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‘Thank you for choosing Cullman’

Chamber event celebrates industry leaders, growth

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce held its annual Industry Appreciation event Thursday at Cotton Creek Warehouse, bringing together business leaders and local and state officials.

The theme of the night was the celebration of the significant growth Cullman County saw during 2023. Speakers bragged on the area’s economic development and championed the community’s hard-working individuals who work toward the progress of Cullman County.

Speakers included Chamber President Joey Orr; Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman; Cullman County Commission Chairman Jeff Clemons; Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs; Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) Director Kenneth Boswell; Cullman County Economic Development Director » PAGE 3

Cullman County Commission Chairman Jeff Clemons (left) and Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs (right) pose for a photo at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce Industry Appreciation event on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024. »


SUSAN ELLER

CPD’s Dean retiring after 31 years


CONTRIBUTED

CPD Officer Matt Dean in his element – flying over the community.

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Police Officer Matt Dean will officially retire from the department March 1, after 31 years and two months in law enforcement. His last day of work was Friday, Feb. 2.

“In that many years, I was able to meet so many different people and do so many different things,” Dean said. “One thing is being able to get my pilot’s license and fly police helicopters. I was able to go do a lot of things, from escorting dignitaries to responding with our teams to work and help other agencies during emergencies. It has been a one-of-a-kind experience.”

When asked about people who were influential in his career choice, » PAGE 3

5 local teams ranked in final ASWA poll


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Summer garden class, seed swap returning to library Feb. 22
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Black panthers: Uncovering another big cat mystery


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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Feb. 2

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported Feb. 2, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Jan. 29

- obstructing governmental operations; resisting arrest; CR 730
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Commercial St. NE, Hanceville
- theft of property; Hwy. 69 N
- theft of property; CR 222

Jan. 30

- domestic violence; CR 1082
- theft of property; CR 437
- harassment; CR 1490
- harassment; CR 532
- harassment; CR 222
- domestic violence; possession of drug paraphernalia; 2nd Ave. SW
- harassment; CR 1589
- criminal mischief; trespassing; CR 1177
- violation of protection order; CR 1583
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 463
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 592

Jan. 31

- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 747
- theft of property; CR 1160
- domestic violence; CR 1223
- theft of property; CR 842
- theft of property; Colony Rd.

ARRESTS

Jan. 29 – 31

Ballenger, Zachary D.; 26
- possession of dangerous drugs (4 counts)
- possession of drug paraphernalia (4 counts)

Boone, Timothy A.; 29
- FTA- causing delinquency, dependency or need of supervision
- buying/receiving stolen property, $1,500 or more
- speed limits in construction zones
- improper passing
- FTA- diving while license suspended
- attempt to elude police officer
- reckless endangerment

Cockrell, Stephanie B.; 44
- attempting to elude police officer
- DUI (alcohol)

Culver, Darren D.; 31
- FTA- possession of methamphetamine

Duke, Jason P.; 38
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of opium or derivative
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Guthery, Shalina L.; 31
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- Probation Violation- possession of dangerous drugs

Hudson, Charles S.; 50
- possessing stolen property, $500 less than $1,500

Jackson, Joshua B.; 42
- possession of drug paraphernalia

King II, Clarence W.; 52
- Probation Revoked- possession of dangerous drugs

Montgomery, Christopher E.; 36
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Owens, Chad M.; 39
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Pitt, Brence L.; 55
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Robbins, Anthony W.; 41
- FTA- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Rusk, Hubert D.; 63
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Samuel, Miguel R.; 29
- possession of methamphetamine

Sheets, Vicky L.; 60
- Probation Violation- DUI (alcohol)
- Probation Violation- disorderly conduct/disturbing the peace

Starnes, Christopher M.; 36
- contributing to delinquency of minor

Waldrop, Joshua N.; 44
- violation of domestic violence protection order

Washburn, Jodie R.; 42
- Probation Violation-flight/escape-escape
- Probation Violation-stolen vehicles-auto theft
- Probation Violation- illegal possession of prescription drugs

Williams, Jennifer L.; 42
- contributing to delinquency of minor

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Jan. 31
- identity theft; person
- theft of property-4th degree; criminal mischief-3rd degree; Days Inn; 4th St. SW; cash; damaged machine
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to 2024 Nissan Sentra; $3,500
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; Enterprise Rent-A-Car; 2nd Ave. NW; damage to 2023 Toyota Camry; $1,000

Feb. 1
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; McCurry Van and Car Rental

ARRESTS

Jan. 31 – Feb. 1

Boone, Timothy A.; 29
- FTA- driving while suspended
- FTA- driving while revoked
- FTA- driving without license

Bevington, Brian A.; 56
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- carrying brass knuckles

Webb, William M.; 36
- FTA- receiving stolen property-4th degree
- FTA- driving on wrong side of road

Green, Charles K.; 33
- FTA- attempt to elude police officer
- FTA- unauthorized use of motor vehicle

Gordon III, Seth; 27
- theft of property-1st degree

Guthery, Shalina L.; 31
- FTA- theft of property-4th degree

Currington, Crystal D.; 39
- FTA- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Ford, Jamie A.; 40
- FTA- possession drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA- driving while suspended
- FTA- insurance violation
- FTA- improper lane usage
- FTA- DUI

Jackson, Clark A.; 35
- FTA- harassment

Riddle, Howard S.; 47
- FTA- insurance violation

Radilla, Sarah C.; 40
- theft of property-4th degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

EMA emphasizes importance of upcoming Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – While Cullman is finally warming up from the ice storm that landed the county in a state of emergency, Cullman Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Director Tim Sartin said spring in Alabama can be just as unpredictable, and advises residents to make good use of the upcoming Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday.

Alabama's 13th Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday begins at 12:01 a.m. Friday, Feb. 23, 2024, and ends at midnight, Sunday, Feb. 25, 2024, allowing Alabamians to stock up tax-free on common supplies costing less than $60 that every home and business needs to prepare for a natural disaster or emergency.

Generators costing $1,000 or less also can be purchased free of the state's 4% sales tax during the three-day tax holiday.

Sartin recommends stocking up on supplies like batteries, flashlights and first aid kits, along with supplies like tarps or coolers. Items like smoke and carbon monoxide detectors or fire extinguishers are also a good idea, especially if yours need replacing.

"As we have seen over the past few weeks, our weather here in Cullman County can change anytime.

The upcoming severe weather tax-free weekend would be a great time to stock up on supplies," said Sartin, noting that seizing the opportunity to stock up would be beneficial being that natural disasters and severe weather don't necessarily wait for a sale or tax-free weekend.

Sartin said the upcoming tax-free weekend is about more than just getting a good deal on big ticket items like generators and other crucial supplies needed to wait out severe weather – it is a proactive step to safeguarding your family when severe weather strikes.

"It is not about the discount; however, it helps. It's about being ready and making a significant difference when facing bad weather," said Sartin.

"Preparedness is priceless, and these weekends provide a great opportunity to do just that."

All municipalities across Cullman County that levy sales tax are also participating in the Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday.

For more information, visit http://tinyurl.com/severeweathertaxfree and www.revenue.alabama.gov/sales-use/alabama-severe-weather-preparedness-sales-tax-holiday.



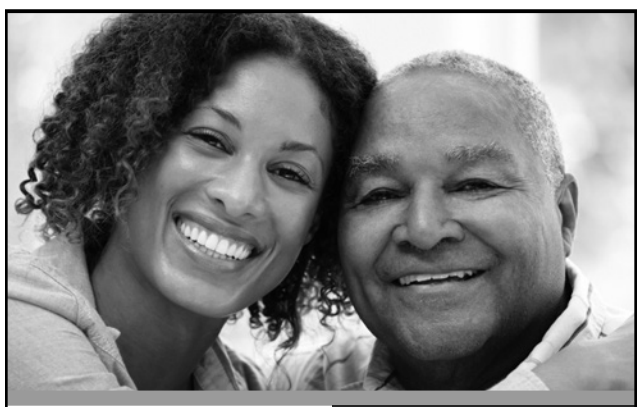


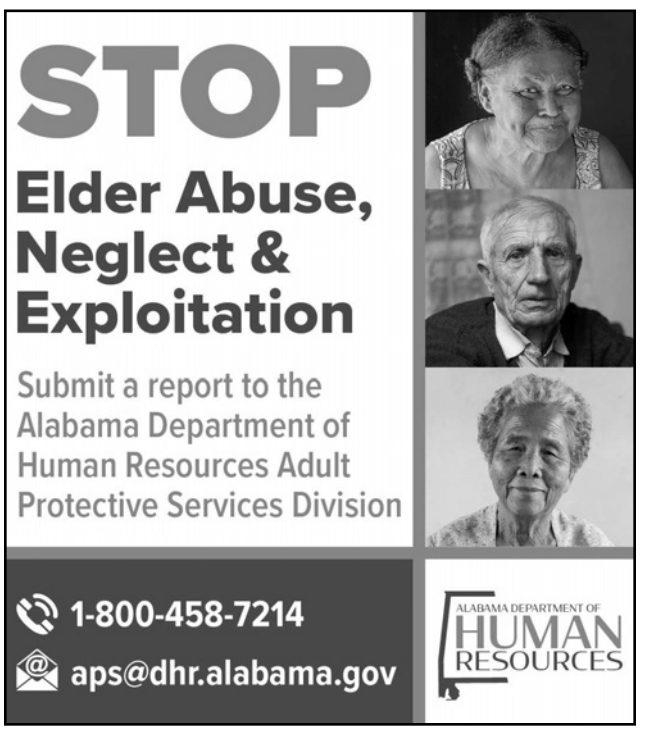
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

Church Services- Spirit Life Church of GOD
• Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Mondays-Fridays- Free hot meals for children Mondays 11 a.m.-noon, Tuesdays 1-2 p.m. and Wednesdays-Fridays 11 a.m.-noon. Cullman Housing Authority Community Center 1545 Vine Circle SW. Please call Kristie 256-636-5362 for more information. Eat in or take out. Sponsored by Kids Loving Kids, Raising Arrows Ministry and Spirit Life Church.
• Kids Loving Kids Birthday Blessings serves children ages 1-18 in need of assistance to celebrate their birthdays. Register your child and pick up a birthday box with cake mix, icing, sprinkles, decorations and toys! Pickup is the last weekend of the month. Saturday (5100 Curry Highway Suite 100-B Jasper, AL 35504) from 3-5 p.m. or the last Sunday of the month at Spirit Life Church Cullman from 12:30-1 p.m. Birth certificate is required at the time of box pickup. Register at https://form.jotform.com/203435614640045. For more information, text or call 205-717-7478.
• Saturday, Feb. 3 - 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast & Foundry Farm Outreach following!
• Sunday, Feb. 4 - 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, Feb. 4 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area. Call Guy Sunter at 727-215-9092 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11. Leadership meeting following service!

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.

3rd Annual Christian Hart Memorial Cornhole Tournament
Saturday, Feb. 3, at noon in the Vinemont Elementary gym. Check the event page on Facebook for full details.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Singing
Sunday, Feb. 18, at 5 p.m. with The Pylant Family from Eva. 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
• 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.

Cook Ministries Presents A Night of Gospel Music
Saturday, Feb. 24, at 5 p.m. at Hillside Baptist Church in Falkville. Featuring Tim Fulgham, The Shaneyfelts and Loretta Jent. Love offering. Doors open at 4. For more info, call 205-500-1908.

Hanceville Irish Festival
Saturday, March 16, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in downtown Hanceville. Music, food, dancing, arts and crafts. Live music and free parking.

Mystery (from Front)

Justin Miller
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. — From high-school mascots to the Marvel Universe, black panthers have appeared in many forms in today's culture. However, is this big cat real or just an illustrated piece of fiction? Alabama Cooperative Extension System wildlife experts are here to help uncover yet another big-cat mystery.

There are many names that people use to refer to the animal scientifically known as Puma concolor. These names include panther, mountain lion, cougar, puma, mountain devil, mountain screamer, catamount and others. Historically, panthers were in Alabama. However, Alabama Extension experts revealed in "Mountain Lions: Alabama's Big-Cat Mystery" that there has yet to be a reliable verification in almost 70 years.

Fact or fiction?
There are many people in Alabama and beyond who claim to have encountered a black panther. However, Wesley Anderson, an Alabama Extension wildlife specialist, said when specifically referring to Puma concolor — the species most commonly referred to as panthers — there is no such thing as a black panther.

"Melanistic Puma concolor, meaning those that are black or much darker than their typical tawny color, have not been recorded anywhere," Anderson said.

Melanin is a substance in living organism that is responsible for producing the pigmentation of hair, feathers, eyes and skin. The more melanin an organism has, the darker these featured will appear. In genetic lines that contain a lot of melanin, the organisms will be black.

"Melanism is determined by genetics, so if the right mutation occurs, a black panther could exist, but there's currently no scientific evidence that says they do exist," Anderson said.

Other big cats
While panthers do not have a melanistic line of genetics, there are many other big cats that do. These are the animals that people may incorrectly referred to as black panthers. Anderson said leopards and jaguars are two common ones.

"Simply put, a black panther in Africa or Asia is probably a melanistic leopard," Anderson said. "If people in North America or South America say they have seen a black panther, it is probably a melanistic jaguar or — if they are north of the United States-Mexico border — more likely, a misidentified animal."

While melanistic jaguars do exist in North America, people in Alabama shouldn't get their hopes up about seeing one.

"While rare, jaguars have been sighted along the Arizona-Mexico border," Anderson said. "So, conceivably, there could be one observed in other parts of the U.S. someday. Historically, this species was seen as far east as Louisiana and as far north as Colorado but has never been documented in Alabama."

What are people seeing?
If it is not a panther or a jaguar, then what is it that people in Alabama are seeing? Mark Smith, an Alabama Extension wildlife specialist, said a large black cat could be a bobcat, Alabama's largest native cat.

"Bobcats occur in large numbers throughout Alabama and the southeastern U.S.," Smith said.

"Melanistic bobcats have been recorded, but bobcats are much smaller than panthers are, weighing about 15 to 35 pounds. They also have a short 4- to 8-inch tail and a spotted coat."

Anderson said there have been reports of jaguarundi sightings in parts of the state. While these cats are found in Arizona and Texas and can have a dark coloration, none of the Alabama reports have been substantiated.

"Like the bobcat, the jaguarundi is considerably smaller than panthers — weighing in at only about 15 pounds," Anderson said.

Alabama has a larger native mammal that could be what people are seeing: the black bear. Commonly seen in northeast and southwest Alabama, black bear populations have increased over the last several years. Also, there are far more common animals that people may misidentify as panthers.

"A black panther sighting could be a black dog, such as a Labrador Retriever, or a large domesticated black cat," said Todd Steury, an associate professor in the Auburn University College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment.

How could people confuse any of these animals with a panther? Smith said to remember that certain conditions can affect what people see.

"Many pictures and videos of supposed panther sightings turn out to be feral cats, once the animal's size is compared to other objects in the background," Smith said.

"Also, if seen at the right angle or under poor lighting conditions, a relatively common animal can start to take the shape of something completely different."

More information
At the end of the day, Anderson said black panther sightings in the state are almost certainly either a melanistic bobcat, a black bear or a black domestic cat or dog. While this may not be the cool storyline as depicted in movies and comic books, it is always fun to discover more information about the wildlife in Alabama.

To uncover more of the mystery surrounding panthers, read the publication Alabama Cougars: Sorting Fact From Fiction at www.aces.edu. If you think you have a panther in your area, watch the Gathering Evidence to Confirm Cougars in Alabama series. This is available on the ACES – Fresh from the Field YouTube channel.

Dean (from Front)

one person quickly came to Dean's mind.

"One was my dad. I just remember growing up and how proud I was of him," Dean said. "My dad was a State Trooper and I grew up watching him serve and I knew I wanted to do that, too."

Asked what he will miss, Dean said, "Probably the opportunity to be able to help people when they least expect it. That's something that was just the job, the badge. Also, the officers and staff members I have worked with all of these years and the memories made."

As to what he is going to do in his retirement, he said, "I enjoy spending time with my family. I definitely like to tinker with cars, trucks and motorcycles and I'll be snow skiing."

Of his 31 years in law enforcement, 21-plus of those were in Cullman, which he said truly made an impact on his life.

"I have been really fortunate to work here," Dean said. "I had the opportunity to do so much more than just work patrol. I had the best job in the department – from motorcycles to a boat to the helicopters. I loved my job, the people and my community."

Cullman Police Chief David Nassetta said Dean's skills, discipline and hard work will be missed.

"Matt has pretty much been a driving force behind the aviation for the police department for the last several years," Nassetta said. "We will certainly miss the expertise he has provided for the department. He will still be part time with us, thankfully. But we appreciate all that he has done with aviation and the hard work over the years with patrol. He has been the key agent in keeping the helicopters in the sky and he will be missed in day-to-day operations."

Industry (from Front)

Matt Kinsland; and Cullman Economic Development Agency Director Dale Greer.

Each praised Cullman's progress and commitment to evolving and adapting to a growing population. In 2023, Cullman County saw expansions of 28 businesses in the industrial and logistics industries.

"The (Alabama) Department of Commerce tracks job creation and capital investment every year. Cullman County set a record in 2023 for a new capital investment of $488,997,600," Greer said. "The companies that were included in that resulted in the creation of 643 new jobs."

Greer championed Cullman County's progress, saying approximately 5,300 jobs and $1.7 billion in revenue have been brought into the economy over the past decade by new businesses enticed by the rapidly growing area.

Jacobs and Clemons shared the spotlight, each thanking the other for a healthy partnership that keeps the wheels of the city and county moving smoothly.

"We believe that a lot of the success comes from support that we as elected officials, along with a lot of folks, our departments and our industrial boards, our utilities our education, our financial institutions and the business community – all of that goes into making this successful," said Jacobs.

"The City and the County truly work together and that benefits all of us."

The County and City have had to work in harmony together more often in recent months. Jacobs pointed out that roadways were paved and repaired through 40% of the city and 60% of the county in 2023. He also mentioned the repair of the sinkhole along County Road 222.

Clemons followed Jacobs with his own praise for the teamwork that is often displayed throughout the community and extends to industry workers and elected/appointed officials.

"I want to say one thing – we have great leadership across Cullman County, and I've been part of that for three years and I can't thank Mayor Woody Jacobs for all he does in the city of Cullman, but like everybody says – and I guess people get tired of hearing me say, 'It's a team effort.' We're not going to be successful if we don't work together," he said. "I'm blessed to be here. I'm honored to be here because we live in one of the best counties in Alabama."

Kinsland expressed his gratitude for the working relationships and teamwork that have been created and fostered by the growth Cullman has seen in recent years – from coming together to snag funding for Sprout Fiber Internet to simple comradery among residents.

"I look out at this crowd and it's a testament to private partnerships that we have in this community; it's like nothing else in the state. We are so blessed as a community to have that," Kinsland said. "There are a lot of communities that look to us and wish that they could have that and emulate that. I'm just thankful to be a part of that community."

Orr thanked industry leaders for supporting Cullman County and enriching the economy and community. She said none of what has been accomplished would be possible without their help.

Addressing them directly, she said, "The industry – it's about you tonight. We mentioned a lot of elected officials, but it's about you. You all do so much to make this place a wonderful place to live, work and play. So, thank you for choosing Cullman, staying in Cullman and for making this place a wonderful place to live. Congratulations on the success of your companies."

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Sacred Heart celebrates National Catholic Schools Week



BARBARA RAGSDALE

Pictured by their class's poster are brothers Oliver and SJ Graveman. Sacred Heart School, the 146-year-old educational center located in downtown Cullman, recently celebrated National Catholic Schools Week, beginning with Mass followed by a variety of special events, including a book fair, parents and grandparents lunches and other activities. The school serves children K3 through sixth grade and is open to everyone.



Summer garden class, seed swap returning to library Feb. 22

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow on Feb. 2, lending hope to an early spring. The Cullman County Extension Office and Cullman County Public Library main branch are planning ahead, hosting the popular class Planning and Planting a Summer Garden on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 5 p.m., at the library's main branch. A seed swap will take place at 4:30.

Gardening and planting experience, or lack thereof, shouldn't dissuade any prospective green thumb from attending. Extension Office Coordinator Kira Sims will lead the class. "In the workshop, I will cover the basic steps to preparing for a summer garden including site selection, soil prep and crop selection," she said. "Participants will walk away with practical knowledge to start a garden if they are a novice or tips on improving their garden if experienced. Growing guides and soil sample kits will be available for attendees."

A community favorite, the seed swap will return to the library the same day, just in time for the program, and will begin 30 minutes before the class.

Library Circulation Manager Laura Benton said the seed swap had a huge following last year during the warmer months, so much so that it was brought back.

"We would like to invite patrons to bring seeds to swap to the library. They can be vegetable or flower seeds – even fruit, I suppose! We will have the seed swap available through the summer, probably going through August. We will provide seed envelopes to the patrons to divvy out their seeds and label," she said. "The great thing about the seed swap is that it creates community. When one person shares a piece of their garden, they grow that garden all across the county. I just love that idea."

The Planning and Planting a Summer Garden class is free and open to the public with no registration required.

The Cullman County Public Library main branch is located at 200 Clark Street NE and its hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Alabama SoS Wes Allen launches 'Heroes at the Polls'

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama Secretary of State Wes Allen on Thursday launched the "Heroes at the Polls" initiative.

"Safe, secure and transparent elections are the foundation of our constitutional republic. Administering this type of election is no small responsibility," said Allen in a press release. "On the campaign trail, I promised to set into motion a program that recruits our veterans to continue their service to their coun-try by serving as poll workers. This is that program. Our veterans have defended our constitutional right to vote time and again. This makes them uniquely qualified to safeguard election integrity as voters exer-cise their constitutional right."

Allen's office said Heroes at the Polls encourages veterans to request to be appointed as poll workers and attend poll worker training administered by each of Alabama's probate judges prior to each election. After training, they will serve as poll workers at a location designated by their local probate judge.

"Poll workers are essential members of the election administration team. They work hard from sun up to sun down on election day at every polling place across our state. The integrity, patriotism, and strong work ethic required for military service make our veterans ideal candidates to serve as poll workers," Al-len continued in the release. "As secretary of state, I will always support our hard-working election offi-cials across the state and ensure they have everything they need to administer the safest and most secure elections in the country."

Allen's office said veterans who are interested in participating in the Heroes at the Polls program should contact their local probate judge or apply to be appointed as a poll worker by navigating to the Election Information tab at www.alabamavotes.gov.



OFFICE OF ALABAMA SECRETARY OF STATE WES ALLEN

Alabama Secretary of State Wes Allen



Celebrate the season of love locally

Cayla Grace Murphy
caylagrace@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Whether you are itching to take your valentine out for a lush, sophisticated dinner or surprise them at work with a special delivery, Cullman has you covered: all while supporting local business owners.

All Steak Piano Dinner

- Tuesday, Feb. 13, beginning at 4 p.m. and Wednesday, Feb. 14, beginning at 4 p.m.
- Treat your loved one to a delicious dinner selected from a feature menu prepared by Chef Anthony Barnes. Sip craft cocktails and enjoy the soft, melodic tunes of Dale Moore on the piano as you dine. The sophisticated atmosphere along with specialty features you can't get anywhere else are sure to make this Valentine's Day dinner one to remember! All Steak suggests calling ahead at 256-734-4322 to book your reservation.

412 Public House Valentine's Day Dinner

- Wednesday, Feb. 13, from 4-10 p.m.
- If close and intimate is more your style, consider giving the 412 Public House Valentine's Day Dinner a go. The one-night-only dinner boasts exclusive menu features and cocktail specials, and is sure to please even the most persnickety palate. Note: 412 Public House does not accept reservations; however, call-aheads will be accepted the day of.

Talley-Ho Farm Alpaca-Gram

- Monday, Feb. 12, through Wednesday, Feb. 14
- Local fluffy favorites Chewy and Bob, alpacas from Talley-Ho Farm, will be continuing their annual tradition of alpaca-grams. Beset in pink and red florals, Chewy and Bob will visit your loved one's work or home and spend half an hour soaking up the scene, available for pets and photo ops! Message Talley-Ho Farm on Facebook to make your reservation – hurry, spots are filling fast!

It's My Party Lulu the Gorilla in the Pink Tutu Singing Telegram

- If your loved one enjoys a good laugh, book Lulu the Gorilla in the Pink Tutu to make a visit! Lulu, decked out in a Valentine's Day bra and tutu, will bring a balloon bouquet sure to inspire feelings of love and entertainment as she belts out your loved one's favorite love song. Call It's My Party at 256-739-6269 to book Lulu for your loved one.

Karma's Coffee House "Sip and Bloom" or "Sweet Box" Delivery

- Wednesday, Feb. 14
- Love is in bloom this Valentine's Day, and what better way to treat your loved one than with a craft coffee and mini bouquet of fresh flowers, personally delivered? Karma's Coffee House is offering a "Sip and Bloom" delivery feature with a fresh flower arrangement paired with your loved one's favorite coffee, or a "Sweet Box" stuffed with four Ghirardelli dipped strawberries and two slices of strawberry loaf. Up the ante by reserving both – after all, delivery within the city limits of Cullman comes at no extra cost! Reserve these specials by visiting http://tinyurl.com/karmasvday.

Sips N Strokes Galentine's Day Paint Session

- Tuesday, Feb. 13, starting at 6:30 p.m.
- Maybe you just want to get together with the girls on Valentine's Day? Check out Sips N Strokes located in the Warehouse District for a fun evening of giggles and bubbles as you paint a beautiful work of art to take home! Reservations are open now at https://sipsnstrokescullman.rezclick.com.

Monograms Plus Bakery Popup with The Cottage Artisan Bakery

- Tuesday, Feb. 13, beginning at 3 p.m.
- Okay, maybe your sweetheart is a little more on the sweet side. Treat them to an indulgent baked good handmade by The Cottage Artisan Bakery! The Cottage will be popped up at Monograms Plus starting at 3 p.m., with decadent baked goods like strawberry roll roses, cake-cicles, mini cakes and more. Get there early; they're sure to sell out fast!



TALLEY-HO FARM/FACEBOOK

Local fluffy favorites Chewy and Bob, alpacas from Talley-Ho Farm, will be continuing their annual tradition of alpaca-grams.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
FEBRUARY 3, 2024

PREP BASKETBALL

No. 2 Good Hope tops No. 1 Lauderdale County 55-46

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — After collecting their third straight county championships at Tom Drake Coliseum Saturday night, the Good Hope Lady Raiders returned to Wallace State Wednesday afternoon to take on the Lady Tigers of Lauderdale County. The Lady Raiders entered the game with a 25-2 record and the No. 2 spot in Class 4A and the top-ranked 3A Lady Tigers took the court 24-0. Good Hope went into the locker room leading by 11 at halftime and withstood a big push from Lauderdale County in the second half to send the Lady Tigers home with their first loss of the season, 55-46.

The game was tied at 4 early in the opening period until Ivey Maddox knocked down a three to give the Lady Raiders a 7-4 lead. Jolee McHan laid one in to make it a 9-4 game and Ava McSwain scored a pair of baskets to stretch the lead to 13-6 with three minutes remaining in the first. Maddox scored the final five points of the quarter for Good Hope to give the Lady Raiders an 18-10 lead going into the second.

McSwain scored inside and Bailey Tetro sank a pair of free throws to keep Good Hope in front 22-12 early in the second.

Maddox scored on back to back possessions to extend the lead to 27-12 midway through the period. McSwain laid one in to make it a 30-20 game later in the second quarter and Maddox buried a three in the final minute of the half to give the Lady Raiders a 33-22 advantage at the break.

Things got a little tougher for Good Hope in the third quarter. McHan and Bailey Tetro each hit a pair of free throws early in the period to keep the Lady Raiders in front 37-27 but Lauderdale County outscored them 9-0 in the rest of the third, trimming the lead to 37-36 at the start of the fourth.

Good Hope's shots began to fall again in the fourth quarter. McSwain scored inside and Bailey Tetro nailed a three to maintain a 43-42 lead early in the final frame and after Maddox hit a pair of free throws, another Bailey Tetro basket made it a 47-42 game.

Two more free throws from Maddox put the Lady Raiders up by five with less than two minutes to play and Bailey hit three of her next four shots at the line to add to the lead. Good Hope smothered the Lady Tigers on the defensive end in the final eight minutes, allowing just eight points in the fourth quarter and pulling away to earn a 55-46 win over the No. 1 team in Class 3A.

Maddox led the way for Good Hope with 26 points in the win. Bailey Tetro finished with 14 and McSwain added 10. The Lady Raiders will be back home Saturday afternoon to tip off this year's 4A, Area 13 Tournament.



MARTHA NEEDHAM/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Ivey Maddox led the Lady Raiders with 26 points in their 55-46 win over Lauderdale County Wednesday night.

PREP BASKETBALL

Raiders pull away to defeat Addison 88-65

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – After cutting down the nets in Tom Drake Coliseum Saturday night, Good Hope was back at Wallace State Wednesday night for its final regular season matchup of the season against the Bulldogs of Addison. The Raiders put together another impressive night on the offensive end of the floor, knocking down 19 three-pointers in an 88-65 win over Addison.

Baskets by Kaden Dyson and Jacob McLamb gave the Bulldogs a 4-0 start in the first quarter but scores by Tyler Cone and Jacob Haynes on the other end tied the game at 4. K'mal Bell drilled a three to give the Raider a 9-6 lead midway through the opening period and two more buckets from Cone stretched the lead to 13-6. However, an 8-0 run by Addison, started by a pair of Kiah Lake baskets, put the Bulldogs in front 14-13 at the end of the first quarter.

Three-pointers by Dakota Overton and Weston Hancock put Good Hope back in front 19-17 early in the second quarter. Baskets from Eli Roberts and Bradley Willette cut the lead down to one later in the period but an 8-0 run from the Raiders helped make it a 31-23 game with three minutes remaining in the first half. That's when Bell caught fire, knocking down three straight jumpers from three-point range to help build a 42-27 lead for Good Hope at the halftime break.

Haynes drilled a pair of three-pointers early in the third to keep the Raiders in front 48-35 and a pair of Cone baskets made it a 52-37 game midway through the quarter. Two more buckets by Willette held the lead to 54-41 later in the period and Lake laid one in to make it an 11-point game but five more points from Hancock in the final minute of the third quarter gave Good Hope a 60-47 lead going into the fourth.

Shots continued to fall for the Raiders in the final frame. Cone and Bell each drained three-pointers to put Good Hope ahead 75-52 and after Tucker Malin laid one in, Hancock's third three-pointer of the night gave the Raiders a commanding, 80-53 lead with just over three minutes to play. The Bulldogs continued to battle on the other end but could not overcome the lead and Good Hope capped its regular season with an 88-65 win over Addison.

Five players scored in double figures for the Raiders, led by Bell and Hancock with 20. Willette led the way for Addison with 14 points in the loss. Good Hope will return home Saturday to tip off this year's 4A, Area 13 Tournament.



MARTHA NEEDHAM/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Good Hope's K'mal Bell posted 20 points in the Raiders' 88-65 win over Addison Wednesday night.

PREP SOCCER

Warriors kick off season with 10-0 win over Danville, Lady Warriors tie 4-4

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

WEST POINT, Ala. — West Point kicked off its soccer season at home against Danville Thursday night and the Warriors got things started with a 10-0 win over the Hawks. Josh Shannon (two assists) and Jacob Bencze (one assist) led the way for West Point, scoring three goals apiece in the win. Wyatt Lindsey (assist), Omar Segundo, Chance Aldridge (assist) and Hayden Hogan each scored as well. Sal Flores recorded two assists and Deacon Lindsey finished with one assist.

Warriors Head Coach Jacob Brown was pleasantly surprised by his team's season-opening performance. "I honestly didn't expect that. We came out hard and I am very proud of them," Brown said. "We have a lot to work on and a lot of season to play. We're looking forward to a great season." The Lady Warriors played their season opener against Danville Thursday night as well, playing the Hawks to a 4-4 draw. Hope Lee posted three goals for West Point and Georgia Metrock finished with one goal. West Point will remain home to play Jasper Tuesday night.



JACOB BROWN

The West Point Warriors kicked off the 2024 season with a 10-0 win over Danville Thursday night.





PREP VOLLEYBALL

'Never take the ability God gave us for granted': Fairview's Karlie English talks junior season

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — This was the first full season on varsity for Fairview junior volleyball player Karlie English and she talked about what she learned from the experience and how the season went.

"Varsity is definitely more fast-paced than JV, which made it intimidating, but I've been very lucky to have a team that took me under their wing and really helped me adjust to it all," English said. "I feel like our season went very good. We grew so much as a team and as individuals but having such good team chemistry really made it fun for all of us. I learned that the bond you have with your team is very important. I also learned that you can't take these times with your teammates for granted and enjoy these moments before we all graduate."

English feels so blessed to have gotten the chance to play with an amazing group of girls and took away so much from playing with them.

"I was extremely lucky to play with them and have them all looking out for me while I was getting used to everything. They helped me with my confidence and helped make sure to keep my spirits up. They are a very good group of girls and an even better team. They taught me to keep my head up, no matter what, and to always keep pushing and working. They showed me that sometimes, you have to do things you don't know how to do or that you're uncomfortable with, to become a better player. They helped me to stay out of my head and to stay positive."

English learned so much from head coach Katie Ball and has shown so much improvement in her performance from her first year on JV to now.

"Coach Ball understands what it feels like to be where we are, because she was in the same spot at one point. She pushes us to be the best we can be, and she also knows how to make some things fun for us. She has taught me that hard work and putting the extra step in will help you in the long run, and that when you do the extra work and work hard for what you want, it shows up more than when you don't," she said. "I have seen so much improvement. I've learned how to better place the ball with each play and how to control the ball more during the plays. All of the improvements have come from the hard work I've put in during the offseason."

English has improved so much in a few areas of her game, and her time on JV has definitely helped her become the player that she is today.

"I feel like I've improved the most on my hitting, controlling the ball, and also being able to see where the other team is on the court. You have to know where to put the ball in order to score, so I feel like I've improved greatly on being able to read the other team's defense while hitting so I can place the ball in the best spot to score," she said. "Being on JV really helped me learn the game, how to constantly build everyone up, and to help someone if it's needed, because if I'm doing something wrong, I would want someone to help me with it as well. I also learned how to play with a group of people that I'm going to be playing with the rest of my high school years."

English played with so amazing seniors last season and soaked up so much from them, plus she talked about the goals for this upcoming season.

"I learned that an important part of a winning team is the team's chemistry and the bond of a team. I was blessed with a team that cared about each other and that had a great bond. They have all helped me to become a better player. They were constantly motivating me and helping me with anything I asked for that they saw I was doing that they could help me with. They taught me to always stay positive and to focus on the play that's happening right now and how to get better each play. The most important thing I learned from the seniors is to never take the ability God gave us for granted and to play every game like it's our last," she said. "My personal goals for next season are to get stronger physically, mentally, and as a teammate. Some team goals are to work hard, practice hard, to always communicate with each other, stay positive, build each other up, and to always have fun playing the game we love."

English talked about a couple of role models that she looks up to in volleyball and the best advice that someone has ever given her.

"My role models are Asjia O'Neal and Madisen Skinner. They have both worked so hard for what they have achieved, and they build up their teammates. They have great energy on the floor," she said. "The best advice that someone has ever given me is to stay strong in faith and to be confident. Having faith in God, your team, and yourself, is very important. You always have to play with confidence, even if you're nervous, because if you make your decisions with confidence and faith, the outcome will have a better chance of being good."

English feels blessed to be a part of a special team last season, and talked about how special next year's team will be, plus how important it is to be a role model for the younger girls that are watching her play, and what she learned the most about herself and this team.

"We knew when we could joke around, but we also knew when it was time to be serious. We could have fun, but also do what needed to be done at the same time. Everyone loves the game, and everyone wants to win. Every single girl put in a lot of work to get to where we are today," she said. "Next season's team is going to have a lot of talent. We are going to put in the work to be the best that we can be. Luckily, we have all played together for a couple of years, and we all know each other's plays. We work good together, and I feel like it's going to be a great season."

She added,

"It's important because I remember watching the older girls play when I was younger. I saw how they would treat each other and encourage their teammates, and it made me want to play. So being a good teammate and player, plus having a positive attitude, is very important, because that will help them become good, positive teammates. What I learned about myself is that I have to try really hard to not get down on myself. What I learned about this team is that working together and having fun makes a huge difference."



KARLIE ENGLISH

Fairview's Karlie English



LEGALS

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that Pipeworks Plus Inc., whose office address and phone number are as follows: Pipeworks Plus Inc., 147 Holloway Dr., Tullahoma, TN 37388, Phone: (931) 455-7592, has completed all work on the Derby Creek Sewer Rehabilitation Contract No. 2, Collection System Improvements. All persons having a claim for any labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify the above-named contractor and the Owner's Engineer, St. John & Associates, (256) 734-2114.

PB WIL BK 121 PG 182 - 01/25/2024 10:34 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF NICHOLAS J. PISACRITA, JR., Deceased. * **CASE NO.: PC2023-321**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to ELIZABETH ALLIE PISACRITA as Personal Representative of the Estate of NICHOLAS J. PISACRITA, JR., deceased, on the 25th 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.

ELIZABETH ALLIE PISACRITA
Personal Representative

Beverly Paschal Poston
Attorney for Personal Representative
201 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-739-3970

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

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

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

PB MIN BK 221 PG 521 - 02/01/2024 09:22 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

ATHENA B. PACE, DECEASED CASE NO. PC 2024-015

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF ATHENA B. PACE, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Sherry H. Barrett on the 30th day of January, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Sherry H. Barrett, Personal Representative (Administrator),
and
Steven C. Smith, Attorney for the Estate

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

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

PB ADT BK 68 PG 318 - 01/25/2024 01:52 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ADOPTION OF E.M.G
A minor child.
D.O.B. 01/12/2015 CASE NO.: AD2023-099

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: BIOLOGICAL MOTHER SUMMER DANIELLE KNIGHT and BIOLOGICAL FATHER JEREMY BRIAN GREY

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by HAROLD EARL GREY and RHONDA ROE GREY., Petitioner. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within Thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with Counsel for said petitioner, whose name and address are shown below, and with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 25th DAY OF January, 2024

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

ANNETTE IRONS-PARKER
Attorney for Petitioners
PARKER AND PARKER, P.C. ATTORNEYS
215 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256)-775-4444

PB MIN BK 221 PG 521 - 02/01/2024 09:22 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

ATHENA B. PACE, DECEASED CASE NO. PC 2024-015

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF ATHENA B. PACE, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Sherry H. Barrett on the 30th day of January, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Sherry H. Barrett, Personal Representative (Administrator),
and
Steven C. Smith, Attorney for the Estate

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

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 Logan Owens A Single Man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for QRL Financial Services, a division of First Federal Bank, its successors and assigns dated December 2, 2020; said mortgage being recorded on December 9, 2020, in Book 1941, Page 241 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to First Federal Bank by assignment recorded in Deed Book 392, Page 476 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, ALABAMA.

The undersigned, First Federal Bankunder 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 7th day of March, 2024 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

Parcel I: Beginning at the northeast corner of the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 5, Township 9 South, Range 3 West; thence South 00'00'47" East 210 feet to a p.k. nail set in a concrete drive; thence North 89'46'32" West 210.00 feet to an existing 1/2" rebar; thence North 210.02 feet to an existing 1/2" rebar; thence South 89'46'14" East 209.95 feet to an existing 5/8" rebar back to the point of beginning. Said land lying in the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 5, Township 9 South, Range 3 West, Cullman County, Alabama.

Parcel II: Beginning at the northeast corner of the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 5, Township 9 South, Range 3 West, and then run South 00'29'40" East 209.95 feet to the point of beginning of land herein described; thence N 90'00'00" West 210.00 feet to a point; thence south a distance of 10 feet to a point; thence in a southeasterly direction to a point on the east line of said forty, said point being located 27 feet south of the point of beginning; thence north along the east line of said forty 27 feet back to the point of beginning. Said land lying and being in the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 5, Township 9 South, Range 3 West, Cullman County, Alabama. Subject to Right of way for County Road 1371.

Said property is commonly known as 2741 County Road 1371, Vinemont, AL 35179.

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.

FIRST FEDERAL BANK
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. 23-05550AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Cullman Tribune
01/27/2024,02/03/2024,02/10/2024

PB MIN BK 221 PG 435 - 01/24/2024 03:48 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
WILMA FAYE LAW,
Deceased * CASE NO PC 2023-422

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to **ANN LAW IRANI,** as Personal Representative of the Estate of **WILMA FAYE LAW**, deceased, on the 24th day of January, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Ann Law Irani
Administrator

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

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

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

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

PB WIL BK 121 PG 337 - 02/01/2024 02:51 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF BETTY JOYCE HINES, Deceased. * **CASE NO.: PC2024-024**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to MELONIE JOY RAPE, CRYSTAL CAYE HINES and AMANDA JANE MIDDLETON as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of BETTY JOYCE HINES, deceased, on the 1st day of February, 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.

Melonie Joy Rape, Crystal Caye Hines, and Amanda Jane Middleton
Co-Personal Representatives

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

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

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

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

PB WIL BK 121 PG 194 - 01/25/2024 10:56 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2023-327

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF RUTH MARIE WILLIS, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Mary Ann Clarke on the 25th day of January, 2024, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Mary Ann Clarke
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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

Local Alfa agent Debra Sims wins statewide award

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com



ALFA

Left to right are Alfa Insurance District Manager Greg Barksdale, President Jimmy Parnell, Agent Debra Sims and her husband, Terry, and Executive Vice President of Marketing Mark Evans.

CULLMAN, Ala. — Local Alfa Insurance Agent Debra Sims was recently honored with the 2023 Top Life Producer Award for Alabama at the company's annual awards ceremony. Sims also received the Distinguished Service Award - Gold Level. Sims is a longtime agent in Cullman.

"My goal every day is to serve, not sell, to make sure that everyone I come in contact with knows the importance of life insurance to take care of their children, spouse and their loved ones after their death! I lost my father at 12 and my mother at 14 – both died in car accidents – that has been my driving motivator since going to work for Alfa," she said.

"I want to make sure if children lose their parents, the parents' dreams for their children's lives do not end with death.

"I would be happy to help with life planning, estate planning or financial planning."

In a media release about Sims' achievements, Alfa Insurance wrote:

"Alfa Insurance Agent Debra Sims of Cullman was recently honored with the 2023 Top Life Producer Award for Alabama during the company's annual awards ceremony. She also received the Distinguished Service Award - Gold Level.

"The ceremony, held Jan. 25 at the Montgomery Performing Arts Centre, recognized Alfa's best agents and managers for their dedicated service and commitment to policyholders.

"Sims has served as an Alfa agent since December 2008. She represents the company's full line of insurance for auto, home, life and business."

Sims' office is located at 307 Main Ave. NW. She can be reached at 256-734-4660.

'Butterfly in the Sky' shares beginnings of 'Reading Rainbow'

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The next film in the Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Films to be shown at Wallace State Community College may bring back a lot of memories for children of the 80s and 90s. "Butterfly in the Sky" is a documentary about the beginnings of the PBS children's series "Reading Rainbow," its host LeVar Burton, and the challenges its creators faced in cultivating a love of reading through television.

The television show introduced millions of kids to the wonder of books, including its filmmakers.

"We believe 'Reading Rainbow' is among the most important shows ever produced and an early example of distance learning before distance learning was on everyone's mind. It's a true unsung hero of children's programming, and we want more than anything to tell its story in a way that honors its legacy and teaches a new generation about this important milestone in television history," reads a statement from filmmakers Bradford Thomason and Brett Whitcomb.

"As a Mexican American growing up in Houston, Texas, I was surrounded by diversity," Thomason said. "More than any show on television, 'Reading Rainbow' reflected the cultures that surrounded me. I also loved to read but lacked the discipline to do so.

"Something about the way the books were represented made me want every single one," he continued. "When the book fair came to my school, I went straight for the 'Reading Rainbow' titles. I didn't know it at the time, but the show's mission statement was manifesting itself in me. I devour books to this day, and I know 'Reading Rainbow' had a hand in that."

Thomason is scheduled to be on hand for the screening at Wallace State on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 2:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the James C. Bailey Center.

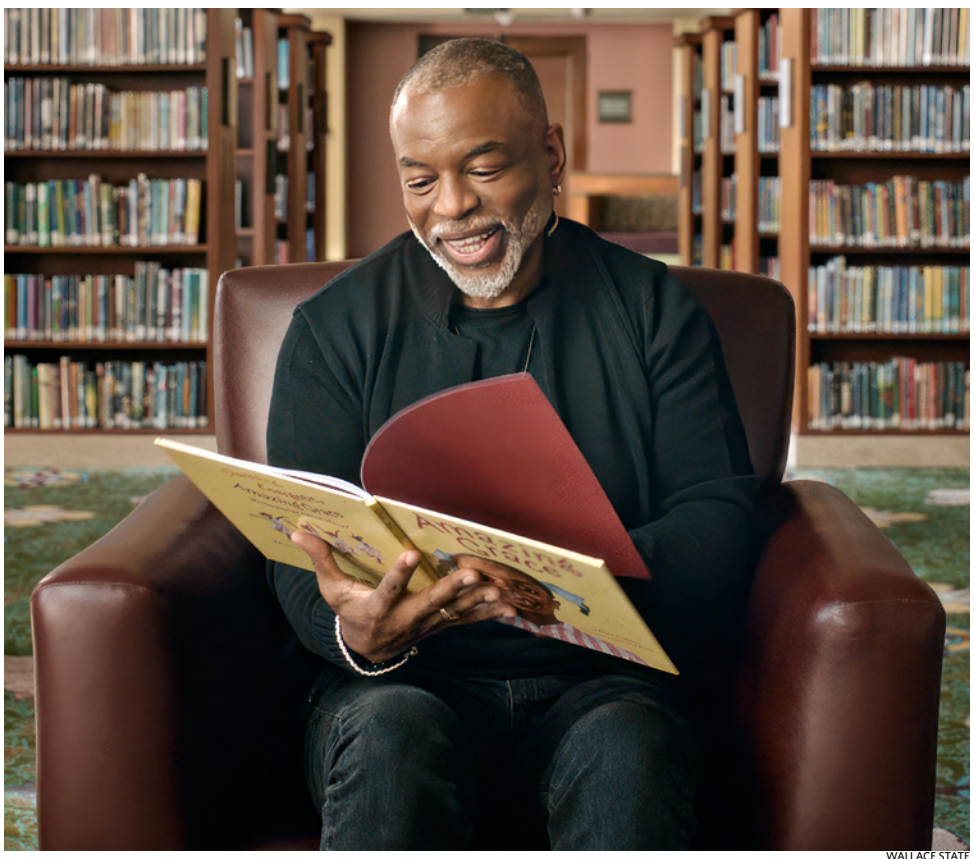
Along with interviews with Burton, the film also features "Reading Rainbow" creator and producer Twila Ligget; directors and producers Larry Lancit, Cecily Truett Lancit and Ed Wiseman; co-creator and executive producer Tony Buttino; composer Steve Horelick; and writer Ellen Schecter.

See a clip from the movie at https://vimeo.com/724991207

Remaining films scheduled in the series include:

- "Master of Light" on March 14
- "Hollow Tree" on April 18

All films are free and open to the public. They are an extension of Wallace State's Burrow Museum offerings in conjunction with Wallace State Student Engagement.



WALLACE STATE

A still from the documentary "Butterfly in the Sky" shows host LeVar Burton in a scene from the film. The film will be shown on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 2:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the James C. Bailey Center at Wallace State Community College. Admission is free and open to the public.

Port (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Governor Kay Ivey on Thursday in an event with the Port Authority, announced the Port of Mobile's economic impact on Alabama's economy totals $98.3 billion, an increase of roughly $13 billion from the previous year's impact.

The Alabama Port Authority commissioned the economic impact report, which covers calendar year 2022 (the most recent year that full data is available).

Overall, the report showed that – in addition to the overall $98.3 billion statewide economic impact – the Port supports 351,359 jobs in Alabama, one out of every seven jobs statewide.

These jobs amount to $22.5 billion in income for Alabamians across all 67 counties.

Additionally, in 2022, the Port and its related industries gave back $2.4 billion in taxes to the State, local governments and the federal government.

"While our Gulf Coast port might be called 'The Port of Mobile,' what the staggering economic impact number of $98 billion means is that it is really 'The Port of Alabama,'" said Ivey.

"Whether it's our booming automotive industry, exports of natural resources such as coal and limestone and countless other Alabama-made and Alabama-sourced goods, the Port of Mobile touches every corner and every industry in our state. The future is bright for our port, and I look forward to seeing its growth continue to contribute and impact all of Alabama."

"Alabama's port has had tremendous growth – and we're just getting started," said Alabama Port Authority Director and CEO John Driscoll.

"These impact numbers show both the benefit of Alabama's port to our entire state, and the key role of state investments in helping achieve that growth. With more than $1 billion in capital projects underway, we expect this growth to continue, and more importantly, keep making Alabama businesses more competitive globally."

"The Port of Mobile is an economic powerhouse for the state of Alabama, and it is growing bigger and stronger every single day," said Sen. Greg Reed, R-Jasper, president pro tem of the Alabama Senate.

"With coal being one of the largest exports of the port, and my district being the state's largest producer of coal – the success of the coal industry in Alabama and the Port of Mobile are inextricably linked. I'm a proud supporter of the port and its mission, and I'm pleased but not surprised to see the incredible economic impact it has on our great state."

"Geographically, my home district couldn't be much further from the Port of Mobile, but the port's impact on my district – and virtually all of my members' districts in the Alabama House – is very present," said Alabama State House Speaker Nathaniel Ledbetter. "It's clear that our commitment to investing in the Port is netting remarkable returns for our state, and it's vital we continue to support this economic engine for Alabama's continued success."

The Port currently has more than $1 billion in capital projects underway statewide. The Port Authority will expand its capabilities to one million TEUs (20-foot equivalent unit cargo container) upon completing the Phase IV expansion at the container terminal.

In addition to the terminal expansion and the harbor deepening and widening project, the Alabama Port Authority plans to develop logistics facilities in Mobile and open a new inland intermodal facility served by CSX in Montgomery. These projects are set to begin operation within the next two years and will provide new advantages and opportunities for shippers.

Other planned investments include constructing a fly-over bridge to create on-dock rail access at the container terminal, modernizing general cargo piers, and developing an inland intermodal facility in north Alabama. These projects are primarily funded through federal budget appropriations and grants championed by former Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Alabama. In addition to federal funding, the Alabama State Legislature allocated $20 million in 2023 to modernize the Port's McDuffie Coal Terminal. Beyond these public funding sources, the Port reinvests all revenue outside of operating expenses in improving and expanding its facilities.

Following the enactment of the Rebuild Alabama Act, which provided funding to deepen and widen the Port of Mobile's ship channel, the Port's economic impact in Alabama has increased by more than $200 billion. Additionally, the Port's planned Intermodal Container Transfer Facility in Montgomery has resulted in $2.2 billion of new project announcements in the area. Notably, both of these milestones were reached before the completion of the projects.

This economic study was once again conducted by Martin Associates, an internationally-recognized economic and transportation consulting firm that specializes in the analysis of the transportation and logistics industry.

The report, which includes both public Alabama Port Authority facilities as well as private operators utilizing the port, is designed to be rigorous and conservative in its analysis. Notably, Martin Associates identified containerized cargo as the most significant new line of business driving the Port's rapid growth.

This analysis is separate from and independent of a recent analysis in Forbes, which ranked the Port of Mobile the second fastest growing port of entry into the United States over the past decade, ahead of Chicago's O'Hare Airport and Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson Airport.

A full report, as well as additional information including the Alabama Port Authority's economic impact by legislative districts or counties, is available online at www.alportsimpact.com.

Poll (from Front)

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Alabama Sports Writers Association released its final regular season poll Thursday morning and five local teams earned spots in the latest rankings.

After toppling the number one team in Class 3A Wednesday night, the 26-2 Good Hope Lady Raiders climbed to the top of the Class 4A rankings.

In Class 5A, the West Point Lady Warriors landed at number six and Arab was ranked ninth.

The Cold Springs Lady Eagles remained near the top of the Class 2A poll as well at number four.

On the boys' side, the Cullman Bearcats rose from ninth to seventh in Class 6A.

With the regular season officially in the books, teams all over the state will be tipping off their area tournaments and starting their postseason runs Friday night.

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Obituary Announcements: Feb. 1-2

Jerry Edwin Yeager, 76
Celebration of Life Service for Jerry Edwin Yeager, age 76, of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Visitation will be from noon until 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Yeager passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024, at Cullman Regional. He was born, Feb. 28, 1947, to Harold Yeager and Vercie Yeager. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Jimmy Yeager and Walt Yeager; and grandson, Hayden Shutt. Survivors include his special friend, Deanna Day; daughters, Tammy (Jasper) Lindsey, and Teresa (Brian) Green; sons, Carnes Alan (Amanda Runyon) Yeager and Brandon (Kayla) Yeager; grandchildren, Jamie Alan McGraw, Breiana (Kenny) Lindsey, Lily Fuller, Dante Lindsey, Levi (Rhi) Maddux, Kelsie (Justine) Allen, Brian Green II, Canaan Green, Gabriel Green, Lana Yeager, Trevin Yeager, Gavin Yeager; great grandchild, Mason Shutt, Apollo Maddux; sisters, Carolyn (Roger) Pope, Susan Widner, Deborah (Marty) Vaughn and Vicki (Bobby) Jackson; brother, Jacky (Patricia) Yeager; sister- in- law, Judi Yeager; special nephew, Wesley Yeager; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Carla Ann Towe, 75
Funeral Service for Carla Ann Towe, age 75, of Decatur, will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home; burial at Mt. Zion. Visitation will be from 1 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Towe passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024, at River City Center. She was born August 5, 1948, to Henry Carlton Biggs and Lois Charlotte Self. She was preceded in death by her parents; and son, Randall Smith. Survivors include her husband, Douglas Towe, grandsons, Kyle Smith, Kody (Dakoda) Smith, Kolby (Alex) Smith, great grandchildren, Whitlee Smith, Ryker Smith, Lincoln Smith, and Wilder Smith, brother, Gary Biggs, niece, Susan Taylor, and nephew, Wesley Hanset Jr.

Kenneth Oneal Nunnelley, 72
Arrangements for Kenneth Oneal Nunnelley, age 72, of Baileyton, are incomplete at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Nunnelley was born Aug. 6, 1951, to Willard Nunnelley and Ester Owens Nunnelley. He passed from this life on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024. He is preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his loving wife, Agnes Nunnelley; sons, Michael Loyd, Henry Loyd (Brandi), Gary Loyd (Jessica); daughters, Janet Loyd, Jennifer Dickinson (Micah), Amanda Stracener (Eric); brother Randall Nunnelley (Barbara); twelve grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; a host of family and friends. Kenneth was a member of Welcome Church. He was a dynamic truck driver for twenty-five years and he loved his job. He was a wonderful husband and father also. He will be missed every day by those who knew and love him. Please sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Mary Sue Goodwin, 85
Arrangements for Mary Sue Goodwin, age 85, of Cullman, are incomplete at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Goodwin was born Dec. 1, 1938, to Ottis Patterson and Nancy Jones Patterson. She passed from this life on Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024. She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Nolan Goodwin; brothers, Paul Patterson, and Cecil Patterson; sisters, Imogene Palegro, and Peggy Crocker. She is survived by one son, Rickey Johns; one daughter, Sasonja Whitley; two brothers, James Patterson (Becky), and David Patterson (Susan); three grandchildren, Kristie Roberson (Kevin), Felecia Cook (Lee), Amanda McDuffee (Michael); great-grandchildren, Cheyenne Harper, Emily Roper, Ethan Cook, Savannah Shockley, Gregory Shockley, Steven Roper; a host of family and friends. Please sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Margaret Elliott, 83
Funeral services for Margaret Elliott, 83, of Logan, Alabama, will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, at Cullman Funeral Home chapel with burial in Prospect Church of Christ Cemetery.Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Margaret went to be with her Heavenly Father on Feb. 1, 2024. Margaret, was born on Oct. 25, 1940 to her parents, Bennie and Lillian Reid Osmer. Margaret was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Glynn Elliott, her parents, a special grandson Nick Rurak, three brothers Charlie, Raymond, and Bennie Earl Osmer, three sisters Kermit Franklin, Velma Crews, and an unnamed baby sister.Margaret is survived by three sons, Terry (Cynthia) Elliott, Doug (Amy) Elliott, David Elliott, and a daughter, Tina (Willard) Whiting; 12 grandchildren, Christopher Sr. and Casey Whiting, Wendy Turner, Lynnette Cowan, Amanda (Jared)Barnett, Dustin (Jackie) Harper, Jeremy (Tricia) Payne, Brad (Linda)Hasting, Michael (Amber)Hasting, Nathan Elliott, Louis Whiting, and Christopher Whiting Jr, 10 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Margaret loved working and serving the Lord. Over the years, through many fundraising opportunities, Margaret helped build six different churches.Visitation will be Monday from noon until 2 p.m. at the funeral home with funeral immediately following.

Patsy Louise Barber-Vance, 68
Arrangements for Patsy Louise Barber-Vance, age 68, of Falkville, are incomplete at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Patsy was born Jan. 30, 1955, to Gurnie Willliams and Myrtle Fortenberry Williams. She passed from this life on Monday, Jan. 29, 2024. She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Tommy Barber; son, Chris Barber. She is survived by her husband, Robert Vance; step-daughters, Sylania Taylor, and Kayla Vance; grandchildren, Crimson, Zaylee, McKenzie, Michelle, Maui, Hannah, Havannah; a host of family and friends. Patsy was a huge animal lover, especially adoring hummingbirds, and toy poodles. She was a big Alabama fan also. She loved to fish and shop and she loved her family most of all. Please sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

James Nelson Kelley, Jr., 92
James Nelson Kelley, Jr. age 92, of Haleyville, Alabama, passed away Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024, at his residence. He was born Dec. 3, 1931, to James and Estelle Kelley. James loved building things, was an Alabama fan and loved the Crimson Tide. James is survived by his son, James Kelley; daughter, Debbie K. Kretzschmar; granddaughter, Farrah (Scott) Browning; great-grandchildren, Brooklyn and Jordon Browning; brothers, Sonny Kelley and Louis Kelley; and sisters, Betty Stanford and Pat Russell. He was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia Kelley; parents, James and Estelle Kelley; and a host of brothers and sisters. No services at this time. Memories and condolences may be shared at www.nicholsfuneralhomes.com.

Marie Ditto, 83
Funeral service for Marie Ditto, age 83, of Pinson, will be at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home-Cemetery with Randy Wren and Jim Abbott officiating; burial at Cullman Heritage Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1:30 p.m. through 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home-Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Ditto passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024, at her residence. She was born May 4, 1940, in Foley, Alabama, to Deward Reese and Vida Lee Raney. She retired from the Birmingham Housing Authority after 27 years. She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Edna Raney; granddaughter, Amber Wren; and grandson, Brain Wren. Survivors include her husband, Willard Van Ditto; daughter, Marsha Sims; son, Randy (Carol) Wren; son, David (Jennifer) Ditto; son, Stephen Ditto; nine grandchildren; four great grandchildren; brother, Marlin (Glenda) Raney; brother, Glenn (Geri) Raney; sister, Carol Law; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Mitchell Blake White, 42
Graveside service for Mitchell Blake White, age 42, of Fultondale, will be at 1 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, at Valley Springs Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. White passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024, at his residence. He was born, Nov. 20, 1981, in Cullman, Alabama, to Timothy White and Janis White. He was preceded in death by his mother, and nephew, Zachary White. Survivors include his father, Timothy (Brenda) White; son, Aaron White, significant other, Kati McGowen, grandmother, Margaret Bonds; brother, Timothy (Keri) White and niece, Katelyn White.

Free Obituary Listings

Have your funeral home contact us

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

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

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

A new, New Year's workout commitment

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Approximately 38-years ago, I joined my first fitness center. I was no longer in my 20s, but I was also no longer in a 32 in the waist. The length of my pants was still the same. Actually, I had not been in a 32 for a while, but they still hung in the back of my closet... you know, just in case. I had always been active and for the most in good shape. I had played tennis off-and-on since I was a teenager. When I looked at myself in the mirror, it appeared to me that hickory-smoked pork with sweet barbecue sauce and fried onion rings might be winning out over tennis. So, I decided I needed to do something more. I lived in Marietta, Georgia, at the time. There was a fitness center a few miles down the road and several members of our church worked out there, so I joined. My new club had one racquetball court, and I had one friend at church that played there. He talked me into playing. During my college days, at Samford University, I had watched people play handball and racquetball, but I had never played either. I said I was not going to like it. I said I would rather play tennis. I played one time. The next week I played twice. I've played, on average, three-times each week since then, until about two-years ago. About that time, I switched from racquetball to pickleball. You might think, as did I, that I would never have a heart problem.

I have belonged to a fitness center, with racquetball courts, ever since those days 38-years ago. Periodically, through the years, on the days I didn't play, I worked out.

Honestly, playing a game was much more fun to me than working out, and eating whatever I wanted to eat was more fun than either. I often said, "I play racquetball so I can eat whatever." That way of thinking almost cost me my life.

As each year came to a close, I knew I needed to change my habits. Every year, several other club members and I made fresh commitments to do better in the coming year.

I made resolutions to eat healthier and exercise more consistently. Some years I even made it way on into February before I began to slide.

Well, January has come and February is here. Guess who is back in there working out. I'm not playing racquetball or pickleball right now. I'm in a different kind of fitness center this time and for a different reason.

I'm still a member of the Opelika Sportsplex, and The Opelika Pickleball Club, but now I am also working out three-times each week at East Alabama Medical Center... in the Cardiac Rehab Unit. There's about ten people in my group, who have all had some kind of cardiac surgery or issue.

We aren't exercising just to lose a few pounds, or so we can eat that hamburger and fries, or to ward off a heart attack. We aren't doing preventative workouts...we are doing recovery workouts.

I've come to realize sometimes we can take care of ourselves before it happens, or we might find ourselves working out in a different kind of gym.

No one in my new group is playing pickleball or racquetball, but I know at least one of us that eventually will be, but that's not the only thing I'll do.

I'm not going to say I'll never eat another barbecued rib or fried chicken, I will, but a thick slab of grilled salmon tastes pretty awesome...and it may cost a lot less in the long run!

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

HISTORY

Files from yesteryear: 1937, 1954

From the files of 1937

On Tuesday, August 17, the W.C. Griffith Gin at Hanceville had the privilege of processing Cullman County's first bale of cotton for this season. The cotton was grown by A.R. Russell on

D.D. Price's farm on Warrior, Route One. Mr. Clark Griffith states this is the earliest bale to be ginned in the past 17 years. It's a week earlier than last year.

The county will permit traffic on the new concrete bridge over Tedder Creek on the Hanceville, Arkadelphia Road. They expect to have this project completed next week, according to Mr. Rube Aldredge.

From the files of 1954

Births for July:

Eighty-three babies were born in Cullman County during July. Boys were born to Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Sinyard, J.E. Weissend, Carl Teichmiller, Spencer Howard, M.C. Cleghorn,, C.L. Jerrolds, Alton F. Ray, T.R. Segroves, O.J. Latham, J.H. Fitzgerald, B.D. Wil-liams, G.R. Ransom, T.A. Crutchfield, A.E. Marsh, W.W. Parker, L.L. Shoemake, Milton McGriff, Charles R. Ryan, Marvin Henderson, Junior Hines, C.C. Kilpatrick, J.A. Swann, M.L. Harris, Hancle K. Hampton, L.L. Guthrie, A.C. Poole, R. Ottis Holaway, Raymond Harris, Lecle O. Sellers, C.O. Grund, R.C. Chumley, Hoyt Causey, Jack Tankersley, H.A. Owen, W.H. Hill, N.W. Chambers, T.N. Givens, C.A. Griffin, J.C. Gregory, W.H. Schultz, William Smothers, G.J. Chaney, B.E. Hale and Bernis Sams.

Girls were born to Mr. and Mrs. G.L. Self, L.V. Huckaby, Clifford K. Burney, D.A. Mann, V.L. Couch, V.O. Boone, S.J. Vinson, John T. Poole, Louis Evans, Junior, W.J. Whitehorn, Sterling Pruett, H.W. Makemson, R.C. Gardner, T.G. Merrill, W.W. Smith, Frank Schwaiger, J.B. Hill, E.L. Kent, Melvin Brummett, B.J. Suite, Clarence Harris, C.W. Thomas, Robert Hanson, S.E. Barnett, W.H. Long, Cecil Romine, A.E. Parks, G.D. Cates, L.E. Reidrick, H.R. Biggs, J.A. Willingham, W.S. Russell, John L. Lindsey, E.L. Trammell, Fred Nickens, C.W. Nash, B.M. Parrish and Chart Byram (twins).

POET'S CORNER

Morning Prayer | By: Ella Wheeler Wilcox, 1850 -1919

When little things irk me, and I grow

Impatient with my dear one, make me know

How in a moment joy can take its

flight

And happiness be quenched in endless night.

Keep this thought with me all the livelong day

That I may guard the harsh words I might say

When I would fret and grumble, fiery hot,

At trifles that tomorrow, are forgot - Let me remember, Lord, how it would be

If these, my loved ones, were not here with me.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

FEB. 3

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

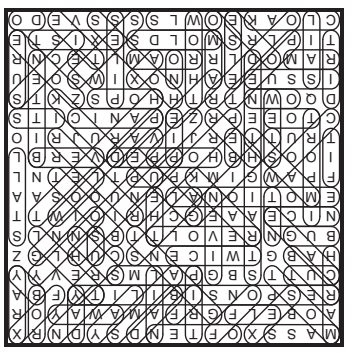
Acts
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Duck
Elf
Else
Emotional
Exist
Fit
Fox
Giant
Given
Glue
Harvest
Her
Homes
Hopped
Hops
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If
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Issue
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Lay
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March
Mass
Mast
Molds
Most
Nail
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Nice
No
Off
Often
Older
Only
Ore
Owls
Own
Pad
Palms
Panic
Pie
Piles
Poet
Proper
Punish
Ram
Rank
Revolt
Roam
Rob
Rub
Ruler
Sail
Sets
Sex
So
Stall
Stew
Sun
Sure
Tan
Tell
The
Thing
Throw
Tie
Toe
Trip
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Up
Us
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Vetoing
We
X-ray
Zip
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

FEB. 3

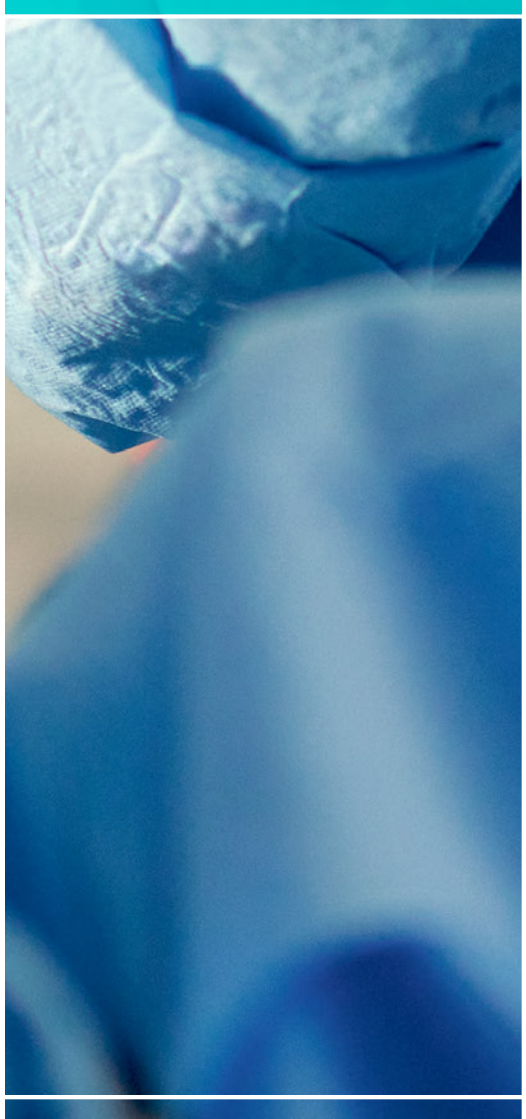
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ANSWERS:



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





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