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NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

'It wasn't just a team; it was a family': Cold Springs' Hagen Ellis recaps 7th grade season
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Lost wages and grocery bills: Now what?

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — An estimated 59% of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck, according to a survey by Charles Schwab. That's 59% of Americans barely scraping by, having to delicately manage bills versus income and needs versus wants. When an intense ice storm threw Cullman and most of north Alabama into a deep freeze last week, the local EMA declared roads impassable and many were unable to travel and navigate the icy roads. Some of those same individuals who live paycheck to paycheck were financially devastated with lost time at work, resulting in lost wages. Add to that that power usage typically jumps during cold snaps, with heating units working overtime, increasing utility bills.

Melissa Betts, » PAGE 6



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Former Cullman Caring for Kids Executive Director Javon Daniel surveys shelves at the Cullman Caring for Kids food pantry in 2020.

140 jumpers brave 2024 Polar Bear Plunge

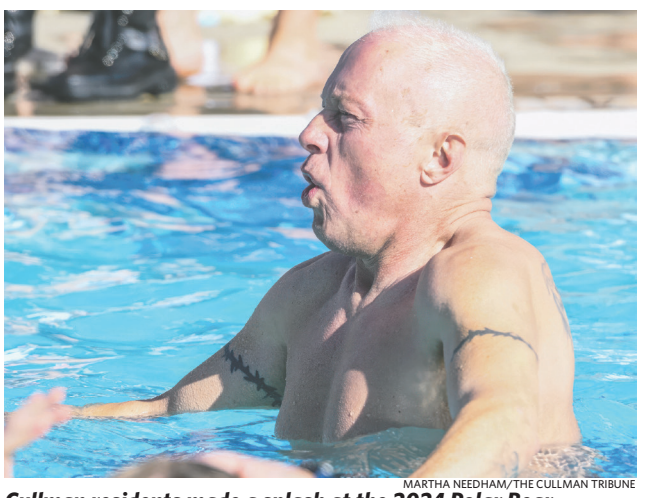


MARTHA NEEDHAM/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Water splashes as jumpers like Ethan Carnes make a dash to get out of the outdoor pool at WildWater on Saturday, Jan. 20, at the 2024 Polar Bear Plunge hosted by Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism.

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Brave souls of all ages braved the wintry waters of WildWater at Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism's 2024 Polar Bear Plunge on Saturday, Jan. 20. The event was free with an optional donation to benefit the Special Olympics of Alabama. Over 100 jumpers were registered to endure the 14-degree weather, with two lucky jumpers bringing home the gold – well, a 12-month membership to the Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center, and a set of four » PAGE 6



MARTHA NEEDHAM/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman residents made a splash at the 2024 Polar Bear Plunge hosted by Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism at WildWater on Saturday, Jan. 20. Jumpers braved the frigid waters to benefit the Special Olympics of Alabama.

Tree sale coming to Agriplex Feb. 24
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No. 13 Auburn beats No. 22 Ole Miss, takes sole possession of SEC lead
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Arrests and incidents reported Jan. 22

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Jan. 22, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
INCIDENTS
Jan. 11
- possession of controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69 S
- domestic violence; CR 775
- theft of property; Hwy. 69 S
- criminal mischief; CR 215
- dog bite; Hwy. 91
- theft of property; CR 1539
- burglary; CR 2120

Jan. 12
- trespassing; CR 1568
- domestic violence; CR 1583
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 602
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 843
- domestic violence; CR 1606
- domestic violence; CR 1043
- harassment; CR 1518

Jan. 13
- theft of property; CR 161
- domestic violence; Hwy. 69 S
- assault; CR 584

Jan. 14
- domestic violence; CR 1545
- criminal mischief; CR 1043
- domestic violence; CR 1742

Jan. 15
- assault; CR 1082
- domestic violence; CR 1503
- burglary; Old Hwy. 31

Jan. 16
- domestic violence; CR 339
- theft of property; CR 1809

Jan. 17
- domestic violence; Colony Rd.

Jan. 18
- criminal mischief; CR 1196
- breaking entering motor vehicle; CR 8
- assault; CR 1082

Jan. 19
- domestic violence; CR 1488
- domestic violence; CR 1490
- criminal mischief; CR 43
- theft of property; CR 623
- burglary; CR 1714
- domestic violence; Lovers Ln.
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 438

Jan. 20
- assault; CR 551
- breaking entering motor vehicle; CR 18
- domestic violence; CR 1117
- permitting dogs to run at large; Wesley Ave. N
- illegal possession of debit card; unauthorized use of motor vehicle; Logan Ave. SW
- theft of property; Hwy. 69 S

Jan. 21
- domestic violence; CR 35

ARRESTS
Jan. 11 – 21
Bain, Michael D.; 47
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Black, Jesse S.; 34
- FTA- non-support child

Bowens, Trevon L.; 24
- defrauding secured creditors

Brown, Cody W.; 32
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- FTA- driving while license suspended
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs

Chaffin, Peggy D.; 58
- FTA- negotiating worthless instrument

Chapman, Colby M.; 26
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

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

Davis, Michael C.; 35
- FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- assault-domestic violence-3rd degree-criminal mischief-3rd degree

Evans, David E.; 44
- FTA- driving while suspended, revoked or cancelled
- FTA- possession of a concealed weapon without a permit
- FTA- public intoxication
- FTA- liquor-possession of still, etc., or illegal manufactured, transported

Fendley, Jerry S.; 27
- illegal possession/use of credit/debit card
- unauthorized use of truck-no force
- permitting dogs to run at large

Fitzpatrick, Christopher M.; 31
- Probation Revoked- possession of methamphetamine

Gamel, Christopher L.; 35
- FTA- sexual abuse-1st degree

Graves, Nakia M.; 46
- FTA- larceny/theft-miscellaneous

Gregory, Jesse D.; 29
- FTA- failure to register vehicle
- FTA- failure/refusal to display insurance
- FTA- possessing forged device/tools

Hodge, Michael K.; 33
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- criminal trespass
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- damaged property-criminal mischief
- FTA- failure/refusal to display insurance

Huddleston, Jason A.; 34
- public intoxication

Hunter, Jonathan P.; 45
- FTA- possession of a concealed weapon without a permit
- FTA- public intoxication
- FTA- liquor-possession of still, etc., or illegal manufactured, transported

James, Jennifer D.; 51
- FTA- unlawful possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA- driving without license

James, Jonathan E.; 37
- FTA- failure to immunize dog/cat for rabies (2 counts)

James, Joseph M.; 42
- FTA- no seat belt

James, Robert W.; 44
- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft $500 less than $1,500
- stolen vehicles-auto theft

Jimenez, Alexander Geovanny Z.; 42
- DUI (alcohol)

Johns, Mark A.; 59
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Johnson, Christian Shawn H.; 26
- FTA- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Kemp, Leslie Marie B.; 40
- assault-harassment (2 counts)

Kimbrough, Madison A.; 28
- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft $1,500 - $2,500

Lance, Heather Shawn E.; 26
- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Lewis, Sammy C.; 46
- FTA- speed above 45 mph on county road

Mahathy, Jeremy O.; 42
- FTA- burglary-residence-no force

Martinez, Dustin A.; 30
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

McKleroy, Jeffery W.; 57
- public intoxication
- criminal trespass

McLeod, Rand I.; 41
- FTA- attempt to elude police officer
- FTA- cruelty to animals

Miller, Holli D.; 30
- FTA- public intoxication

Montgomery, Christopher E.; 36
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Naliborski, Amber K.; 47
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Newsome, Michal L.; 38
- Probation Violation-breaking entering motor vehicle
- Probation Violation- distribution of controlled substances
- Probation Violation- possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- Probation Violation- Alabama Probation Violation (4 counts)

Overton, Celina J.; 29
- FTA- assault-child abuse-simple-family

Ponder, Paradyse N.; 21
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Pugh, Ashley C.; 24
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA- criminal trespass

Rentz, Michael B.; 21
- larceny/theft-theft of article from auto (4 counts)
- breaking entering motor vehicle
- Grand Jury- larceny/theft (3 counts)
- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft $500 less than $1,500

Rippy, Angela D.; 50
- FTA- public intoxication

Sandifer, Matthew J.; 39
- FTA- expired license
- FTA- speeding
- FTA- reckless driving
- FTA- open container-alcohol in vehicle
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- reckless endangerment
- FTA- unauthorized possession, sale, delivery, use, etc., or wine or alcohol
- FTA- attempting to elude police officer

Seals, Melissa D.; 22
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Shikle, William C.; 36
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

South, Jason H.; 46
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- driving while suspended, revoked or canceled (4 counts)
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA- receiving stolen property $500 less than $1,500
- FTA- exceeding reasonable road speed (2 counts)

Wallace, Tomy R.; 48
- FTA- driving while license suspended

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENTS
Jan. 12
- identity theft; person
- leaving scene of accident; person; 4th St. SW; damaged to 2006 Chevy Sierra; $5,000
- theft of property-4th degree; Xtreme Speed; 2nd Ave. NW; battery; $60
- leaving scene of accident; person; 7th St. SW; damage to 2017 Ford Explorer; $3,000

Jan. 13
- theft of property-4th degree; M & M Mini Mart Texaco; Hwy. 157; beer; $29
- retail theft of property-3rd degree; Shoe Show; Marktplatz Ctr. SW; shoes; $78

Jan. 14
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; The Foundry; 2nd Ave. SW
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; 7th St. SW

Jan. 15
- duty upon striking fixtures upon a highway; Terri Pine County Club; Pine Hill Dr. and Fairway Dr. NW; dmaged wall; $10,000

Jan. 16
- unauthorized use of vehicle; person; Donauer Dr. SW
- domestic violence-3rd degree-harassment; person; Evans Ln. NE
- harassment; person
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Ann St. NW

Jan. 19
- leaving scene of accident; person; Cherokee Ave. SW; damage to 2008 Chevy Silverado; $900
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $24

Jan. 20
- counterfeit $100s; State of Alabama; Olive St. SW
- theft of property-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW; general merchandise; $738
- criminal trespass-2nd degree; Economy Inn; 2nd Ave. SW

Jan. 21
- criminal mischief-3rd degree; person; Bolte Rd. SE; damaged tire; $150
- breaking entering motor vehicle; person; 3rd Ave. SW; miscellaneous; damage to 2003 Dodge; $300
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; Hwy. 157; general merchandise; $14

ARRESTS
Jan. 12 – 21
Harris, Timothy E.; 51
- stlaking-2nd degree
- domestic violence-3rd degree-criminal mischief

Graves, Nakia M.; 46
- theft by deception-3rd degree

James, Joseph M.; 42
- FTA- theft of property-4th degree

South, Jason H.; 46
- FTA- driving while revoked

Johnson, Christian S.; 26
- theft of property-4th degree
- FTA- disorderly conduct
- FTA- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Evans, David E.; 44
- theft of property-4th degree
- FTA- driving without license (2 counts)
- FTA- attempt to elude

Wallace, Tommy R.; 48
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- public intoxication

Hessom, Sandra J.; 52
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Martinez, Dustin A.; 30
- FTA- theft of property-4th degree

Harper, Angela K.; 52
- possession/receiving controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Fontenot, Emily P.; 21
- domestic violence-3rd degree

Sachs Jr., James E.; 44
- public intoxication

Parris, Ethan B.; 31
- FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- driving without license (2 counts)

Owens, Chad M.; 39
- FTA- theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- driving without license (2 counts)
- FTA- switched tag
- FTA- insurance violation

Gregory, Jesse D.; 29
- FTA- criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA- theft of property-4th degree

Johnson, Johnathan S.; 43
- DUI

Pickering, Angela A.; 48
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- driving without license
- FTA- fail to register vehicle
- FTA- insurance violation

Sandifer, Matthew J.; 39
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- tampering with physical evidence

Blankenship, Adam W.; 39
- criminal trespass-2nd degree

Rush, Danah L.; 25
- FTA- theft of property-4th degree
- FTA- theft by deception

Rasberry, Roman D.; 22
- receiving stolen property-1st degree
- attempt to elude police officer

Gregory, Steven D.; 54
- FTA- theft of property-4th degree
- FTA- criminal trespass-3rd degree (2 counts)

Hallmark, Ted S.; 60
- possession/receiving controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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Tree sale coming to Agriplex Feb. 24

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — After surviving the recent ice storm, many residents may be dreaming of warmer temperatures and sunny days spent in the garden. Give your landscape a boost and support local educational programs by attending the Cullman County Natural Resources Planning Committee's native tree (and plant and shrub) sale, slated for Saturday, Feb. 24, beginning at 9 a.m. at the North Alabama Agriplex.

The annual sale will run until noon, or until sold out, whichever comes first.

All trees and shrubs are species indigenous to Cullman, and will be sold as bare-root seedlings.

Seedlings will be priced at $3 each.

Alabama Forestry Commission Forester Mary Claire Smith said all proceeds stay in the community, benefiting and bolstering natural resources education here in Cullman County.

"All proceeds help support our FAWN program, where sixth graders come and learn all about Alabama's natural resources," she explained, noting while the sale is scheduled until noon, buyers may want to get there early to secure their seedlings.

The North Alabama Agriplex located at 1714 Tally Ho St. SW in Cullman.

For more information on the Cullman County Natural Resources Planning Committee, visit www.facebook.com/cullmannrpc.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

Church Services- Spirit Life Church of GOD
• Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Mondays-Fridays- Free hot meals for children Mondays 11 a.m.-noon, Tuesdays 1-2 p.m. and Wednesdays-Fridays 11 a.m.-noon. Cullman Housing Authority Community Center 1545 Vine Circle SW. Please call Kristie 256-636-5362 for more information. Eat in or take out. Sponsored by Kids Loving Kids, Raising Arrows Ministry and Spirit Life Church.
• Kids Loving Kids Birthday Blessings serves children ages 1-18 in need of assistance to celebrate their birthdays. Register your child and pick up a birthday box with cake mix, icing, sprinkles, decorations and toys! Pickup is the last weekend of the month. Saturday (5100 Curry Highway Suite 100-B Jasper, AL 35504) from 3-5 p.m. or the last Sunday of the month at Spirit Life Church Cullman from 12:30-1 p.m. Birth certificate is required at the time of box pickup. Register at https://form.jotform.com/203435614640045. For more information, text or call 205-717-7478.
• • Wednesday, Jan. 24 - 7 p.m. Children & youth classes. Adult Bible study of Romans. Free pizza for children at 6:30. Van runs in the 5 Points Area at 6. Call 727-215-9092 for pickup. Healing Strong at 6!
• Friday, Jan. 26- 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship & Testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Bring a dish, dessert or drink for a potluck meal at 6:30. Childcare provided!
• Saturday, Jan. 27 – 9- 11 a.m. Drive-through food bank
• Sunday, Jan. 28 - 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. 28 - 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 Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11. Church meeting at 5 p.m.

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.

19th Annual Empty Bowls of Cullman County Chili Dinner
Monday, 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.

ACES: Pesticide safety: Always read the label

Chip East
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Pesticides can be important management tools in crop production. It is important to use pesticides correctly to manage the pest, protect the environment, and to keep the applicator safe.

On a pesticide label users will find the Pre-Harvest Interval (PHI). The PHI is the minimum number of days that should pass between the last application of pesticide and harvest. Under the "Direction For Use" section of a label there will be a list of crops/sites on which the pesticide can be legally applied. The PHI will be listed for each crop. The same pesticide may have different pre-harvest intervals for different crops.

Common name and active ingredient importance
Looking at the common name of a product and the percentage of the active ingredient before purchasing a product can be helpful. The trade name may be in large letters on the label, but the active ingredient, often referred to as the common name, is in tiny letters on the label. Often times a company will change the active ingredient but keep the trade name the same. An applicator must read the label to find out if the product they are purchasing is actually the one that is needed.

Worker safety after application
The Restricted-Entry Interval, or REI, is the amount of time that must pass from application until an unprotected farm worker reenters the field. Even if the worker is not harvesting a crop, the worker must not enter the field until the REI time has passed—unless they are wearing the proper personal protective equipment.

Record keeping
Record keeping is an important step in pest management that is sometimes overlooked. Commercial applicators and farmers with a private pesticide applicator permit applying restricted-use pesticides are required to keep records for a minimum of three years. These records include things such as date of application, amount of product applied, chemical used, etc. Record keeping is a good idea for any applicator even if it is not required. Record keeping can help evaluate the effectiveness of an application or help an applicator decide what chemical to use next when rotating chemicals. When trying to determine why a chemical may have failed, an Extension agent will always ask when the application was made, what chemical was used, the rate at which the chemical used, and the amount of water applied per acre. Oftentimes, the answers to these questions will help determine why a chemical did or did not work.

Old or illegal pesticide use
What should an applicator do with an old pesticide that was purchased many years ago and was never used? It is illegal to throw it away in the trash. If the product still has the label and it is still legal to use, it can be applied to any site listed on the label at the rate listed on the label. The product may or may not work, but this would be a legal way of getting rid of the product.

What if you found a product that had no label, was illegal to use, or you had no intention of ever using? Pesticide amnesty days are set up by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) for cases such as this. During these events, farmers or home gardeners can bring their unwanted pesticides to a certain location.

Professionals will take the pesticides at no cost and dispose of them in a legal manner. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System partners with ADAI on these events, so applicators can contact ADAI or the local Extension Office for more information on pesticide amnesty days.

Sonja Thomas contributed to this story.

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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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PREP VOLLEYBALL

'This team is like my family': Hanceville's Lexi Link recaps freshman season

Sammy Confer
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HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Hanceville freshman volleyball player Lexi Link completed her first year on the JV volleyball team and she talked about that experience and shared some of what she learned. She had a blast playing with a great group of teammates and learned so much from them.

"It has been a life-changing experience. I had so much fun this past season. I learned that communication skills are key to teamwork. Not only do you have to respect your coaches, you need to respect your teammates and the people around that are trying to help you," Link said. "It was super fun. I met a great group of girls. We had our ups and downs, but we came together as a team and worked hard. I became friends with people I never thought I would talk to. As a freshman, the upperclassmen were super encouraging. I learned how to be a leader, reliable, encouraging, and confident while playing."

She learned a lot from coaches Candice Grochowalski and Morgan Hammock this season and she saw so much improvement in her game in her first season. She talked about what she will work on in the offseason to get ready for next year.

"They are super great coaches. They are super encouraging. I learned patience from coach Grochowalski, because she taught me to never rush myself, and take my time on the court.

"What I learned from coach Hammock is determination, because she taught me that I need to work hard, no matter how many times I fail, and I will succeed if I set my mind to it," Link said.

"I've seen a whole lot of improvement in myself. I have improved on my serving and passing the most. I want to work on being able to get the ball where it needs to go."

Lexi talked about the goals for next season, what made this team special to watch, and her role models in volleyball.

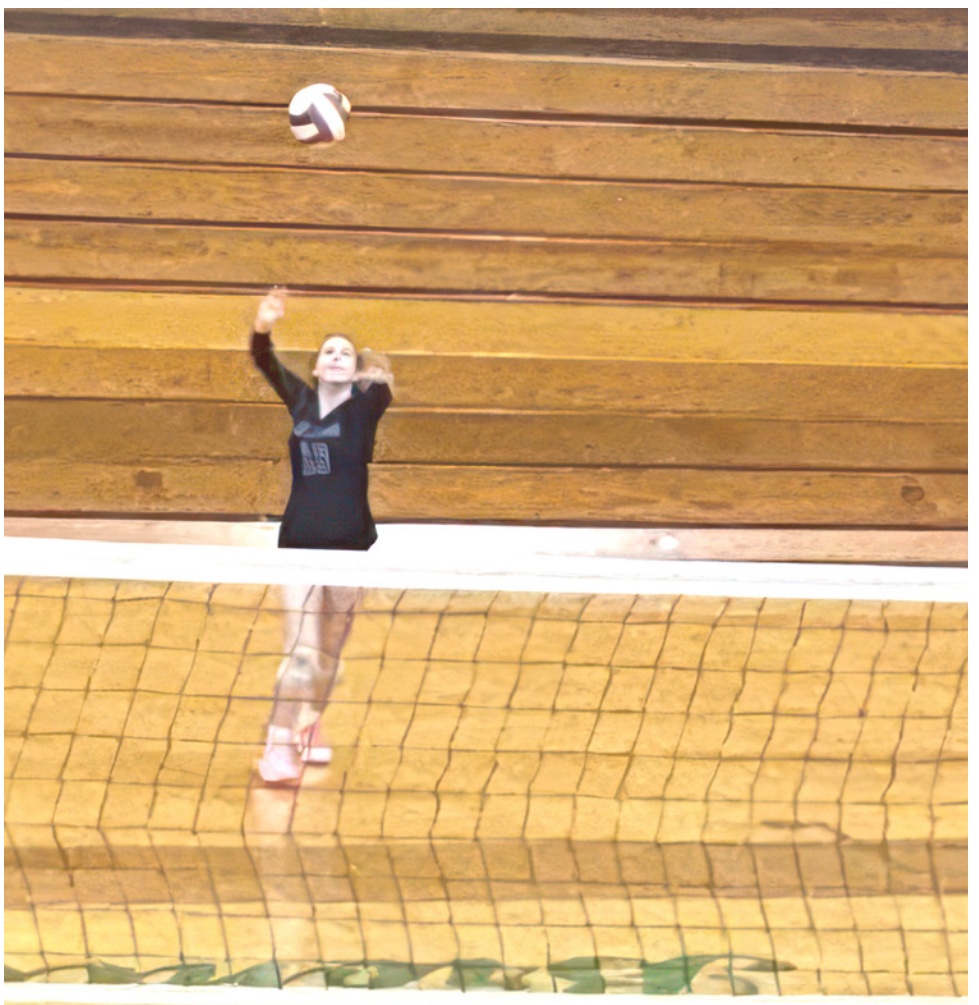
"A goal of mine is to become an all-around player. A goal for the team is to communicate better," she said. "The group of girls I met this year are truly the sweetest girls. I really look up to Karys Henderson and Eden Clements. They are so encouraging. They showed me what a real leader is, and they are also very helpful."

She talked about the best advice that she was ever given and how important it is to be a role model for the younger girls. She learned so much about herself and this team this season.

"When times get hard, never give up. Push through it," she said. "I really hope I encourage the younger girls in some way. It is really important to me to know I can teach someone how to play the sport I love.

"Something that I've learned about myself is that if I work harder each time I fail, eventually, I will be the best that I can be and hopefully, I will succeed.

"What I have learned about my team is that we work better together when we communicate and trust each other on and off the court. This team is like my family, and they have made me a better player."



LEXI LINK

Hanceville's Lexi Link

Auburn names Derrick Nix Offensive Coordinator, Kent Austin Quarterbacks Coach

Kirk Sampson
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. — Derrick Nix has been named offensive coordinator and running backs coach at Auburn, head coach Hugh Freeze announced Wednesday. A native of Attalla, Alabama, Nix has spent the previous 16 years at Ole Miss, 12 as running backs coach and the last four as the Rebels' wide receivers coach. For the last two seasons, the veteran coach was assistant head coach.

Kent Austin, who served as a special assistant to the head coach/quality control for the past year at Auburn, has been moved to an on-field position as quarterbacks coach. Austin, who has two decades as a coach at the collegiate and professional level, was offensive coordinator for Coach Freeze at Liberty from 2019-22.

"I'm really excited to reunite with Derrick here at Auburn," Freeze said. "He is an outstanding recruiter and coach who has nearly two decades of experience in the Southeastern Conference. Derrick knows the level of excellence required to be successful in this league and I know he's looking forward to the opportunity to help develop a winning program at Auburn.

"I've known Kent for a long time and worked with him at multiple schools. He is a great teacher and developer of quarterbacks and has been a valuable resource to our program this past year. I have full trust in Kent and Derrick as coaches and men to help develop our offensive unit to the standard we expect."

Derrick Nix

This past season, Nix helped Ole Miss achieve an 11-2 record while the offense was in the top 20 nationally in scoring offense, total offense and passing offense. Three Rebel receivers ranked in the top 12 in the Southeastern Conference in receiving yards, including wide receiver Tre Harris who had a career-best season as he was fifth in the league in receiving yards (985) and fourth in receiving touchdowns (8).

In 2022, Nix mentored a talented crew of Rebel receivers that paired with the SEC's top rushing offense. Senior transfer Malik Heath led the way with 971 yards on 60 catches and five touchdowns. Jonathan Mingo returned for his senior campaign and had 861 yards and five scores on 51 catches, including the FBS' top receiving game of the season: an Ole Miss record 247-yard outing at Vanderbilt.

In 2021, Dontario Drummond became just the sixth Rebel to ever eclipse 1,000 yards receiving in a single season, notching 1,028 yards and eight touchdowns on 76 total catches.

Nix's first season as wide receivers coach was a memorable one as he guided Elijah Moore to an All-America campaign. Being coached by Nix for the first time, Moore led the nation in receiving yards per game (149.1) and receptions per game (10.8) on his way to being named a finalist for the Biletnikoff Award as one of the best wide receivers in college football.

Nix, regarded as one of the top recruiters in the SEC, has tutored some of the most productive backs in Ole Miss history in Dexter McCluster, Brandon Bolden, Jaylen Walton, Jordan Wilkins and Scottie Phillips, while the Rebels have ranked top-three in the SEC in rushing three times.

In 2019, Nix coached a rushing attack that ranked second in the SEC and ninth nationally with 251.3 yards per game. The trio of Jerrion Ealy (722 yards), Phillips (542 yards) and Snoop Conner (512 yards) combined for 1,776 yards and 16 touchdowns on the ground.

During the 2017 campaign, Wilkins thrived under Nix's guidance. The senior running back rushed for 1,011 yards to become just the fifth Rebel in school history to eclipse the 1,000-yard mark in a single season.

With a variety of running backs with different styles and strengths at his disposal, Nix helped the 2015 Ole Miss squad lead the SEC and rank top 10 nationally in scoring (40.8) and total offense (517.8 ypg).

The Rebels eclipsed 600 yards of total offense in three games, a school record, and more than 200 yards rushing in six contests.

In 2013, Nix helped the Ole Miss offense rank top five in the SEC and top 25 nationally in total offense (473.3 ypg), which also broke the school record at the time. Led by a bevy of talented rushers, the Ole Miss ground game was a headache for many opposing defenses to try and stop.

The Nix backfield stable helped Ole Miss register the third-best ground game in the SEC in 2010 (207.58 ypg), while Bolden ranked No. 5 in the league in rushing (976 yards). A Nix pupil for the duration of his career, Bolden finished second in school history in both total touchdowns (33) and rushing TDs (27), third in all-purpose yards (3,681) and fourth in rushing yards (2,604).

In 2009, McCluster became the first player in SEC history with 1,000 rushing yards (1,169) and 500 receiving yards (520) in the same season.

Nix, one of the best-known players to ever wear a Southern Miss uniform, began his four-year stint on the Golden Eagles sidelines as a defensive graduate assistant in 2003. The following year, Nix was promoted to tight ends coach before being appointed to the running backs coaching position, where he spent two years.

A three-time all-conference selection, Nix was a record-setting running back throughout his Southern Miss playing days and was named to the USM "Team of the Century."

Nix was the first Golden Eagle ever to rush for 1,000 yards in each of his freshman and sophomore campaigns and the only Southern Miss and C-USA player ever to rush for 1,000 yards or more in three seasons.

Nix is a 2002 Southern Miss graduate with a bachelor's degree int sports administration. He and his wife Allison have one daughter, Ava.

"I'm very excited for this opportunity at Auburn and to get back on staff with Coach Freeze. Having worked with him before, I have a strong understanding of what he wants offensively as well as culture wise," Nix said.

"Fundamentally, we want to be a fast, physical and fearless offensive scoring unit. I'm also looking forward to rejoining Coach Austin after working with him at Ole Miss for two years.

Growing up in the state of Alabama, I understand what Auburn is about. I have vivid memories as a kid following the likes of Bo Jackson, Stan White and the undefeated team in 1993. I'm excited to be a part of the rich tradition of Auburn football and can't wait to get started."



OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Kent Austin

Kent Austin has over 30 years of playing and coaching success at the collegiate and professional level.

Prior to joining the Auburn staff, Austin served as co-offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Liberty for four seasons where he helped develop former Auburn quarterback Malik Willis who as a two-year starter for the Flames passed for over 5,000 yards, rushed for over 1,800 and accounted for 74 touchdowns in 2020 and 2021 combined.

Prior to joining the Flames' coaching staff for the 2019 season, Austin spent the previous six seasons in the Canadian Football League, working as the head coach (2013-17), general manager (2013-15), and vice president of football operations (2013-18) for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. He led the team to back-to-back Grey Cup finals in 2013 and 2014.

Austin has also served as a head coach at Cornell (2010-12) and for the CFL's Saskatchewan Roughriders (2007), while working as an offensive coordinator at Ole Miss (2008-09) and for the Toronto Argonauts (2004-06). Saskatchewan finished the 2007 season with a 12-6 record, and Austin led the Roughriders to winning the Grey Cup.

As offensive coordinator at Ole Miss, the Rebels averaged 405 yards and 30.8 points per game under Austin's tutelage, scoring the most points in a two-year span in school history. In 2008, he helped Ole Miss engineer its biggest turnaround since 1947, finishing with a 9-4 record one year after a 3-8 campaign.

Following a successful 11-year professional playing career, including 10 seasons in the CFL where he threw for 26,626 career passing yards and 134 career touchdowns, Austin started his coaching career as the quarterbacks coach for the Ottawa Renegades in 2003.

Austin played four years at Ole Miss and remains one of the school's most celebrated quarterbacks.

He finished his collegiate career with 6,184 passing yards and 31 passing touchdowns and ranks among the top 10 in nearly every passing category at Ole Miss.

During his playing days as a Rebel, he was a three-time SEC Player of the Week and was named to the Academic All-SEC team from 1982-85. He was honored with the National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete award in 1985 and was awarded an NCAA Postgraduate scholarship in 1986.

In 2000, he was elected to the Ole Miss Sports Hall of Fame. Austin graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1985.

Austin is married to the former Lesley Stewart. He has four children: Kendall, Kassidy, Wesley and Jack.

"I feel very honored and blessed to be given this new position and am thankful for the trust Coach Freeze has placed with me to develop our quarterbacks at Auburn," Austin said.



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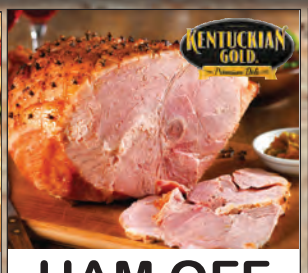
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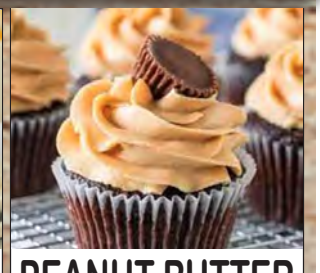
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PREP BASKETBALL

'It wasn't just a team; it was a family': Cold Springs' Hagen Ellis recaps 7th grade season

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. — The Cold Springs Lady Eagles completed their middle school basketball season not too long ago and finished second in this year's county tournament. Seventh grader Hagen Ellis had an amazing experience this season and despite not winning the county title, she's really proud to have been part of a great team.

"This season was amazing. It wasn't just a team; it was a family. I am also very grateful for the coaches that I had this season.

"One thing I will never forget that they told me is, 'Always remember your four priorities: faith, family, education, and sports,' and that the rest will fall into place. I learned that hard work pays off, as long as you stay focused on your goals, and you know what it takes to get there."

She added, "All of these girls are not only my teammates, but some of my best friends. When one of us was having an off night, we could always depend on one of our teammates to pick up the slack.

"We always work together, and that's what I love about my team. What I learned from my teammates is that even if we are all having an off night or bad game, we always try to motivate each other to keep each other working hard throughout the game."

Ellis was so blessed to have played under some great coaches this past season and has seen some big improvement in her game but will continue to work on her game in the offseason.

"My coaches Kinley Nunn, Jeremy Campbell, and Clayborn Campbell are always motivating us to work hard.

"I like that they never give up on us and are always motivating us," Ellis said.

"I feel like my defense has improved, and my three-point shots come easier. I feel like I have improved a lot on defense, and I will continue to work on my shooting and driving to the basket."

Ellis talked about an important role model in her life right now, the best advice that someone has ever given her, and what made this team special to be around.

"My role model that I look up to is my mom, because she was an amazing basketball player. What I've learned from her so far is that I always have to go hard, and play aggressive," she said.

"The best advice that someone has ever given me is, 'To be the best, you have to work the hardest'. What has made this team special to be around is that we have grown up playing ball together, and it is amazing to have best friends as teammates."

Ellis feels like it's important to be a role model for the young girls that are watching her play, and the varsity players have helped her with her game as well.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cold Springs' Hagen Ellis

She learned a very important thing about herself and this team this season.

"I have been told that there are eyes watching me every time I play, so I always try and set a good example," she said.

"The varsity girls have helped me with my game even more, because I get to watch them, and they show me things I can work on.

"I have learned that you can't win a game by yourself and that you have to have a team."

No. 13 Auburn beats No. 22 Ole Miss, takes sole possession of SEC lead

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. — The SEC's lone remaining unbeaten team, No. 13 Auburn used sizzling shooting and exceptional depth to dispatch No. 22 Ole Miss 82-59 Saturday at Neville Arena, the Tigers' 11th consecutive win.

"To play that well and control the game like we did was impressive," Auburn coach Bruce Pearl said. "Especially in the first half we did a good job of guarding without fouling."

Auburn's bench outscored Ole Miss 40-18, including 12 points from Dylan Cardwell on 5-of-6 shooting in the first meeting between the programs when both were ranked in the top 25.

"This is the closest team I've ever been on," said Cardwell, who added three rebounds and a steal. "It's fun to be on a team where everyone is your genuine friend and your genuine brother."

"We're deep at every position and we have each other's back," said Lior Berman, who scored four points and grabbed three rebounds. "If one guy is off, we've got another guy coming in and we're going to support each other through that. Having that at each position has allowed us to be effective every night."

Johni Broome and Jaylin Williams each scored 13 points to lead Auburn, which made 58.2 percent of its shots including 8-of-18 3-pointers (44.4 percent) and played 11 players for at least 10 minutes.

"Because they play fewer minutes, we can play hard," Pearl said.

Leading by 19 at the half, Auburn extended its lead to 31 points thanks to a 14-0 run by the Tigers' second unit – affectionately, and appropriately for '70s night, known as "K.D. and the Sunshine Band."

Chaney Johnson began the run with a dunk on an assist from Chad Baker-Mazara, who hit a 3-pointer to put Auburn ahead 55-33.

Cardwell dunked, drew a foul and made a free throw after an assist from K.D. Johnson, then Cardwell dunked again after Chaney Johnson's assist to give the Tigers 10 unanswered points in fewer than two minutes.

"Coach is really adamant about finishing the second half strong," Cardwell said. "We saw the adjustments, made them and applied pressure."

Broome tipped in a teammate's miss in transition, then K.D. Johnson scored on a reverse after a steal that gave Auburn a 64-33 lead.

Broome drew some of the night's loudest cheers during a sequence that saw him bank in a 3-pointer then block the Rebels' shot at the other end.

Auburn led 46-27 after a first half in which it shot 66.7 percent, outrebounded the Rebels 15-7, and all 11 Tigers who played scored. Williams scored 10 in the half and the Tigers recorded 11 assists on 18 first-half field goals.

Ten Tigers combined for 19 assists, including three apiece from Aden Holloway, Tre Donaldson and Cardwell.

Looking to win its 12th consecutive game and improve to 6-0 in the SEC, Auburn (16-2, 5-0) travels to Tuscaloosa Wednesday to play Alabama at 6:30 p.m. CT on ESPN and the Auburn Sports Network.



ZACH BLAND/AU ATHLETICS

Auburn defeated No. 22 Ole Miss 82-59 Saturday night to extend its winning streak to 11 games.

Ole Miss postgame notes

• With the win, Auburn now leads 82-64 in the all-time series with Ole Miss including 54-17 in Auburn and 7-6 in Neville Arena. The Tigers have won five straight in the series and have won the last three and four of the last five contests against the Rebels at Neville Arena.

• Head Coach Bruce Pearl improved to 14-11 in his career against Ole Miss including 9-9 coaching Auburn and 5-5 in Neville Arena. Pearl is now 2-0 against Ole Miss head coach Chris Beard. Auburn defeated Texas Tech, 67-65, in the 2016 Cancun Challenge – the first meeting between the two coaches.

• Auburn improved to 16-2 overall and 5-0 in Southeastern Conference play. The Tigers are the lone remaining undefeated team in the SEC. It marked the fourth time in the last seven seasons the Tigers have started 16-2 or better. Prior to the 2017-18 season, the last time Auburn started at least 16-2 was 1999-2000 when the Tigers opened the season 16-1 before dropping consecutive games. It was the first time Auburn has won its first five SEC games since doing so in 1999.

• The 23-point win was Auburn's largest margin of victory against Ole Miss since defeating the Rebels, 80-53, on Jan. 10, 2004.

• Auburn extended its winning streak to 11 games, which is the Tigers' longest winning streak since winning 19-straight games during the 2021-22 season.

• Auburn extended its home-court winning streak to 13 games, which is tied for the seventh-longest home-court winning streak in program history and the longest since the Tigers won 13 games from March 4, 2017-Feb. 3, 2018 at Neville Arena.

• With its win over No. 22-ranked Ole Miss, Auburn is now 19-27 against ranked opponents under head coach Bruce Pearl, but the Tigers have won 15 of their last 26 against Top 25 opponents. AU evened its record against ranked opponents at Neville Arena at 13-13 including 9-1 in its last 10 home games against Top 25 opponents. The Tigers are now 12-6 against ranked opponents at Neville Arena under Coach Pearl.

• Auburn started Aden Holloway, Denver Jones, Chris Moore, Jaylin Williams and Johni Broome. It was the 13th-straight game the Tigers have used the same starting lineup. The group is 14-1 as a starting unit on the season.

• Auburn shot a season-best 58.2 percent (32-of-55) against Ole Miss. It was the Tigers' highest field-goal percentage in an SEC game since shooting 58.5 percent against Vanderbilt on Feb. 16, 2022.

• Auburn held Ole Miss to season lows in points (59) and first-half points (27).

• Tonight was the 49th-consecutive sellout at Neville Arena (9,121).

• Auburn outscored Ole Miss, 40-18, in bench points. It was the eighth time this season the Tigers have scored at least 40 bench points. AU is outscoring opponents by an average of 20.4 points off the bench in SEC play.

• Auburn forced Ole Miss into a season-high 17 turnovers and scored 22 points off the Rebels' miscues. It was the fifth time this season the Tigers have scored at least 20 points off turnovers, including the second time in SEC play, after scoring 24 points off turnovers against LSU.

• Three players scored in double figures for Auburn, led by 13 apiece from Jaylin Williams and Johni Broome. Williams was 5-of-7 from the floor, 1-of-1 from 3-point range and 2-of-2 from the free-throw line. He added one rebound, one assist and one block in the win. It was his 11th game in double figures this season and the 53rd of his career. Williams is averaging 15.5 points on a 70.0 field-goal percentage during Auburn's 11-game winning streak.

• Broome was 5-of-9 shooting, including 1-of-2 from long range, and was 2-of-2 from the foul line He added five rebounds, three steals, two assists and one block. It was Broome's ninth-straight game in double figures during which he is averaging 15.4 points per game. He is also averaging 2.2 steals in SEC play.

• Dylan Cardwell scored a career-high 12 points for the second-straight game after scoring 12 points in Auburn's win at Vanderbilt on Wednesday night. Cardwell was 5-of-6 from the floor and 2-of-2 from the free-throw line. He finished the night with three rebounds, three assists and one steal. It was the first time in his career he has scored in double figures in consecutive games.

Plunge (from Front)

season passes to WildWater.

The morning began with a brisk playlist of pump-up music like Vanilla Ice's "Ice, Ice Baby" and photo ops with a polar bear mascot.

Jumpers joked and chatted among each other before a brief safety meeting led by WildWater General Manager Michael Schwitek to lay down some basic ground rules: strong swimmers only in the deep end, only two minutes allowed in the frigid depths, no hot tub or sauna afterward and be mindful of the dozens of other jumpers around you.

After the safety meeting, with ground rules laid and mounting anticipation, jumpers lined the perimeter of WildWater's outdoor pool.

Counting down from 10, hearts beating fast and holding their breath in suspense, jumpers made the frosty plunge; some got out as quickly as they got in, while others enjoyed the full two-minute allotment in the pool.

Residents David Samuels and Amy McCarley came out as the victors of the morning, winning a family membership to WildWater and a year membership to Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center, respectively.

Schwitek said the turnout was a record-breaking 140 jumpers – impressive for any plunge, but especially because of the ice storms that hit the Cullman community earlier in the week.

"We were thrilled with the turnout for this year's Polar Bear Plunge event. We saw a record number of participants, despite the extremely low temperatures," he said.

"It was so much fun to be part of such a brave and exciting group of people that came together to support a great cause!"



Stone Bridge Farms (from Front)

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Planning ahead for an intimate, upscale date night experience this Valentine's Day? Find a sitter for the children and slip on something nice, because Stone Bridge Farms and Sophia's are gearing up for a Valentine's Celebration. The event will take place from 5-9 p.m. at the Browne Stone Center at Stone Bridge Farms, on Saturday, Feb. 10. Reservations are required and the cost for the evening is $50 per attendee.

Renowned pianist, Mark Kovaly, a recording sensation known for his epic and entertaining "dueling pianos" set, will provide live entertainment for the evening.

A delectable Southern menu is on tap, including entrée choices of chicken cordon bleu, prime rib, ribeye steak, friend Gulf shrimp and fettuccine alfredo with grilled chicken or shrimp. Side options such as twice baked potatoes, green beans, herb-roasted veggies, sauteed mushrooms, squash casserole and a fresh garden salad bar will be available, too, and don't forget the decadent desserts.

The house florist will be accepting custom arrangement orders to woo and wow even the most romance adverse of dates. Flowers can be ordered in advance by calling 256-734-9765. Those who order by noon on Feb. 9 are offered a discount.

Dinner reservations are required and can be secured by calling 256-734-9765.

Stone Bridge Farms is located at 281 County Road 717.

Bills (from Front)

executive director of The Link of Cullman County, one of the resource centers available to Cullman County residents, said, "Our phones have been ringing with questions about food pantry hours and potential utility assistance due to the loss of wages last week.

"We opened Friday and assisted VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) with 20 boxes for people still unable to get out of their homes due to ice or circumstances: single, senior adults to moms with multiple children. Our largest family had six school-aged children."

Cullman County is no stranger to food insecurity, and a number of food banks and pantries are scattered across the area to assist in easing residents' burdens. Staff and volunteers at Cullman's food pantries are preparing for an influx of visitors.

The Link's Master's Hand food pantry allows families with an immediate need to pick up resources and food once a month.

Said Betts, "Our pantry tracks assistance; we ran a report last week on our numbers served each month in 2022, 2023 and now in 2024. In 2022 we typically saw 20-28 families each week in January.

"In 2023, we saw around 40 families a week in January. This year we are averaging between 140-190 families a week."

The Master's Hand food pantry is located at 708 Ninth St. SE, and is open by appointment or each Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3:30 p.m.

Serving an average of 550 Cullman County families monthly, the Cullman Caring for Kids food bank is one of the community's longtime and best-known resources for families and households dealing with food insecurity. United Way of Cullman County Executive Director Stephanie Childers said, "I imagine the need will be great after everyone being off work and utilities being higher during this cold snap." Cullman Caring for Kids is located at 402 Arnold St. and is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m.

Other food banks in the community can be found at:

Caring Center at Northbrook Baptist Church
256-737-7757
1629 Second Ave. NW

Cullman First Baptist Church
256-739-1545
605 Third Ave. SW

First Baptist Church of Holly Pond
256-796-6161
10751 U.S. Highway 278

First United Methodist Church, Hanceville (Hispanic ministry available)
256-352-5536
704 Commercial St.

New Hope Baptist Church
256-796 5171
15 County Road 1698

Spirit Life Church of God
256-739-3326
1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW

St. Vincent De Paul
256-737-5131
201 Third Ave. SE

LEGALS

PB MIN BK 221 PG 379 - 01/12/2024 11:23 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
BARBARA ELIZABETH PALOKONIS, * CASE NO.: PC2024-012
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to KATIE LYNN LACHELLE ALLEN, as Personal Representative of the Estate of BARBARA ELIZABETH PALOKONIS, deceased, on the 12th 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.

Katie Lynn Lachelle Allen
Personal Representative

James B. Griffin
Attorney for Petitioner
P.O. Box 911
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





Obituary Announcements: Jan. 20-22

William "Bill" Lay, 82
William "Bill" Lay, 82, of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024. Bill was born in California on Dec. 3, 1941 to James Ted and Jewell Kelly Lay. A Celebration of Life Funeral Service were held Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024 at Center Grove Baptist Church with Dr. David Chambers and Pastor Jason Vincent officiating. Interment followed in Center Grove Cemetery. Survivors are: Wife: Elna Jo Lay, Daughter: Deresa Ball of Cullman, Son: Lance (Rachael) Lay of Cullman, Sister: Laverne Roberts of Decatur, Brothers: Terry (Brenda) Lay of Hartselle, Ricky (Shelia) Lay of Cullman, Roger Lay and friend Lois Lay of Cullman, Brothers-In-Law and Sisters-In Law: Rayford and Brenda Ashley, Carolyn Ashley, Jacky and Patricia Yeager, Grandchildren: Katie Ball, Tyler Ball, Ashlynn Allcorn, Jon Allcorn, Chase Allcorn, Bryant Davis, and other family and many friends. Please share fond memories and condolences with the family at www.mossservicefh.com Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Elouise Thomas, 88
Funeral service for Elouise Thomas, age 88, of Cullman, were held Monday, Jan. 22, 2024 at Cullman Funeral Home chapel, with Tony Thomas officiating. Interment will be held at Simcoe Methodist Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Thomas was born Nov. 4, 1935 to Clyde Moody and Verdie Mae Hardy Moody. She passed from this life on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, W.J. "Ballie" Thomas; son, Danny Thomas; grandsons, Eli, Isaac, Nathan, and Jake Thomas; sisters, Ellen Wolfe, and Wilma Burden; brother, Bennie Moody. She is survived by her three sons, Greg Thomas, Tony (Dinah) Thomas, and Jeff (Shearld) Thomas; sister, Willene (Wayne) Creel; grandchildren, Jed Thomas, and Lisa (Kevin) Horton; four great-grandchildren; a host of family and friends. Pallbearers: Kade Horton, Kohl Horton, Jed Thomas, Kadin Thomas, Mike Hopper, Greg Boatright. Elouise was remembered by family as a servant to all. She was a member of Simcoe Community Methodist Church. She loved flowers and working in her garden. She loved her family very much, but most of all, she loved her Lord. She will be greatly missed. To sign the online guestbook, please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Mary Louise Smith, 88
Funeral services for Mary Louise Smith, 88, of Hanceville, will be 12 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024 at Center Hill Baptist Church. Burial will follow the service at Center Hill Cemetery. Reverend Heath Riggs will be officiating the services. Visitation will be prior to the service from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Center Hill Baptist Church. Mrs. Smith was born Jan. 29, 1935, in Mobile, Alabama. She passed away Jan. 18, 2024, in Hanceville, Alabama. Mrs. Smith was a longtime member of Center Hill Baptist Church, where she also taught Sunday school for several years. She was also one of the first members of the G.A. Club (Girls Auxiliary). Mrs. Smith also attended Wallace State Community College where she obtained her Cosmetology certification. Mrs. Smith is survived by her husband, Hue Smith; daughter, Beki Roden; 6 grandchildren; a host of great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; sister, JoAnn Lowery; and a host of nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Amy and Bernice Wescovick-Collier; daughter, Debbie Collum; and her brother, Johnny Collier.

Jacob Daniel Thomas, 42
Jacob Daniel Thomas, known to most as "Jake," passed away on Jan. 17, 2024, at the age of 42. Mr. Thomas was born to Danny Lee and Debra Phillips Thomas on Sep. 9, 1981, in Cullman County, Alabama. Jake was an employee of the City of Cullman. In his personal time, Mr. Thomas enjoyed fishing, cooking, grilling, hanging out with his friends, and just loafin' around. But Jake's great love was his daughter, Ava. He supported his baby girl in all that she did, and he could be found cheering her on at her basketball, volleyball, and track events. Mr. Thomas adored his daughter and will be greatly missed by Ava, as well as his many friends and his family. Jake is preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his daughter, Ava Thomas; Ava's mother and his dear friend, Tara Thomas; brother, Jed Thomas; friends who were like family, Randy and Amy Dunn, Heath and BreAnn Allbright, John Mark Vandiver; nieces and nephews, Ty, Tucker, Clara, Cade, Lily; and a host of extended family and friends. Funeral services for Jake will be Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024, at 12 noon, in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel with Shane Hicks officiating. Friends are invited to join the family for a time of visitation two hours prior to service time from 10 a.m., until services begin. Mr. Thomas will be buried in Simcoe Methodist Cemetery following services. In lieu of flowers, an account has been established at People's Bank of Alabama to benefit Ava's future. Please indicate that donations be placed in the account of "Tara Thomas for Ava Thomas." Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Thomas family.

Lealus Alan Tucker, 69
Lealus Alan Tucker, age 69, of Hanceville, passed away on January 16, 2024. There are no services planned at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is hon ored to serve the family. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Tasha Frederick, 34
Tasha Frederick, age 34, of Dallas, Georgia and formerly of Good Hope, passed from this life too soon on Jan. 3, 2024. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Tasha was born on Jan. 12, 1989 to Timothy Martin Cutshaw and Tamela Joanna Hicks Stephens. She is survived by her mother, her sons, Bryce Keegan Frederick and Lane Jensen Frederick; sisters, Tammy Powell, Cyndi Williams, and Tori Henderson; family and friends. Pallbearers: Marvin Bray, Corey Bray, Matthew Hicks, Brian Thornton, and Ben Wilson. Tasha loved to read and cook. She was always making everyone laugh. She loved her sons, Bryce and Lane, more than life itself. She loved working as a labor and delivery nurse. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Brenda Joyce Wilcutt, 74
Brenda Joyce Wilcutt, 74, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on Jan. 21, 2024. Mrs. Wilcutt was born in Leeds, Alabama, on Dec. 17, 1949. Joyce enjoyed the beach and tending to her flowers and plants. She loved a good yard sale and was an avid Auburn Tigers fan. Mrs. Wilcutt was of the Baptist faith and loved her Heavenly Father. Joyce was a dedicated and loving wife to her husband of fifty-one years, Ronal, an adoring mother to her children, Barbie and Ronnie, and was a devoted nanny to her grandchildren. Joyce was loved dearly by her family, and she will be missed greatly. Those preceding Joyce in death include her father; mother, Lucille King; daughter, Barbie Glenn; and sisters, Donna Chance and Shirley Cobb. Joyce is survived by her beloved husband, Ronal Wilcutt; son, Ronnie Wilcutt (Karen); grandchildren, Shawn Glenn (Taylor), Kayla Horton (Josh), Ryan Wilcutt (Helaina), Karissa Wood (Brandon), Billy Mikel; great-grandchildren, Kinsie, Tynlee, Owen, Audrey, Rylar, Ryhatt, Raylon, Charli, Rydian, Jayden; brother, Johnny King (Nell); and a host of family and friends. Friends are invited to join the family for a time of visitation on Wednesday evening, Jan. 24, 2024, in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Wilcutt family.

Sister Eleanor Harrison, O.S.B., 97
Sister Eleanor Harrison, O.S.B., a Benedictine Sister of Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, AL, died peacefully on January 21, 2024, at the monastery, at the age of 97. Sister Elisabeth Meadows, Prioress, led prayers as Sisters gathered at her bedside. Reception of the Body with Vespers of the Dead will be at 4:45 PM on Thursday, January 25, followed by Visitation until 7:00 PM. The Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30 AM on Friday, January 26, with burial in the monastery cemetery to follow. All liturgies and Visitation will be held in Sacred Heart Monastery Chapel, 916 Convent Rd., Cullman. Born in 1926 in Birmingham, AL, Sister Eleanor was baptized Gertrude Cora Harrison at St. Augustine Catholic Church in North Birmingham. Her parents, Isaac Fletcher and Margaret Harrison, nurtured her within a devout Catholic family. Gertrude attended St. Paul's Elementary and Secondary School in Birmingham where she excelled under the tutelage of Benedictine Sisters. She earned an A.B degree in Mathematics from Mount St. Scholastica College in Atchison, KS, and later a Master's degree in Secondary Education from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. After earning her A.B. in 1949, Gertrude joined the faculty of Sacred Heart Academy in Cullman. After several years of teaching at Sacred Heart, Gertrude entered the Benedictine community in 1958 and received the religious name Mary Eleanor upon her entrance into the Novitiate. Sister Eleanor made her temporary monastic profession in 1959 and perpetual profession in 1962. John Carroll Catholic High School was Sister Eleanor's first ministry assignment as a Sister. Her mathematics credentials did not hold her solely in the math classroom however. Sister Eleanor's administrative gifts were noticed and she was named Assistant Principal. Other talents surfaced, too, and she was soon moderating the Drama Club and organizing theater productions at John Carroll. After eight years at John Carroll, Sister Eleanor returned to Cullman to serve on the faculty and as an administrator of Sacred Heart College. As academic dean at Sacred Heart, Sister Eleanor improved programs and was integral to the college's move to co-education and the name change to Cullman College. When the two Benedictine colleges in Cullman merged, Sister Eleanor was a key leader in the creation of the new Southern Benedictine College. In 1979, Sister Eleanor accepted the opportunity to teach at St. Jude High School in Montgomery where she taught mathematics, served as Assistant Principal, set up computer labs, and sponsored both the Student Council and the National Honor Society. She dearly loved the eight years she was at St. Jude, always remembering the people there with great affection. Returning to Cullman in 1987, Sister Eleanor spent several years on the faculty of St. Bernard Preparatory School until she was asked to serve as Director of the Benedictine Spirituality and Conference Center in 1992. Under Sister Eleanor's leadership, the Center grew in the numbers of people served and the types of programs offered. She modeled Benedictine hospitality for countless guests. In addition to being an accomplished educator and administrator, Sister Eleanor served in many roles within the monastic community, including on the monastic council. She was often called on for committee work, including, at various times, the Visitation/Self-Study Committee, the Peace and Justice Committee, and the Ministry Committee. She filled these roles as she did all her positions – with tireless dedication, a high standard of excellence, a keen eye for the nuances of any situation, and a passion for justice and those in need. This passion found an outlet in service within the civic community. She served on the Board of Directors of the Red Cross chapter in Cullman and on Board of Ideal Industries which aided disabled adults in Cullman. She was honored by the local Chamber of Commerce as the 1993 Retired Teacher of the Year. Sister Eleanor found great joy in keeping up with alumnae/i of Sacred Heart/Cullman College. She was known for her wide-ranging correspondence with friends far and near. Her thoughtful advice and warm encouragement were treasured by many. Even into her final weeks, Sister Eleanor, a wise elder, could be counted on to offer prudent counsel and ask thought-provoking questions. Sister Eleanor dearly loved her family, with whom she was close. In her later years, visits with nephews, nieces, and their families were treasured times of special joy. Sister Eleanor was preceded in death by her parents and by her siblings: Mary Angela Harrison, Thomas Jay Harrison, William Francis Xavier Harrison, Margaret Harrison, Sister Praxedes (Jane Frances) Harrison, OSB, Fr. Timothy (Isaac Fletcher, Jr.) Harrison, OSB, and Joseph Edward Harrison. Survivors include her Benedictine Sisters; beloved nephews, nieces, and extended family; and a host of friends from all walks of life. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, AL, 916 Convent Rd., NE, Cullman, AL, 35055. Memorials may be made by mail or at https://www.shmon.org/support-us/.

Milton Ray Bolzle, 83
Funeral service for Milton Ray Bolzle, age 83, of Cullman, will be at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024 at St. John's Evangelical Church; Rev. John Richter and Mr. Nathan Williams officiating; burial at Cullman City Cemetery. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024 at St. John's Evangelical Church. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Bolzle passed away on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024 at Cullman Regional. He was born, Feb. 15, 1940 in Cullman, AL, to Charlie Henry Bolzle and Vernice Bolzle. He was preceded in death by his father, Charlie Henry Bolzle; and his mothers, Vernice West Bolzle and Audie West Bolzle. Survivors include his loving wife of 55 years, Linda Qualls Bolzle; son, Randy (Jennifer) Bolzle; daughter, Lisa (Michael) Baggett; grandsons, Willem Bolzle and Isaac Baggett; granddaughter, Alexandria White; his adored dog, Rocky; brothers, Bill (Dot) Bolzle and Bo (Judy) Bolzle; sisters, Sandra Bolzle, Ola Howard, Glenda Bolzle, Donna (Edwin) Shikle and Sharon (John) King.

Frances Althea Taylor-Vickery, 62
Frances Althea Taylor-Vickery, 62, of Haleyville, Alabama, passed away Friday, Jan. 19, 2024 at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. She was born March 11, 1961 to Robert Taylor and Beverly Althea Sisson. Visitation will be Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024 from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Haleyville, where the service will be held at 2 p.m. Burial will be at Botush Cemetery. Brother Mark Fell will officiate. Frances is survived by her husband, Roney Vickery; children, Amy (Randy) Tidwell, Bradley (Tameka) Vickery, Daniel (Jessica) Vickery; bonus son, Adam (Lindsey) Defoor; sister, Leslie (the late Jeff) Pearce; brother, Mike (Sheila) Taylor; brother-in-law, Gary Vickery; grandchildren, Tara Fraizer, Zack Morgan, Wyatt Tidwell, Owen Vickery, Mazie Vickery, Tristan Clay, Destin Dye; great grandchildren, Noah Wright, Lillie Wright, Masen Wright, Grady Morgan, and Maggie Morgan. She was preceded in death by her mother, Beverly Sisson; father, Robert Taylor; and brother, Christopher Allen Taylor. The family wishes to extend a special thanks to the staff at Vanderbilt Medical Center and Haleyville Health Care.

Free Obituary Listings

Have your funeral home contact us

Email: robin@cullmantribune.com • Fax: 256-739-4422

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

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