about it. I have learned that no matter what happens, you will always have people that are there for you. You have people who will support you and encourage you to do things you are most terrified of and who will hold your hand when you are sad, and to just be there for you, no matter the circumstances," Baker said.

"It's been amazing. It has been a true blessing. I could not have asked for a better cheer team. I have learned how to trust myself and believe in myself and the things I can accomplish. I have also learned how to have a better attitude about things and stay positive."

She has learned some important things from her coaches and has seen some great improvement in her performance from the start of the season until now.

"My coaches, Adrian Dickerson and Heather Wilkerson, are wonderful coaches. They have taught me responsibility and trustworthiness," Baker said.

"I have seen a lot of improvement when I first tried out. I had not cheered since youth, and I was going in there blindly.

"Now, I have learned how to be sharp, not let mistakes show, and many other things this season. What I've improved on the most this season so far is definitely my attitude towards difficult situations."

Baker had some goals before the season started, and she talked about what has made this cheer team special to be around, the best advice that someone has ever given her and her role models.

"My goals were to grow closer with these girls and to improve on my skills. I feel like I've achieved my goals, but I know that there will always be room for improvement," she said.

"What has made this cheer team special to be around is their constant motivation and drive. Each and every girl push each other to be better, and we lift each other up in the process.

"The best advice that someone has ever given me is that God gave you a purpose. Never let anyone make you feel any differently. My role models are Hope Speegle and Hayla Watson. They always motivate the cheer team to keep going, and they will have our back, no matter the situation."

Even though this is her first year being a varsity cheerleader, Baker already has a lot of younger girls looking up to her as a role model. She has learned an important thing about herself and this team.

"It's an honor to know that the youth girls want to be like me and be on the varsity cheer team. It truly warms my heart," she said.

"I have learned that I can accomplish more than I think I can. What I've learned about this team is that I will never be alone. I have my girls."


JACI BAKER

Cold Springs' Jaci Baker

PREP VOLLEYBALL

'It has been a life-changing experience': Hanceville's Bentley Childers talks sophomore season

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Hanceville sophomore volleyball player Bentley Childers just completed her second season on the JV team and has enjoyed the experience so far. She has learned a lot of important things from a great group of teammates.

"It has been a wonderful experience playing and being a part of the Hanceville volleyball program. All of my coaches were very encouraging and believed in my skills and my potential to be the best athlete I can be," Childers said. "It has been a life-changing experience playing with a talented group of girls. Each and every one of them I have played with have all taught me something valuable about the game of volleyball or life in general. I have learned that you can't be a good team without good team chemistry and love for the game."

Childers feels so blessed to be playing under coaches Candice Grochowalski and Morgan Hammock and has soaked up as much as she can from both of them so far.

"They are both great coaches. What I have learned from coach Grochowalski is that no matter what obstacles are in your way, if you want it bad enough, you'll work hard to get to what you want. What I've learned from coach Hammock is that you can't have a bad attitude after a bad play, or you'll continue to make bad plays. You have to learn from it and do better on the next play."

Childers got to play with some great upperclassmen on the JV team and took away so much from them.

"Destiny Warren, Jasmine McDonald, Kaitlyn Hurter, and Kimberly Chavez were really sweet girls and very encouraging. What I learned from Destiny is that no matter how long you've been away from the game, you can work hard and be one of the best players on the team. Jasmine taught me to always have fun and have a good laugh. What I learned from Kaitlyn is how being encouraging can take you a very long way in life. Kimberly taught me that you can be a great player at more than one position and be just as good at those positions."

She has seen so much improvement in her performance ever since she started playing in the eighth grade. She will continue to work on her game in the offseason in preparation for next season. She talked about her goals and the team goals for the 2024 season.

"I have seen so much improvement in my performance since the eighth grade. I think I have improved the most on my defensive skills. I will continue to work on my hitting and digging skills, so I can be used as a utility athlete, if needed, to get ready for next season," she said. "My goals are to be the best athlete I can and the most positive on the court at all times. The team goals are to make a good reputation for the Hanceville volleyball program and to not have negative attitudes."

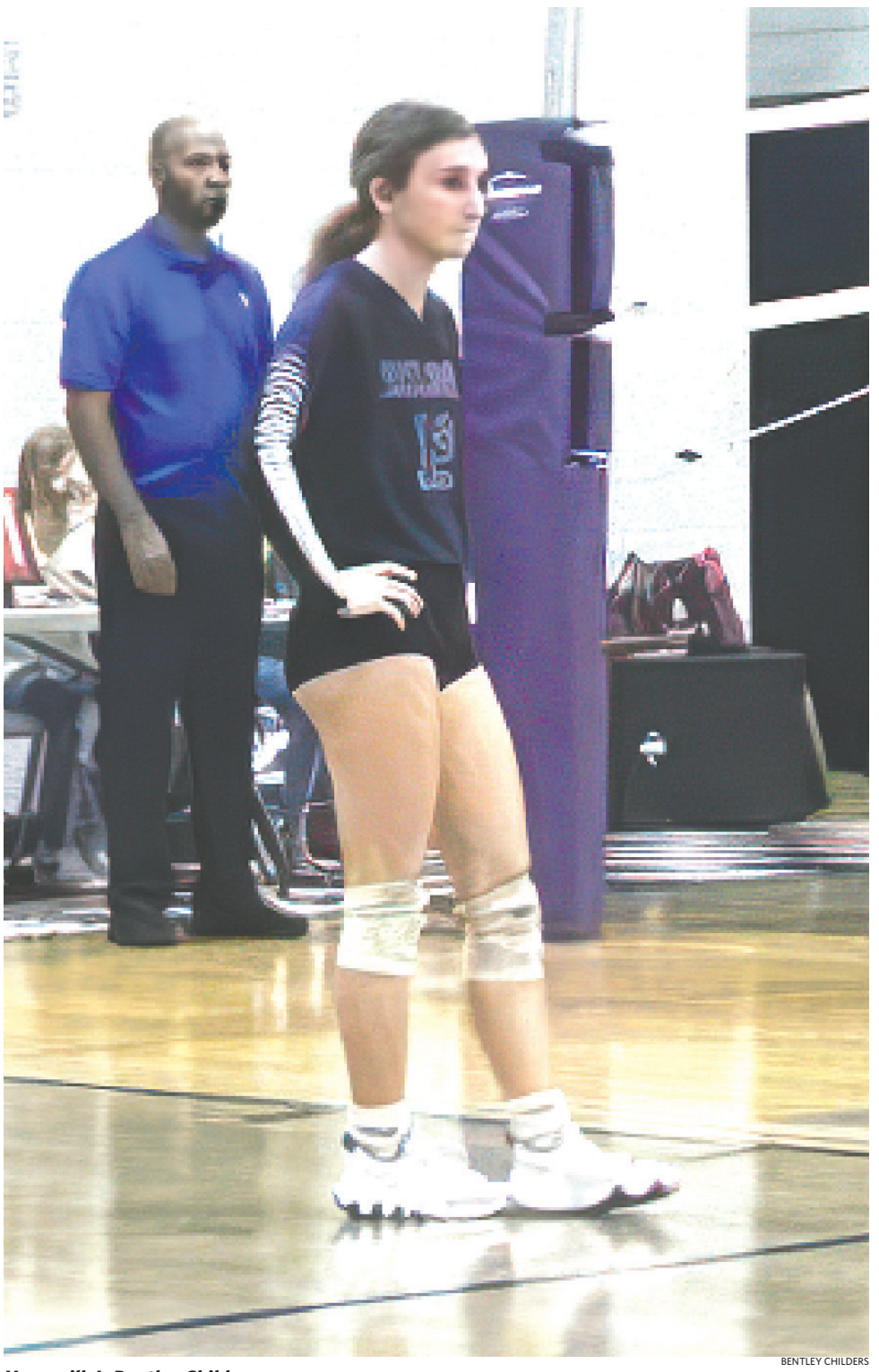
Childers talked about what made this team special to be around, the best advice that someone has ever given her, her role models in volleyball, and how important it is to be a role model for the younger girls.

"What made this team special to be around is the all-around love and bond we have for each other. It was like one big family," she said. "My dad has always told me, ever since I was little, while playing sports, 'Look good, feel good, play good.' This advice has stuck with me since I was around the age of four, and that's one thing I believe I will always live by. My role models in volleyball are Kayley Kahler and Alivia White. They were both really sweet and encouraging to me my freshman year. They are both wonderful volleyball players and wonderful girls overall."

She added, "To me, it's very important, because the younger girls watching us all play are all looking up to us and are wanting to be like us. They are watching how we react to certain situations, how we play, and how we treat other players and people on the court."

Childers learned a lot about herself and this team that will help them out next year.

"I have learned that some of the girls I play with look up to me, and my attitude can affect how the whole team's attitude will be and how we will play. Now that I know my attitude on the court matters to how good we all play, I will continue to have a good attitude, and this will help our team's attitude and performance be better as a whole."



BENTLEY CHILDERS

Hanceville's Bentley Childers

Charles Kelly named co-Defensive Coordinator at Auburn

Kirk Sampson
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. — Charles Kelly, a veteran defensive coach and former Auburn football player, has been named co-defensive coordinator at his alma mater, head coach Hugh Freeze announced Friday. A native of Ozark, Alabama, Kelly played at Auburn from 1986-89 under legendary coach Pat Dye and returned to the Plains in 1993 as a graduate assistant.

Kelly most recently served as defensive coordinator at Colorado this past season after four years as the associate defensive coordinator at Alabama where he won a national championship in 2020. Kelly was the 2023 247Sports National Recruiter of the Year and was ranked in the top five nationally in 2022.

"I am very grateful to return to a university and a football program that have meant so much to me growing up in this state and playing for Coach Dye," Kelly said.

"It's an honor to work with Coach Freeze, whom I have a tremendous amount of respect for, and I'm appreciative of him for this opportunity. I look forward to helping Coach Freeze and this staff bring our program back to the caliber of championship football that Auburn deserves. As the Auburn Creed states, 'I believe in work, hard work.' I do not take this opportunity lightly and am ready to go to work. War Eagle!"

Kelly joined the Alabama staff after one season at Tennessee in 2018 which followed five seasons at Florida State from 2013-17. He was the special teams coordinator and safeties coach at Tennessee and the defensive coordinator for his final four seasons at Florida State. Prior to his time in Tallahassee, he has also coached at Georgia Tech (2006-11), Nicholls State (2002-05), Eufaula (Ala.) High School (2000-01), Henderson State (1999), Jacksonville State (1994-98), Auburn (1993) and Phenix City (Ala.) High School (1990-92).



AU ATHLETICS

Charles Kelly has been named co-Defensive Coordinator at Auburn.

"Charles is an outstanding football mind who is an excellent recruiter and understands the landscape of Auburn and the Southeastern Conference," Freeze said.

"We are excited to have Charles on our staff as we continue building a strong foundation for the future success of Auburn football."

Kelly has coordinated defense and coached in the secondary at Jacksonville State (1994-98), Henderson State (1999), Nicholls State (2005), Georgia Tech (2012), Florida State (2014-17) and Colorado (2023). He also has a decorated background on special teams, directing those units at Georgia Tech (2006-07), Florida State (2013) and Tennessee (2018).

Overall, Kelly has coached 16 All-Americans and won four conference championships, including three ACC titles, and two national championships in his career. As a special teams coordinator, he has coached a Ray Guy Award winner and a Lou Groza Award winner.

At Alabama, the Crimson Tide defense was ranked among the nation's best throughout Kelly's four years there.

In 2022, Alabama's scoring defense ranked ninth best nationally and second best in the SEC. The 2020 defense ranked atop the SEC in scoring at 19.4 points per game, good for 13th nationally.

The 2021 defense ranked seventh best for total defense and fourth best for rushing defense while the 2019 team ranked in the top 20 nationally in scoring defense, total defense and passing defense.

At Tennessee, Kelly's special teams were solid, blocking five kicks (No. 5 nationally), ranking fourth in the country in punt return defense (2.00 yards per return) and fourth in the league in punt returns (12.80 ypr).

In his five years at Florida State under Jimbo Fisher, his defenses ranked in the nation's top 25 his final three years, including No. 18 in 2017, after allowing only 331.1 total yards per game. FSU finished 22nd nationally in total defense in 2016 (349.1 ypg) and his 2015 unit ranked ninth in scoring defense (17.8 ppg).

He coached 10 NFL Draft picks as the coordinator for the Seminoles, including first round defensive backs Jalen Ramsey (No. 5 overall) and Derwin James (No. 17). He also mentored several first team All-Americans, including Tarvarus McFadden and Ramsey.

The Seminoles led the nation in sacks in 2016 (3.92 per game) behind 16 sacks from defensive end DeMarcus Walker. FSU also finished 22nd nationally in total defense (349.1) that season.

The 2015 squad's defense ranked ninth in the nation in scoring defense (17.8 points per game) and No. 19 in total defense (336.9). Kelly's defense in 2014 led Florida State to the first-ever College Football Playoff and helped the Seminoles produce a program-record 29-game win streak.

At Georgia Tech he coached special teams, defensive backs and served as the interim defensive coordinator during his seven-year tenure.

He was elevated to defensive coordinator for the Yellow Jackets in the sixth game of the 2012 season. Kelly helped GT finish out the season 5-3, including a Sun Bowl victory over Southern California, where Kelly's defense held the high-powered Trojans' offense to just 205 yards and seven points.

In 2011, Kelly's defensive backs led a pass defense that finished No. 2 in the ACC. In 2009, Kelly's unit helped Georgia Tech win the ACC Championship and go to the Orange Bowl, finishing 11-3. He served as the Yellow Jackets' special teams coordinator in 2006 and 2007, coaching punter Durant Brooks to the Ray Guy Award in 2007.

At Nicholls State he served as defensive backs coach for two seasons before being promoted to defensive coordinator. The Colonels captured the Southland Conference title in 2005 and ranked No. 17 in the nation (FCS) in total defense. He was instrumental in developing two-time All-America cornerback Chris Thompson, who went on to be drafted by Jacksonville in 2004.

He coached running backs and defensive backs at Jacksonville State and defensive backs at Henderson State. Kelly began his coaching career at Phenix City (Ala.) Central High School (1990-92) before returning to Auburn as a graduate assistant in 1993.

Kelly is a 1990 graduate of Auburn with a degree in secondary math education. He then earned his master's degree in education from Troy in 2002. Kelly and his wife Kristy have three daughters, Caroline, Kathleen and Charli Grace.

Volunteers (from Front)

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Amid preparations happening through the county in anticipation of the incoming arctic blast, The Link of Cullman County is partnering with Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster of Cullman County (VOAD) to set up a warming station that will keep residents with less than reliable heating sources warm in the event of a mass power outage. The Link and VOAD are searching for volunteers to help manage the warming station on Monday and Tuesday evenings, Jan. 15-16.

The Link is unable to open the community warming station unless it can find adequate volunteer staff. Volunteers are asked to commit to shifts each night, broken into four- or two-hour increments, with one male and one female volunteer per shift.

"We are happy to open our facility, but we do need help to keep it staffed. When a community faces a disaster or crisis need, we need to have people and groups identified who will volunteer to serve.

Cold weather is a perfect time for our community to respond and begin to work together as a unified group to meet the needs of our neighbors.

Unlike natural disasters that require major coordination and resources, a warming station needs space, manpower and light refreshments," said Executive Director Melissa Betts.

"We have so many living among us who don't have access to adequate heat when the temps drop. I urge our community of helping hands to join together. Let's offer a small gesture of hospitality to our neighbors in need. We can use these cold weather events to train and work together so that we have experience working together if a larger disaster happens."

Monday evening into Tuesday volunteer shifts:

- 6-10 p.m. (a female volunteer is needed for this shift)
- 2-6 a.m.
- 6-8 a.m.

Tuesday evening into Wednesday volunteer shifts:

- 6-10 p.m.
- 10 p.m.-2 a.m.
- 2-6 a.m.
- 6-8 a.m.

Individuals interested in volunteering can contact The Link of Cullman County on Facebook or Melissa Betts at melissabetts@linkingcullman.org. A background check will be performed on interested parties and training will be provided.

The Link is located at 708 Ninth St. SE and can be contacted by phone at 256-775-0028.

Sawyer (from Front)

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Hanceville City Hall was packed Thursday evening as residents gathered to hear who would be appointed mayor following former Mayor Kenneth Nail's resignation in December. The council appointed Mayor Pro-tem Jimmy Sawyer, who had been serving as interim mayor since Nail's departure, to the position.

The motion to appoint Sawyer was put forth "with great honor" by Councilwoman Kim Brown and passed unanimously, to applause from attending residents.

Sawyer was sworn in, with his wife by his side, by Administrative Assistant Kim Reburn.

Said Sawyer, "I will do my very best to represent Hanceville in the very best way you'd want to be represented," noting he was proud to continue the work put forth by Nail.

Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview, raced in from Montgomery to address the council concerning the amount of grants obtained by himself, Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman and Rep. Corey Harbison, R-Good Hope.

Shedd described several grant recipients in the Hanceville area, ranging from the sewer and water board, Wallace State Community College, Hanceville Fire and Rescue and the City of Hanceville to expand infrastructure and education. He stressed the importance of letting the public know that the officials they elected are doing the jobs they were elected to do.

"I tell you these things to let you know – I want you to know we're trying to do our job, it's important that we give as much money back as we can.

"This is money that's going back to Hanceville, and the Hanceville area. Sometimes if we don't let you know, you might not know it!" Shedd laughed.

"I'm honored to represent the City of Hanceville. It's the largest city in my legislative district, so I appreciate getting to serve you," said Shedd, who said he looks forward to continuing work with the City of Hanceville in the future.

Cullman County Economic Development Director Matt Kinsland, along with Project Coordinator Luke Wood, presented a grant from the Firehouse Subs Foundation in the amount of $34,744 to Hanceville Fire and Rescue to cover various equipment upgrades.

Fire Chief Rodger Green expressed his appreciation, saying, "I'd like to thank the board of Cullman County Economic Development, and Luke and Matt for their efforts in helping us get this. They've done a great job, and we really appreciate it."

In other business:

- The council heard from Morris Williams, candidate for Cullman County Schools Superintendent. Williams pledged to, if elected, run the office with integrity and accountability.
- The council motioned to revoke the City's health insurance stipend option, citing lack of interest.
- Hanceville City Hall will be closed Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The next Hanceville City Council meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 25, at Hanceville City Hall. Work session begins at 5 p.m. with meeting called to order at 5:30. The public is invited to attend.

LEGALS

DOCUMENT 21

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
1/9/2024 1:33 PM
25-DR-2023-900254.00
CIRCUIT COURT OF
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
LISA MCSWAIN, CLERK

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

WILLIAMS MIRANDA KAY,
Plaintiff,

V. Case No.: DR-2023-900254.00

WILLIAMS LESLIE THOMAS JR,
Defendant.

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

The Defendant Leslie Thomas Williams, Jr., who has been determined by this court as avoiding service, must answer the Complaint of Miranda Kay Williams for divorce and other relief by the 7th day of March, 2024, or thereafter, a judgment by default may be rendered against him the above captioned case number 25-DR-2023-9000254.00 now pending in the Circuit Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE this 9th day of January, 2024.

/s/ GREGORY A NICHOLAS
CIRCUIT JUDGE

Beverly Paschal Poston
Attorney for Plaintiff
201 2nd Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Jerry Finley Husband And Victoria Finley Wife to Jim Walter Home, Inc. dated September 28, 2001; said mortgage being recorded on November 6, 2001, in Book 1214, Page 136 in and re-recorded in Book 1210, Page 42 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to U.S. Bank, N.A., as Trustee, successor in interest to Wachovia Bank, National Association, as Trustee, for Mid-State Trust XI by assignment recorded in Deed Book 333, Page 171 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, ALABAMA.
The undersigned, U.S. Bank, N.A., as Trustee, successor in interest to Wachovia Bank, National Association, as Trustee, for Mid-State Trust XIunder and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on the 15th day of February, 2024 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:
COMMENCE AT THE NW CORNER OF THE S 1/2 OF THE SW 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 33, T-11-S, R-3-W, CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA; THENCE RUN S 86 DEGREES 44'23"E, 786.92' TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE RUN S 86 DEGREES 44'23"E, 150.00'; THENCE RUN S 00 DEGREES 00'00"E, 320.00'; THENCE RUN N 86 DEGREES 44'23"W, 150.00'; THENCE RUN N 00 DEGREES 00'00"E, 320.00' TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; SAID HEREIN DESCRIBED TRACT CONTAINS 1.1 ACRES MORE OR LESS, AND LIES IN THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 33, T-11-S, R-3-W, CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA.

ALSO, A 30' ACCESS EASEMENT, 15' EITHER SIDE OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LINE: COMMENCE AT THE NW CORNER OF THE S 1/2 OF THE SW 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 33, T-11-S, R-3-W, CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, A(N) 1/2" IRON PIN FOUND; THENCE RUN S 86 DEGREES 44'23"E, 786.92'; THENCE RUN S 00 DEGREES 00'00"W, 320.00'; THENCE RUN S 86 DEGREES 44'23"E, 37.92' TO THE POINT IN THE SOUTH LINE OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY, THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE RUN S 57 DEGREES 49'41"W, 166.27; THENCE RUN S 59 DEGREES 11'33"E, 391.93.; THENCE RUN S 66 DEGREES 34'41"E 82.63'; THENCE RUN S 86 DEGREES 38'34"E, 239.96' TO THE POINT OF ENDING IN THE ROAD EASEMENT ACQUIRED BY JOSEPH A. CHAPMAN BY DEED RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 301, PAGE 827, IN SAID COUNTY.

ALSO, A 30' ACCESS EASEMENT, 30' NORTH OF AND PARALLEL TO THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED LINE: COMMENCE AT THE NW CORNER OF THE S 1/2 OF THE SW 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 33, T-11-S, R-3-W, CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA; THENCE RUN S 86 DEGREES 44'23"E, 786.92'; THENCE RUN S 0 DEGREES 00'00"E, 320.0' THENCE RUN S 86 DEGREES 44'23"E, 150.0' TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE RUN S 86 DEGREES 44'23"E, 400' TO THE POINT OF ENDING IN THE ROAD EASEMENT ACQUIRED BY JOSEPH A. CHAPMAN BY DEED RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 301, PAGE 827, IN SAID COUNTY.

Said property is commonly known as 501 County Rd 588, Hanceville, AL 35077.
Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal description will control.
Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.
Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.
The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage.

U.S. BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE, SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO WACHOVIA BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, FOR MID-STATE TRUST XI
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC
Two North Twentieth
2 20th Street North, Suite 1000
Birmingham, AL 35203
(205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 23-05296AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Cullman Tribune
01/13/2024,01/20/2024,01/27/2024

PB WIL BK 121 PG 38 - 01/10/2024 02:16 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
SUZANNE LOUISE TAYLOR,
Deceased.
CASE NO.: PC 2023-385

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to ROBERT LEE TAYLOR, as Personal Representative of the Estate of SUZANNE LOUISE TAYLOR, deceased, on the 10th day of January, 2024, 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.

Robert Lee Taylor
Personal Representative

Beverly Paschal Poston
Attorney for Estate
200 1st Avenue, SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

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

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

PB WIL BK 121 PG 104 - 01/12/2024 10:59 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
MARY H. STANSELL LOVVORN,
Deceased.
CASE NO.: PC2023-278

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to RONNIE HAROLD STANSELL as Personal Representative of the Estate of MARY H. STANSELL LOVVORN, deceased, on the 12th day of January, 2024, 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 be barred.

RONNIE HAROLD STANSELL
Personal Representative

June Brooks
Attorney for Personal Representative
Post Office Box 73
Cullman, Alabama 35056

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

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

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

PB WIL BK 121 PG 22 - 01/10/2024 02:02 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
CLARICE SHAFER,
Deceased.
CASE NO.: PC2024-007

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to CHARLES CASPER SHAFER, as Personal Representative of the Estate of CLARICE SHAFER, deceased, on the 10th day of January, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

Charles Casper Shafer
Personal Representative

Alex J. Chaney
Attorney for Petitioner
Berry, Berry, Little & Chaney
405 2nd Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35056
256-734-6330

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

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

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

PB WIL BK 121 PG 12 - 01/10/2024 01:45 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of
MAX D. HALLMARK,
Deceased.
CASE NO. PC 2023-420

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE: Letters Testamentary having been granted to Margaret Burgett as Personal Representative of the Estate of Max D. Hallmark, deceased, on the 10th day January, 2024 all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Margaret Burgett
Personal Representative

Shay Persall
Attorney for Personal Representative

SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 Seventh Street Southwest
Cullman, AL 35055
Telephone: (256) 841-7800

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

Please publish the foregoing 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

Education notes

Kendall Rooks awarded degree from Palmer College of Chiropractic

Christine Beaudry

DAVENPORT, Iowa — Kendall Rooks of South Vinemont graduated with a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Palmer College of Chiropractic's Florida Campus in Port Orange, Florida on Dec. 15, 2023.

Palmer College of Chiropractic, the first and largest college in the chiropractic profession, has campuses in Davenport, Iowa; San Jose, California; and Port Orange, Florida.

Troy University announces Chancellor's List, Provost's List for Fall Semester/Term 2

Matt Clower

TROY, Ala. — Troy University is pleased to announce students who have been named to the Chancellor's List for the Fall Semester and Term 2 of the 2023-2024 academic year. Full-time undergraduate students who are registered for at least 12 semester hours and who earn a grade point average of 4.0 qualify for the Chancellor's List.

Local students who made the list include:

- Hannah Dempster of Cullman
- Brooks Stephenson of Bremen
- Cady Martin of Cullman
- Sarah Laney of Cullman
- Lily Latham of Vinemont

Troy University is also pleased to announce students who have been named to the Provost's List for the Fall Semester and Term 2 of the 2023-2024 academic year. Full-time undergraduate students who are registered for at least 12 semester hours and who have a grade point average of at least 3.65 qualify for the Provost's List.

Local students who made the list include:

- Benjamin Doss of Hanceville
- Sadie Land of Cullman
- Jacob Smith of Cullman
- Colton Lindsey of Cullman

Troy University is a public, historic, international university with 22,500 students and 154,000 alumni. Students choose TROY for its quality academic programs, reasonable costs and availability of financial aid, outstanding faculty, and flexible in-class and online class offerings. Students on the Troy, Ala. campus enjoy a traditional college experience, while adult students are the centers of attention at campuses in Dothan, Montgomery and Phenix City, Ala., as well as at locations around the world and online.

Freed-Hardeman University announces Fall 2023 President's, Dean's Lists

Dawn Bramblett

HENDERSON, Tenn. — Freed-Hardeman University has released the names of students who made the President's and Dean's Lists for the Fall 2023 semester. To be on the President's List, a student must be full-time and have a 4.0 grade point average. Students on the Dean's List have earned a minimum 3.4 grade point average for the semester.

The following students from the coverage have been recognized:

- Reagan Malone, a junior from Arab, has been named on the Dean's List. Malone is earning a Bachelor of Business Administration in Sports Administration.
- Gavin Boler, a junior from Joppa, has been named on the President's List. Boler is earning a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science Information Systems.
- Ethan Thomas, a sophomore from Arab, has been named on the President's List. Thomas is earning a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing.

The mission of Freed-Hardeman University is to help students develop their God-given talents for His glory by empowering them with an education that integrates Christian faith, scholarship and service. With locations in Henderson and Memphis, FHU offers bachelor's, master's, specialist's and doctoral degrees. More information is available at https://fhu.edu.

St. Bernard releases Honor and Merit rolls

ST. BERNARD PREP SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Semester Average of 95.0 and above

2023-24 Semester I

Grade 7
- Aaron Cortes-Villegas
- Sipsey Drake
- Silas Krische
- Reise Rigsby
- Caroline Sanders

Grade 8
- Norah Bissot
- Ella Cron
- Ella Davis
- Anastasia Hazard
- Avery Hines
- Merry-Carmen Pichardo
- Tony Ranelli

Grade 9
- Joseph-Benedict Anders
- Karly Arndt
- Alexis Cron
- Sarah Cumbie
- Sean Daly
- Rafi Guevara
- Sage McDowell
- Sam Meyers
- Tessa Sanders

Grade 10
- Katie Chamblee
- Parker Guthery
- Gavitt Lewis
- Josh Marks
- Kimberly McCormick
- Sarah Woods

Grade 11
- Roselyn Chavez
- Saray Cortes-Villegas
- Cash Daly
- Nathan Gaspar
- Marissa Hazard
- Jade Nguyen
- Joey Sahdowens
- Rowan Hines
- Madi Kerber
- Abby McBride
- Joel Rose
- Willa Smith

Grade 12
- Audrey Gil
- Scarlette DeCicco
- Will Lyons
- Amelia Tafazoli
- Andrew Tombo
- Sydney Watwood
- Ethan Wu

ST. BERNARD PREP SCHOOL MERIT ROLL

Semester Average of 90-94.9

2023-24 Semester I

Grade 7
- James Grey
- Josie Lamote
- Andrew Nguyen
- Yaretzi Parra
- Sawyer Watwood

Grade 8
- Cesar Blancas
- Kayleigh Bryan-Marty
- Eugene Byrd
- Gabriel Kibler
- Analia Lajara
- Johnathan McBride
- Matthew Sauers

Grade 9
- Ruth Adams
- Charlee Boykin
- Emilie Gutowski
- Aiden Hays
- Logan Kretzschmar
- Joy Lamote
- Lily Tillitski
- Kaelyn Wrisley

Grade 10
- Tanya Jimenez Jose
- Eduardo Martinez Perez

Grade 11
- Logan Bello
- Anna Rogalski
- Presley Shealy

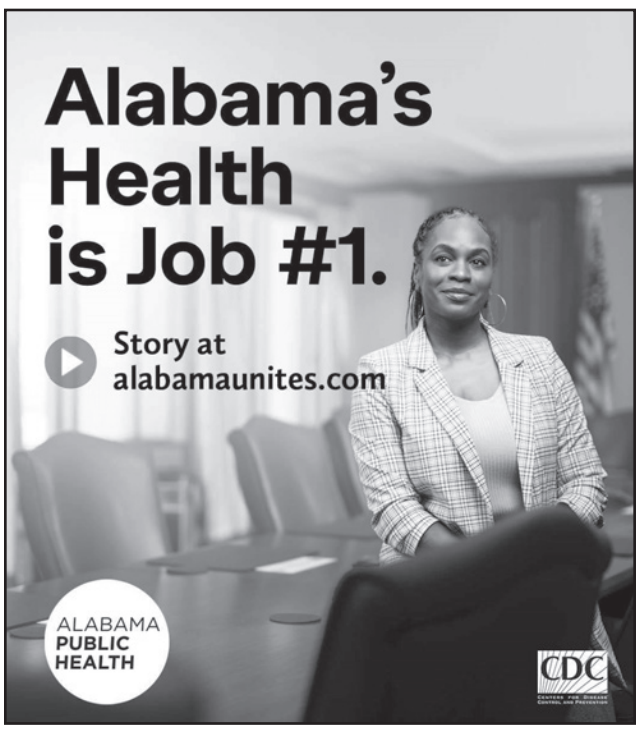
Grade 12
- Charlie Deist
- Cesar Hernandez
- Martha Jimenez Jose
- Ashton Lindsey
- Anahi Pantoja
- Caroline Sidley

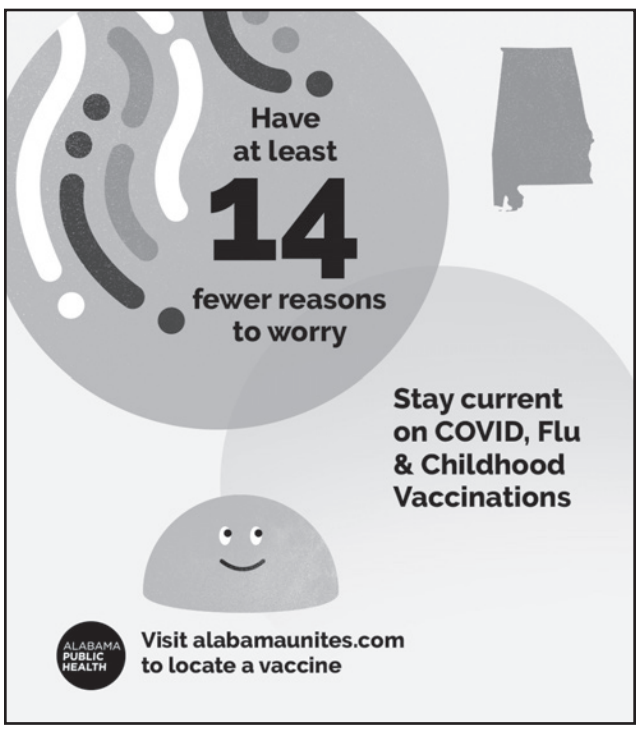


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734-2406

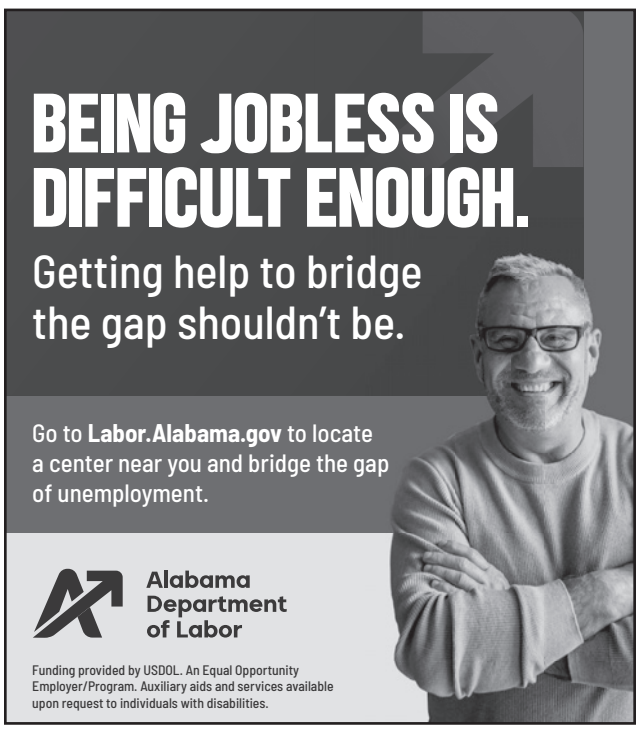
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"Love Never Ages"





Cases (from Front)

Nassetta encouraged the community to take part and take note of situations that might require residents to provide help.

"Mental health is a tricky issue and oftentimes, if someone is thinking about suicide they have already decided that there is no help for them," he said.

"It is up to friends and family to recognize the situation and do what they can to reverse those feelings so that the struggling individual is willing to get help."

The Cullman County Sheriff's Office shared that absence of social connections significantly compromises the health and longevity of the individual.

"Loneliness and social isolation, according to the Surgeon General Dr. Vivek H. Murthy, increase the risk of premature mortality by 26% and 29%, respectively," said Cullman County Sheriff's Office Director of Communications, Lt. Chad Whaley, back in November.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Cullman County Coroner Jeremy Kilpatrick

"However, many individuals are frequently left with only recollections of departed loved ones or those with whom they have lost contact with.

"We can assist those in our community by maintaining regular contact with them throughout the year."

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Obituary Announcements: Jan. 11-12

Willadean Fayteen Yates, 87

Funeral service for Willadean Fayteen Yates, age 87, of Cullman, will be at noon on Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Wade Maynard officiating; interment in Cullman Memory Gardens. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Ms. Yates passed away on Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024, at Cullman Regional. She was born July 15, 1936, to James Yates and Avy Yates. She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Donnie Yates, Odean Yates, James Yates, and Oree Yates; and sisters, Evelyn Hardin, Dorothy Fleischammel, and Delores Durham. Survivors include her children; Lowell (Tina) Chumley, Kathy Holmes, Billy (Glenda) Chumley, Susan Chism, Roger (Becky) Chumley, and Keith Chumley; ten grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; and sister, Patsy (Thomas) Hale. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to St. Jude Children's Hospital or your favorite charity.

Danny William Stidham, 70

Danny William Stidham, 70, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away Jan. 9, 2023, surrounded by his family. Danny was born to Delma Louise "Tiny" and William Edgar Stidham "Bunk" on Aug. 1, 1953, in Cullman County, Alabama. Funeral service will be held on Jan. 15, 2024, at 11 a.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Visitation will be held Jan. 14 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Danny was a class of 1971 Albertville Highschool graduate. As a Machinist he worked with Speed Ring, Charter Oil in Pasadena, Texas and Zero Bullet when returning to Cullman. He retired from Auto Zone after many years as a Commercial Specialist. Danny was an avid collector, grill master, talented cook, skillful gardener, found special interest in history and profoundly knowledgeable in all things who could give even Ken Jennings serious competition. Danny could find joy in the mountains or the beach. Great memories were made while riding his Harley-Davidson in the Smokey Mountains in his earlier years with his uncles Jerrell, Walter and Vernon Smith. Danny was known to be witty with great comedic timing. He still had the very best smile and humor till the end. He was a member of Plainview Baptist Church. Though Danny was talented at many things perhaps his best roles was that of a husband, father and Paw Paw. Danny was a loving, devoted husband to his love Martha Stidham. He was a strong, dependable father who never missed a daily call or text to his daughters to let them know they were loved. As a Paw Paw he was affectionate and kind to his grandchildren who will miss him for a lifetime. Danny let his love be known every single day and proved it whole heartedly during his final days. Danny is preceded in death by his parents Delma Louise "Tiny" and William Edgar Stidham"Bunk". He is survived by his wife Martha Stidham, children Meredith (Ryan) Hays, Erin (Taylor) Davis, grandchildren Allison Stidham, Aiden Hays, Ella Davis, Kadance Davis and Maci Rae Hays, sisters Rhonda Leathers, Renay Brock, beloved baby sister Leeann Stidham-Newell, Uncle Jerrell and Aunt Kay Smith, aunt Dorris Smith and Leanese Smith, and a host of nieces and nephews and Coparents Crystal and Ken Phillips. The family extends a thank you to the staff at UAB and a deep appreciation to his new found "Bestie" Brittany Prater, MSN RN.

Katherine Mae Patterson, 85

Katherine Mae Patterson, age 85, of Haleyville, Alabama, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024, at Russellville Hospital. She was born on April 20,1938, to James Ellis Ragsdale and Lizzie Pugh Ragsdale. Katherine loved to crochet and believe it or not she loved to watch golf. She loved puzzle books and she liked to spend time at home and time with her family. She enjoyed watching nature. Visitation will be Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Haleyville, where the services will be held at 1 p.m. Burial will be at Millstone Mt. Baptist Church Cemetery in Lynn Alabama. Brother Jim Robins will officiate. Katherine is survived by her daughter Debra (Russell) Johnson; brother, Ray (Betty) Ragsdale; granddaughters, Crystal (Trent) Barton and Jenifer (Jonathan) Harbin; grandson, Jason (Debra) Robins; great grandchildren, Breanna, Jacob, Amy, Joseph, Brooke, Blair, and Harley; great-great grandchild, Dalton; and a host of nieces and nephews. Katherine is preceded in death by her husband, Cecil Patterson; parents, James and Lizzie Ragsdale; son, Kenneth Patterson; sisters, Alice Faye Aaron, Mollie Cagle, Nellie Cato; brothers, Clinton Ragsdale, Charlie Ragsdale, Johnny Ragsdale, and Willie Ragsdale.

Jessie L. Hawkins, 91

Graveside service for Jessie L. Hawkins, age 91, of Cullman, will be at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024, at Cullman City Cemetery. She will be buried next to the love of her life, Odom Hawkins. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Hawkins passed away on Friday, Jan. 12, 2024. She was born July 16, 1932, in Lincoln County, Tennessee, to William Richard and Minnie Luna. Jessie was a member of South Cullman Church of Christ and faithful servant of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. She worked side by side with her son-in-law, Randy Phillips, at Autobody Center in Vinemont for 26 years. Retiring in January of 2022, she was known as "Grandma Jessie" by everyone who came to do business there. She was preceded in death by her parents, William Richard and Minnie Luna; husbands, William Lee Brown and Odom Hawkins; son, Thomas Luna Agee; grandson, Jeremy Andrew Agee; great-granddaughter, Bella Brown; and siblings, Houston "Hack" Luna, Bert Luna, Geneva Luna, Elizabeth Luna, Ressie Luna, Lionel Otis Luna, Ernest Luna, and Roy Wayne Luna. Survivors include her children, Chester (Marianne) Luna, Debra (Randy) Phillips, and Ann (Dave) Moore; stepson, Brian (Wanda) Hawkins; eight grandchildren; sisters, Beatrice Cooke and Margaret Moore; and a host of great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (Stjude.org).

Teresa Ann Elkins, 63

Teresa Ann Elkins, 63, of Haleyville, Alabama, passed away Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024, at Walker Baptist Medical Center. She was born on Oct. 19, 1960, in Haleyville, Alabama to Elbert and Lockcile Clark Elkins. Visitation will be Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church (County Road 20 Delmar) where the service will be held at 1 p.m. Burial will be in the adjoining church cemetery. Brother Keith Hood will officiate. Teresa is survived by her father, Elbert Elkins; children, Jamie Smith, Steven (Hope) Purser; grandchildren, Marissa Greer, Devanie Purser, Brynlee Purser; great-grandchildren, Elias Brock, Sahmara Brock, Judah Greer – Manasco; siblings, Danny (Rita) Elkins, Bryon (Lorine) Elkins, Julie Dantzler; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, and uncles. She was preceded in death by her mother, Lockcile Elkins; grandparents, J.I. and Annie Elkins, Dave and Lora Clark; sibling, David Elkins; grandchild, Kirsten Greer-Brock.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

All good things must end, but why now?

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



I have known this day was coming for at least two years. The saying is, "All good things must come to an end." That's not exactly true because heaven is good and it is eternal. So, maybe we should say, "All good things on earth must come to an end." Having clarified that, sometimes I still have to ask, "But why now?" Sometimes, timing is everything.

My house is much like me...neither one is new. Some of its parts, like some of mine, have seen their better days. Some of its parts, like some of mine, have been removed, replaced, or repaired. My house was built in 1998 which makes it 25-years old. The roof has already been replaced, thanks in part to a large poplar that fell through it five-years ago. We replaced the upstairs heating/cooling unit two-years ago.

The downstairs unit has undergone major surgery more than once. I've known what was coming, but I kept trying to squeeze out one-more year before I bit the bullet and replaced it. Last week, I had to bite the bullet.

Have you ever noticed when your car runs out of gas, it is rarely in front of a filling station? Someone asked, "Why is it your heater never goes out when it's warm weather?" Well, maybe it has, but because we don't run our heaters during warm-weather, we don't know it. In Central Alabama, winter is not one long-continuous season. We tend to have a few days of mild, unseasonable weather, followed by a few days that are colder than a metal flagpole on a mountain top in Alaska!

I don't mean to cry Murphy's Law, but lately, to some degree, I could. Between Christmas and the new year, during my stuck-at-home-recovering-from-heart-surgery days, one of those cold snaps came calling. It was precisely at that time, when our downstairs heating unit gave up the ghost and breathed its last. During the holidays, when nobody wants to come work on anything, I didn't even call.

Honestly, I have the kind of heat/ac guy that would have come, under the circumstances, if I had called him. That's why I didn't call him until after the holidays. Everyone needs time with family during the holidays.

I could have moved upstairs where the new unit is and been plenty warm. The problem was I was still in that window of time when I was not supposed to overexert myself and that included climbing stairs. Since we don't have an elevator or a ski lift in our house, I stayed downstairs. There was still enough warm air blowing out to prevent death by freezation. (Yes, much like football announcers, I made that word up...I think). Shivering kept me warm!

Fortunately, a country boy can survive. I grew up in the days when we had lots of quilts in the house rather than much heat. Although, we don't use them like we did back in those days, Jean and I still have quilts...lots of quilts. We used them last week. We just wrapped up in those quilts. When we headed to bed, we just threw some extra quilts on there. Then, you get in the bed like you want to sleep and you sleep without turning over...because you can't turn over. Well, that was partly because of all my soreness from surgery and partly from the weight of all those quilts!

Troubles, trials, sickness, surgeries, and broken-down heaters in a cold snap happen. What's a body to do? Just throw on an extra quilt, make do, and get through. The sun will shine again!

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

HISTORY

Files from yesteryear: 1933, 1952

From the files of 1933

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

From the files of 1952

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

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

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

Pretty, eight-year-old Charlotte Louvorn was fatally injured when she was hit by an automobile on Sunday morning as she left McElroy Methodist Church in Birmingham. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clint Louvorn.

Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Louvorn of Holly Pond and Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Lindsey of Cullman. Two brothers, Max Louvorn and Harold Louvorn of Fort Jackson, South Carolina survive their sister.

POET'S CORNER

If Vampire's Never See Their Reflection | By: Randy C. Hale

If Vampires never see their reflection, then how do they straiten their ties

or brush their hair exactly right?

Most vampires always seem

to dress so nice, in proper clothes

of black and white.

Which means it must be a pain,

to brush and shine

those white long fangs?

I imagine if there is one vampire

that there must be two,

for otherwise what would they do?

To look at them from head to toe.

Make sure they're pressed and

good to go.

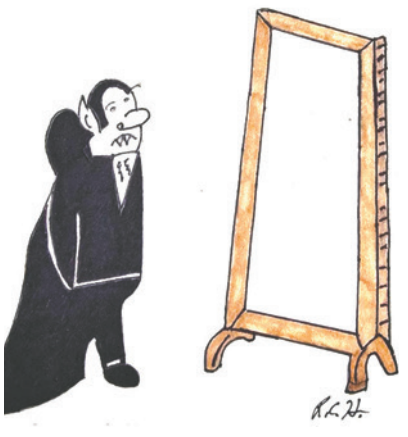
Someone to say,

you missed a spot,

a drop of blood, a tiny clot.

Yes, Vampires, they must have friends, or such a mess to look

at them.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

JAN. 13

C O R G A N I Z A T I O N S N
R L H I D E S O S B D D F S O
U D A C L A M O A T E C R O F
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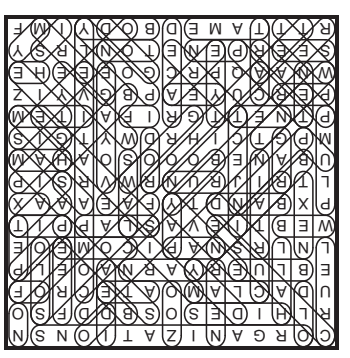
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Savage
See
Slap
Solo
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Up
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Wet
Yarn
Yea
Zoo

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

JAN. 13

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		2			8	7	1	
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ANSWERS:



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

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

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