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MARTHA NEEDHAM/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

No. 7 Cullman falls to No. 1 Buckhorn 62-37 in NW Regional Finals

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Cullman City Council names Brian Bradberry to new post: public safety director

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City Council on Monday evening, Feb. 19, suspended regular procedural rules to approve its first reading and ordinance to create the new city staff position of public safety director, and a few moments later passed a resolution to name Cullman Fire Rescue Chief Brian Bradberry to the post. Deputy Fire Chief Darren Peeples was then appointed interim fire chief.

"This is going to be an effort to coordinate our police department, fire department and the communications dispatch office, which we think will make a stronger, much stronger area of public safety in all areas for the city, stronger and more coordinated," Council President Jenny Folsom explained.

Other council business

The council also » PAGE 6



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Former Cullman Fire Rescue Chief and new Public Safety Director Brian Bradberry with new interim Fire Chief Darren Peeples at the Cullman City Council meeting on Monday, Feb. 19, 2024

– PREP BASKETBALL –

'It's pretty surreal'

Good Hope punches ticket to Final 4 with 62-44 win over Priceville



MARTHA NEEDHAM/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Good Hope Lady Raiders defeated Priceville 62-44 Wednesday night to advance to the Final Four.

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — After defeating Deshler in the Sweet 16 on Monday, the top-ranked Lady Raiders of Good Hope were back on the court at Wallace State taking on Priceville in the Northwest Regional Finals Wednesday night. Good Hope got off to a fast start once again, building a 21-2 lead in the second quarter. The Bulldogs weren't able to overcome the early onslaught and the Lady Raiders punched their ticket to their first Final Four since 2012 with a 62-44 win over Priceville.

Good Hope jumped out to early leads in both their Northwest Regional wins over Deshler and Priceville. Head Coach Justin Aby is pleased with the way his team is executing their plans on the defensive and seizing momentum early in » PAGE 8

CPD finds body of woman reported missing

» PAGE 7

PREP BASKETBALL

No. 4 Cold Springs downs No. 3 Locust Fork 50-28 to return to Final 4



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Paizley Whitlow led the Lady Eagles with 15 points in the win. Maci Brown and Ella Bruer each posted 11 points and Ciara Calvert collected 12 rebounds. Cold Springs' Ella Bruer, Maci Brown, Kenady Graves and Paizley Whitlow earned All-Central Regional Tournament Team honors. Bruer was selected as Tournament MVP. The Lady Eagles will play Mars Hill in the 2A State Semifinals at Legacy Arena in Birmingham Monday at 3 p.m.

Cullman celebrates 36 years as Tree City USA

» PAGE 8

Cullman City Council recognizes retired Planning Commission Chairman Mike Voss



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Retired City of Cullman Planning Commission Chairman Mike Voss accepts the Cullman City Council's resolution of appreciation from Mayor Woody Jacobs on Monday, Feb. 19, 2024.

» PAGE 6

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Feb. 21

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Feb. 21, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Feb. 15

- possession with intent to distribute controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1402
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1600
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1242
- possession of dangerous drugs; Hwy. 31 N
- domestic violence; Hwy. 69 N

Feb. 16

- theft of property; CR 703
- domestic violence; CR 933
- theft of property; CR 134
- permitting dogs to run at large; harassment; CR 825
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 438

Feb. 17

- theft of property; CR 1251
- domestic violence; CR 738
- domestic violence; CR 520
- shooting into unoccupied building; CR 1107
- animal cruelty; CR 700
- possession of dangerous drugs; McNabb Rd.

Feb. 18

- harassment; CR 677
- theft of property; CR 645
- theft of property; CR 1682
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 437
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 616

Feb. 19

- assault; shooting into occupied vehicle; CR 1242
- assault; criminal mischief; Hwy. 278 E
- resisting arrest; criminal mischief; CR 1141
- domestic violence; CR 576
- criminal mischief; CR 1718
- trespassing; CR 1087
- violation of protection order; CR 1212
- harassment; CR 518
- possession of marijuana; CR 1212
- criminal mischief; CR 1114
- interference with public communication; Hwy. 91

ARRESTS

Feb. 15 – 19

Allread, Dustyn H.; 28
- larceny/theft-theft from residence $500 less than $1,500

Bailey, Nathan P.; 49
- assault-harassment
- assault with bodily fluids

Barbee, Benjamin H.; 46
- FTA- driving while license suspended

Bennett, Billy D.; 30
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Blakely, Jacob D.; 25
- DUI (alcohol)

Bryant, Jason M.; 44
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Chandler, James N.; 39
- driving without driver's license

Coker, Michael J.; 49
- FTA- attempting to elude police officer-serious injury
- FTA- reckless endangerment
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Combs, Bradley R.; 40
- burglary-non residence-no force
- burglary-unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle (5 counts)

Dauksza, Noah E.; 18
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Galsco, Shawna L.; 45
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Godfrey, Allison M.; 26
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Haynes, Jeremy A.; 36
- flight/escape-escape
- Diversion Violation- assault-2nd degree

Johnson, Bobby E.; 49
- possession of methamphetamine

Lee, Hunter D.; 26
- FTA- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft $500 less than $1,500
- FTA- possession of methamphetamine
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)

Lewter, Christian Alexander S.; 25
- Grand Jury- homicide-murder-non family-gun

Long, Kaleb J.; 21
- DUI (alcohol)

Odom Jr., Michael D.; 38
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Overton, Johnny L.; 58
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs (4 counts)
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia (4 counts)

Penn, Crystal W.; 41
- FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree (2 counts)
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA- possession of dangerous drugs

Phillips, Joshua B.; 37
- DUI (alcohol)
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Pisaneschi, Gabriel M.; 22
- Grand Jury- sexual abuse of a child less than 12-years-old
- Grand Jury- indecent exposure

Powell, Angela Darlene L.; 56
- FTA- public intoxication

Raymond, Robert S.; 41
- Probation Revoked- possession of dangerous drugs

Rusk, Hubert D.; 53
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Swann, Laura R.; 44
- public intoxication

Tosado, Ryan A.; 27
- larceny/theft-miscellaneous theft less than $500

White, Jeffery M.; 60
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense

Williams, Kendra D.; 36
- permitting dogs to run at large

Woolridge, Landon S.; 29
- possession of methamphetamine (2 counts)

Wray, Gregory D.; 50
- FTA- assault-domestic-harassment-family

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Feb. 14
- theft of property-3rd degree; fraudulent use of credit/debit card; person; cash

Feb. 18
- domestic violence-3rd degree-harassment; person; Main Ave. NE

Feb. 19
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; Town Square SW; damage to 2006 Pontiac; $1,000
- domestic violence-3rd degree-harassing communications; person
- theft of property-2nd degree; person; cash; $2,000
- theft of property-4th degree; person; Hickory Ave. SW; bicycle; $180
- breaking entering motor vehicles; person; Industrial Dr. SW; miscellaneous

Feb. 20
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; person; Northcrest Dr. NW; miscellaneous
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; I-65
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW

ARRESTS

Feb. 19 – 20

Drane, Kloe E.; 19
- Grand Jury- retail theft of property-2nd degree
- Grand Jury- organized retail theft

Cheney, Natalie G.; 20
- Grand Jury- retail theft of property-2nd degree
- Grand Jury- organized retail theft

Champion, Jennifer K.; 40
- theft of property-4th degree
- FTA- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Taylor, Cassie E.; 35
- FTA- theft of property-4th degree

Bevington, Brian A.; 57
- theft of property-4th degree

Nixon, Robert R.; 61
- FTA- DUI
- FTA- driving without license

Paulson, Michelle A.; 49
- DUI

Peters, Samantha P.; 31
- theft of property-4th degree

Linares Roades, Nelson M.; 23
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Needham, Jessi B.; 35
- FTA- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Routh, Tony K.; 53
- domestic violence-3rd degree-harassment

Taylor, Marlon F.; 38
- criminal trespass-3rd degree
- theft of property-4th degree

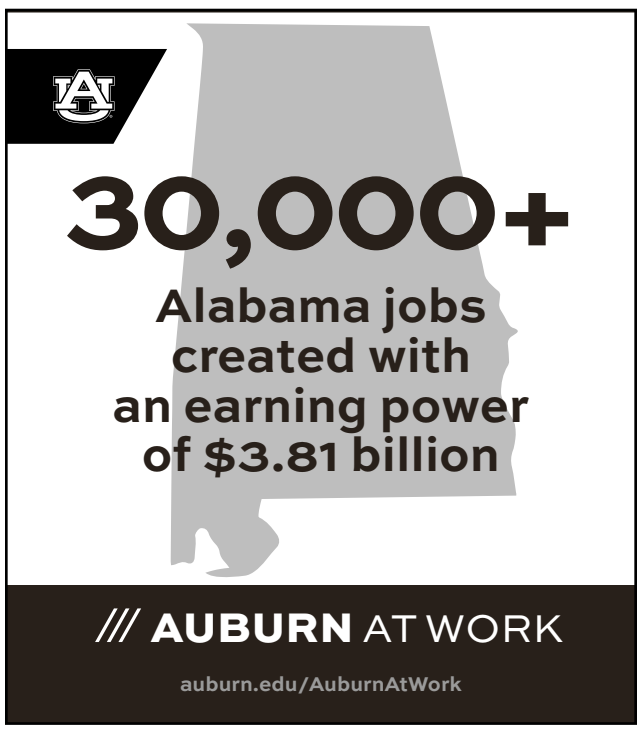
HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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



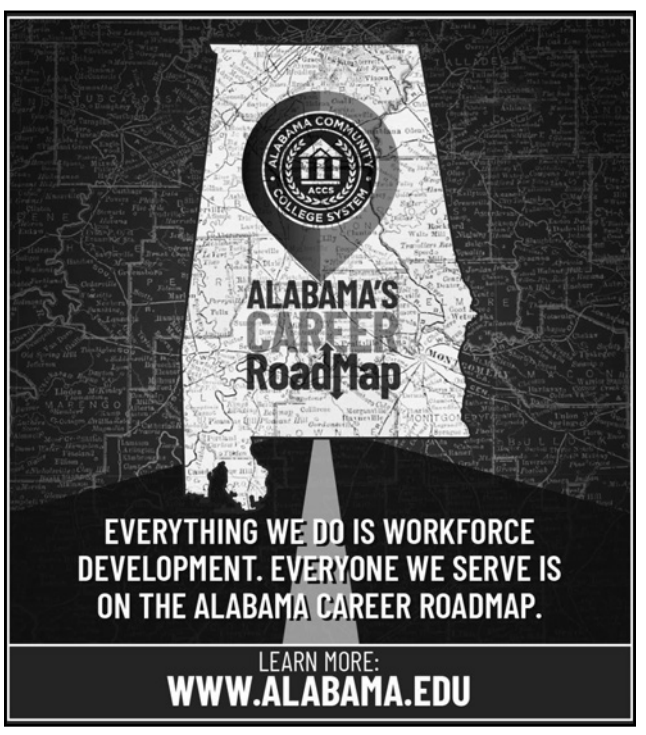
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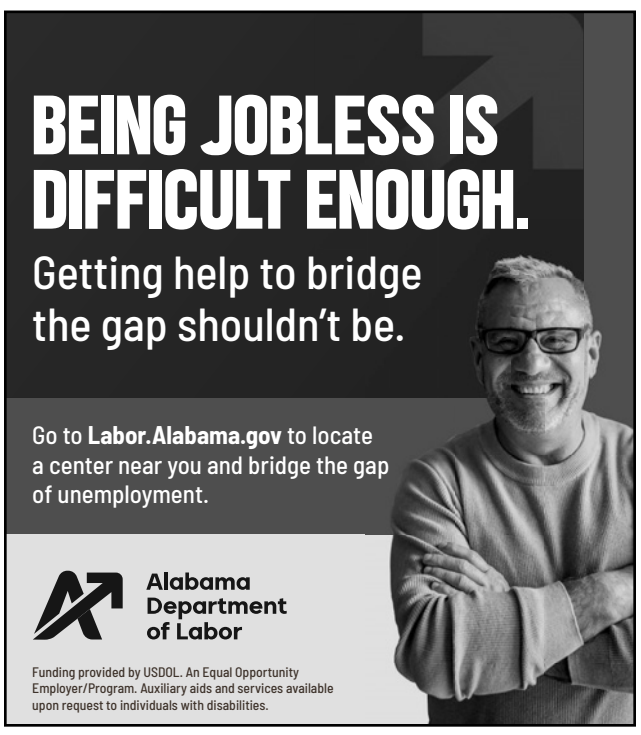












COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

Church Services- Spirit Life Church of GOD
• Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Mondays-Fridays- Free hot meals for children Mondays 11 a.m.-noon, Tuesdays 1-2 p.m. and Wednesdays-Fridays 11 a.m.-noon. Cullman Housing Authority Community Center 1545 Vine Circle SW. Please call Kristie 256-636-5362 for more information. Eat in or take out. Sponsored by Kids Loving Kids, Raising Arrows Ministry and Spirit Life Church.
• Kids Loving Kids Birthday Blessings serves children ages 1-18 in need of assistance to celebrate their birthdays. Register your child and pick up a birthday box with cake mix, icing, sprinkles, decorations and toys! Pickup is the last weekend of the month. Saturday (5100 Curry Highway Suite 100-B Jasper, AL 35504) from 3-5 p.m. or the last Sunday of the month at Spirit Life Church Cullman from 12:30-1 p.m. Birth certificate is required at the time of box pickup. Register at https://form.jotform.com/203435614640045. For more information, text or call 205-717-7478.
• Friday, Feb. 23 - 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, Feb. 24 - CPR class for CARES team from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
• Sunday, Feb. 25 - 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. 25 - 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 Cedric Davidson at 11.

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

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

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

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

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

Lenten Fish Fry Dinners at Sacred Heart of Jesus Family Life Center
Friday, Feb. 23, March 8 and March 22, from 5-7 p.m. Dine in or carry-out via drive-thru line. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Meal includes fried or baked fish, cole slaw, French fries and hush puppies for $12 per first four plates, then $10 per plate for additional plates. Everyone welcome to this popular annual event.

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.

Cullman Lions Club Fish & Ham Dinner
Saturday, March 9, from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Cullman Middle School cafeteria. Dine in, carry out or drive through. $15 per plate. Your choice of catfish filet or ham with baked potato, slaw, hushpuppies and dessert. Proceeds benefit Cullman Lions Club community projects.

Mushroom Log Inoculation Workshop
• Saturday, March 9, from 1-4 p.m. at Sportsman Lake Park. Grow Shiitake mushrooms in your own backyard! Learn how to prepare and inoculate your own log, promote mushroom growth, where to store, when and how to harvest and more. All materials will be provided.
• Tickets purchased by Feb. 24 are $20, which includes cost of materials and one inoculated Shiitake log to take home. Tickets purchased after Feb. 24 will be $30. http://tinyurl.com/shitakesportsmanlakepark
• Additional Shiitake or Oyster logs may be purchased onsite for $15 each. Both mushrooms are edible and medicinal, and should give you multiple flushes for a few years. We will also have biochar, comfrey roots, tree cuttings, rabbit fertilizer and other items available for purchase. Cash preferred.

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.

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Huge Estate Sale, February 23, 24, 7:00 a,m. Angie Drive, Cullman, Nice Broyhill furniture, collectibles,kitchen ware, patio furniture, a lot to see and too much to list. Check out pictures on PKFacebook and Estate of Donald Green in Cullman, AL starts on 2/23/2024 (estatesales.net)

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PREP BASKETBALL

No. 7 Cullman falls to No. 1 Buckhorn 62-37 in NW Regional Finals

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — After defeating Muscle Shoals in the Sweet 16 Thursday, the Cullman Bearcats were back on the court at Wallace State Tuesday morning to face top-ranked Buckhorn in the Northwest Regional Championship Game. The Bearcats jumped out to an 8-0 lead over the Bucks and led 8-3 at the end of the first quarter but Buckhorn outscored Cullman 24-2 in the second quarter to take a big lead into the locker room at halftime. The Bearcats continued to battle in the second half but weren't able to close the gap and the Bucks advanced to the Final Four with a 62-37 win over Cullman (23-9).

Bearcats Head Coach Stu Stuedeman though his team did a good job of starting fast and executing their plan in the opening period but once shots started to fall for Buckhorn it was tough to get the momentum back.

"I thought we played really well taking care of the basketball in the first quarter. I thought the defensive game plan was fantastic and we were rebounding but then I thought we lost a little poise there in the second quarter and started taking some ill-advised shots and started throwing the ball away a little bit and that's on me. I didn't have them prepared for some of the stuff they were doing defensively on our ball screens and (Buckhorn) really amped up it up," Stuedeman said. "When they amp it up and put their hands on you, they're really good and you have to really be special to beat that team. They're just as deep as us if not deeper and they're athletic, they're physical, they're well-coached and you have to have poise throughout the entire game, you almost have to be perfect and unfortunately, we were not. I should've used my timeouts better, should've had them better prepared for what they were going to do and how they were going to play us. Once they started seeing a couple balls go in, they started scoring a little bit and the wheels fell off."

Buckhorn 62 – Cullman 37 (Northwest Regional Championship)

Sam Duskin drained a three to give Cullman a 3-0 start in the first quarter. Jake Dorough followed with a three of his own and sank a pair of free throws midway through the first to put the 'Cats on top 8-0. Buckhorn got on the board in the final two minutes of the period to cut the lead to 8-3 at the start of the second quarter.

Things got tougher for Cullman on both ends of the floor in the second. Dorough laid one in to keep the Bearcats in front 10-8 early in the period but the Bucks took control the rest of the way, outscoring Cullman 19-0 in the remainder of the first half to take a 27-10 lead into the locker room at the break.

Dorough scored inside and hit a pair of free throws early in the third quarter to make it a 34-14 game. Colton Echols sank a pair of free throws midway through the period and Duskin buried back to back three-pointers in the final minute of the third to hold the Buckhorn lead to 45-22 at the start of the fourth.

Echols laid one in early in the fourth quarter and Dorough finished the game strong, scoring eight points in the final frame. Senior Devin Bates entered the game late in the fourth and knocked down a three from the right corner, but the Bearcats couldn't overcome the early lead and Buckhorn advanced with a 62-37 win over Cullman.

Dorough led the Bearcats with 19 points in the loss and Duskin finished with 11 points. Kase Nixon led Cullman with six rebounds. Echols and Duskin each earned All-Regional Tournament honors.

This year's senior class, Sam Duskin, Devin Bates, Peyton Bradley, Kase Nixon, Brodie Banister and Colton Echols is leaving Cullman as the winningest class in school history, collecting 92 wins in their playing years. Stuedeman is proud of all the accomplishments and milestones they reached on their court but what he will remember most about this group is the impact they made on their community and the people around them.



MARTHA NEEDHAM/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Jake Dorough led Cullman with 19 points in its 62-37 loss to Buckhorn Tuesday.

"They mean the world to me. You can talk about the stats, 92 wins over the course of four years, a state championship, the first Final Four since 1932, two Elite Eights, two area regular season championships and three area tournament championships in a row and they're the all-time winningest class in Cullman Basketball history.

"You can talk about all that and all that sounds great on a stat sheet but if that's all you're talking about with these guys then you're missing the bigger picture because what they have meant to our basketball program and how they've poured themselves not just into their senior class but their teammates and the younger guys," Stuedeman said.

"Not just the younger guys in our program, the youth kids playing basketball in Cullman, they pour into them. They have put something of themselves in everybody and have really just made their mark and made a positive impact on everything around them. At the end of the day if you can't be happy about that and hold your head up high, there's not much you can be happy about.

"All the winning and all the awards are great but the positive impact you can make on another person is where the real reward is, and no one has done it better than these guys right here."

PREP BASEBALL

West Points collects 6-2 win at Fairview, Tuesday scoring recap

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — The West Point Warriors made the trip over to Fairview for a county matchup with the Aggies and they returned home with a win. The Warriors got a strong pitching performance from J.D. Cochran and collected a 6-2 win over Fairview.

West Point got the scoring started in their opening at-bats. Boston Freeman drew a walk, then Cade Welborn reached on an infield single to put runners on first and second with nobody out. Cochran hit an RBI single to left field to give the Warriors the early lead, but they looked for more, as a walk loaded the bases. Fairview's new pitcher, Nicolas Gregory, came in and got the final three outs to get out of a big jam.

The Warriors got another run in the top of the second, as Cooper Howard led off the inning with a double and later scored on a one-out single by Freeman to make it 2-0. West Point pushed their lead to 3-0 in the top of the third on an RBI single by Gus McKenney. Cochran hit a sacrifice fly in the top of the fourth to give the Warriors a 4-0 lead, and a throwing error during the play allowed Welborn to cross the plate to make it 5-0. Howard added an RBI double in the top of the fifth to increase their lead to 6-0.

After being shut out through five innings by Cochran, Fairview looked to get something going in the bottom of the sixth. Gregory got hit by the pitch to lead off the inning, then Isaac Elrod lined a single to center field to put runners on first and second with nobody out. Back-to-back RBI singles by Conner Scott and Lucas West cut it to 6-2.

The Aggies made things a little interesting in their final at-bats as they quickly loaded the bases with two outs against Howard, but he struck out West to end the game, and West Point ended up leaving Fairview with a 6-2 win.

Cochran led the way at the plate with a hit and two RBIs for West Point (3-0). Howard added a pair of hits and an RBI. Freeman and McKenney each collected a hit and an RBI in the win. Cochran went six innings, allowing six hits and two earned runs, and striking out 10. For Fairview (1-1), Scott and West each finished with a hit and an RBI.

Good Hope 4 - Falkville 0 (Baseball)

Good Hope hosted Falkville on Tuesday afternoon, and they gave starter Carter Naramore more than enough run support, as the Raiders collected a shutout win over the Blue Devils.

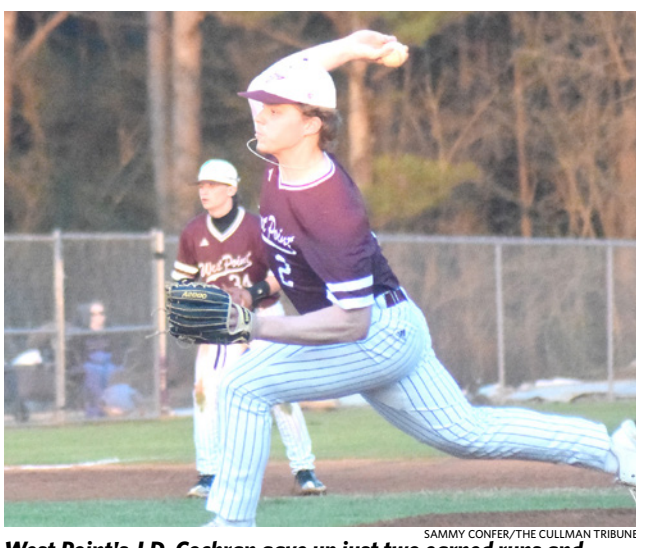
An RBI double by Caden Drake, an RBI single by Brylon Bates, and an RBI fielder's choice by Carter Rutherford in the top of the second helped give Good Hope a 3-0 lead. Parker Johnson scored on a Falkville error in the bottom of the third to give them a 4-0 lead, and that was more than enough support for Naramore. He gave up just three hits, walked five, and struck out nine. Drake finished with a pair of hits and an RBI for the Raiders. Bates added a hit and an RBI, while Rutherford collected an RBI in the win for Good Hope (2-1).

West Point 13 - Cordova 8 (Softball)

After falling on the road to Lawrence County on Monday, West Point returned home on Tuesday to take on Cordova. After falling behind early, their bats got red-hot in a hurry, as a big fifth inning was key for them in their win over the Lady Blue Devils.

The Lady Warriors trailed 4-1 going into the third inning. An RBI single by Katie Beth Yovino made it 4-2, and Macayla Wilkins, along with Yovino, each scored on a Cordova error to tie the game up at four. Cordova quickly took an 8-4 lead in the top of the fourth, but West Point cut it to 8-6 on a sacrifice fly by Cabri Blackwood and an RBI triple by Wilkins. The Lady Warriors batted around in the bottom of the fifth.

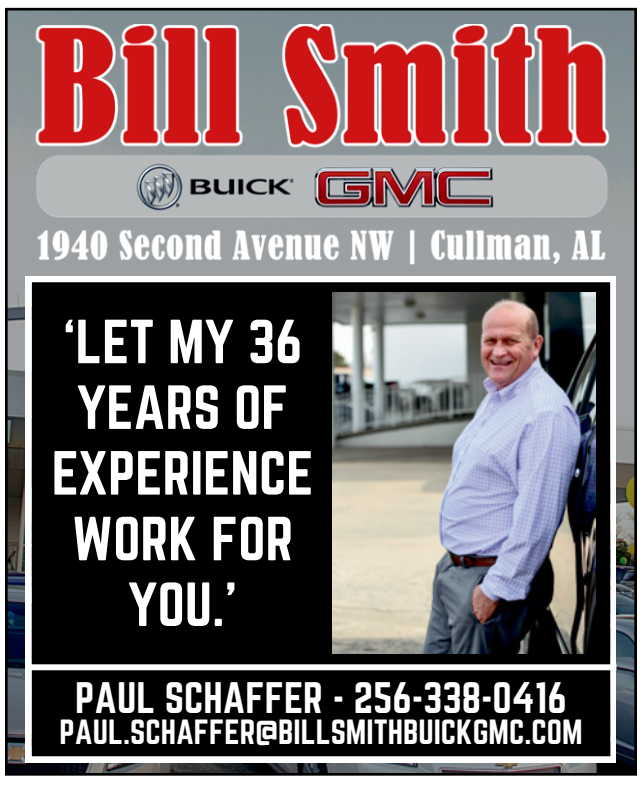
A two-run single by Kara Jones tied the game up at eight, then Kealie Harbison scored on a Lady Blue Devil error to give them a 9-8 lead. Blackwood added an RBI groundout, Macie Brown scored on another Cordova error, and Wilkins hit a sacrifice fly to give West Point a 12-8 lead. Harbison scored on a passed ball in the bottom of the third to make it a 13-8 game, and the Lady Warriors would go on to defeat Cordova 13-8.



SAMMY CONFER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

West Point's J.D. Cochran gave up just two earned runs and struck out 10 in six innings in the Warriors' 6-2 win over Fairview.

Wilkins finished with a pair of hits and two RBIs for West Point (4-1). Jones added a hit and a pair of RBIs. Blackwood collected a pair of RBIs in the contest as well. Yovino ended up with three hits and an RBI, while Brinlee Phillips finished with a pair of hits and an RBI.







Empty Bowls: Good food for a great cause

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Hearin Hall at First United Methodist Church (FUMC) was lined wall to wall with tables and chairs on Monday evening, Feb. 19, each setting marked with an adorably scribbled coloring page from a child in the community; volunteers and staff bustled away in the kitchen preparing hearty chili and crisp grilled cheese sandwiches for the crowd – all for a purpose.

The event, which benefits Cullman Caring for Kids, has been around for nearly two decades, only taking a short hiatus in 2021 and 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The food was prepared by staff and volunteers from FUMC, as well as Cullman Caring For Kids, alongside Three Guys Chili, which has been a big supporter of the benefit throughout its run. Tickets for the meal sold in advance or at the door for $15 each and included a walk through the silent auction, a delicious meal and a one-of-a-kind, hand-thrown pottery bowl, made by Sandra Heaven.

The local potter threw over 1,000 bowls in anticipation of this event, each slightly different than the next.

"We had quite a few businesses order meals for their employees. I think we carried out around 100 meals before (the event started at) 4," said Javon Daniel, senior director at Cullman Caring For Kids. He chuckled, adding, "These are probably some of the best grilled cheese you can find!"

Guests made their way through the line, collecting their feasts, before returning to their selected seats and enjoying their meals. Some chose to indulge in the spicy special before perusing the nearly 300 donated silent auction items that rested against both walls of the main hallway.

Gift cards, coolers, baked goods and knick-knacks were among the auction items, as well as multiple business-donated baskets, which held recipe starters, T-shirts, gift cards, seasonings and more. Stars of the auction were the handful of hand-quilted jackets and bags.

One of the more unorthodox auction items was able to catch Cullman Caring for Kids Executive Director Steven Sutter's eye.

"I know these are things that I don't see in my everyday life," he smiled. "It's a squirrel feeder shaped like a tractor – very, very interesting, very, very neat and very, very cool."

The total raised for the night was not available as of press time, as silent auction winners were still being contacted.



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Teens prepare meals on Monday, Feb. 19, 2024, at the 19th annual Empty Bowls of Cullman County chili dinner.

Cullman City Schools Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff completes AASA National Superintendent Certification Program

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The superintendent of Cullman City Schools, Kyle Kallhoff, has successfully completed the AASA National Superintendent Certification Program administered by AASA, The School Superintendents Association. He is among more than 30 superintendents nationwide to successfully complete the program.

Kallhoff was acknowledged in a graduation ceremony on Feb. 14, 2024, during AASA's National Conference on Education to commemorate the accomplishment.

"I would encourage future-driven and forward-leaning district leaders to consider enrolling in AASA's National Superintendent Certification Program, which is among the best professional learning opportunities I've ever had in my 12 years as a school system superintendent," Kallhoff said.

"This program focuses on a number of key skills that successful superintendents need to thrive.

"In addition to growing professionally as a result of the research-based content, through this program I was able to network with some of the top superintendents in the nation."

The certification process itself is spread across 20 months and tailored specifically for superintendents who have been in the job seven years or fewer, as well as for those seeking to refresh their skill sets.

The forums, seminars and coaching provide opportunities to define and examine issues that surface in real-life situations.

Some key areas of focus include providing world-class instructional leadership; building and managing a district budget; mastering effective communication and political skills; using 21st century technology effectively in instruction and management; managing superintendent/school board relations; and designing a career path for oneself.

The AASA National Superintendent Certification Program is a collaborative effort with AASA, its state affiliates, and business and corporate leaders. The master teachers and guest instructors have all been sitting superintendents and have demonstrable track records of success.



2021 TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Kyle Kallhoff

PET OF THE WEEK

Cuddle Colby forever

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Meet Colby, The Cullman Tribune's Pet of the Week. A perpetual puppy in playfulness, Colby is a low-energy pal and estimated to be 1.5 years old. This Mastiff mix is destined to work his way into a home, life and heart with one swish of his floppy ears.

Colby's tan coat and stocky build give him a tough look, but meeting this huge goofball will quickly show any prospective owner his love and care for the humans.

Positive reinforcement is Colby's love language; don't be surprised if you earn some extra cuddles with Colby after a particularly fun day of hiking, running trails and playing around in wooded valleys or muddy puddles – as long as he is by your side, he wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

Colby has a wonderful sense of confidence and control on a leash, allowing him to learn quickly and easily what is and what is not appropriate for a gentleman. Tricks, he doesn't have many, but welcoming this big boy into your home would be a treat indeed.

Colby is a resident at the Cullman County Animal Shelter located at 935 Convent Road NE. Stop by Monday-Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for a meet and greet.

Colby's adoption fee of $130 includes neuter, DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccine, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet and microchip.



DONNA RUTTKAY

Colby is an approximately 1.5- year-old mastiff mix.

Cullman Tractor Supply to host backyard poultry event Feb. 24

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Tractor Supply is gearing up to host a backyard poultry event on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024. The event will provide customers with an in-depth opportunity to learn how to care for and manage an at-home flock.

"The popularity of raising backyard poultry continues to grow year after year," said Seth Johnson, manager of the Cullman Tractor Supply store.

"Many people love the convenience of getting fresh eggs right from their own backyard but don't know where to start. Our goal is to ensure that anyone who's interested in raising a backyard flock has the resources and information needed to do so."

The poultry event, which runs from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., will feature a number of expert event partners to provide customers with guidance.

Barbara Thayer, team lead orchestrating the event, shared her enthusiasm, "I am super excited to be setting up demos on brooders and chicken coops so that we can educate our customers on how to raise their chickens and add to their current flocks," she said.

"We will have a chick stand to get people to start building their own flocks and raising their own birds, kind of pushing that homestead lifestyle out there."

The event will also offer attendees the chance to engage in Backyard Poultry 101, enjoy giveaways and learn about Basic Poultry Nutrition.

"Backyard Poultry 101 is starting your flock from the ground up. It's getting baby chicks, getting everything they need, and growing them to full-grown layers to provide," Thayer stated.

"We cover all the things it takes to do that. It's the health care, it's the feed, it's the supplements, it's the entertainment for our birds, their environment and their coop."

Thayer emphasized that the event caters not only to beginners, but also to seasoned poultry keepers looking to enhance their setups.

"We have all of their regular poultry needs.

"So, people who already have birds can upgrade their equipment; Feeders, waters, resupply their feeds and supplements.

"We'll also have info and manufacturers' coupons for all of their products. Purina is going to be providing coupons for chicken feed."

The event welcomes all vendors interested in participating, with no set-up fees required. However, vendors must contact Barbara at Cullman Tractor Supply in advance to register.

Food trucks are also invited to join, with several already slated to attend and more slots available.

This event is open to the public and will take place at 1731 Second Ave. SW in Cullman. For more details, reach out to the Cullman Tractor Supply at 256-775-4445.

Cullman Tree Commission announces Arbor Day Poster Contest winners, plans for Festival of Trees

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Tree Commission met Tuesday, with Chairman Barry Slatton, members Edgar Veigl, Jan Barnett, Joel Moon and Rachel Dawsey, and recorder Leanne West present.

The commission discussed the seat vacated by longtime member Peggy Harris, who recently retired. Those interested in serving on the commission should be residents of the city of Cullman and submit their name, address and phone number to the Mayor's Office for consideration.

The commission also announced the winners of the annual Arbor Day Poster Contest:

- Overall winner: Harper Mitchell (Cullman Christian School)

- First-place winners: Mitchell and Kristyn Contreras (Sacred Heart School)

- Second-place winners: Lexi Scheer (Cullman Christian School), Ryan Keough (Sacred Heart School) and Jase Holderfield (St. Paul's Lutheran School)

West announced the City of Cullman was named a Tree City USA for the 36th time. (See separate, full story).

The commission also discussed plans for this year's Festival of Trees. At the recommendation of Commission Consultant Phyllis Hain, planning for the festival will begin earlier than last year.

The Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center was the host of 2023's Festival of Trees; however, the commission is searching for a more accessible viewing area for the 2024 festival.

Last year, only Cullman City Schools could participate in the festive display; a vote was held to allow the Cullman Public Library to participate in this year's festival.

More information will be obtained before the next meeting.

The next meeting date has been changed to Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 10 a.m. at Cullman City Hall.

Leanne West contributed to this article.

Bradberry (from Front)

approved:

- A special event request from Amanda Garrison of Sonic Drive In for a "cruise in" car show each second Friday from March until October on Compass Way Southwest, contingent upon the events not conflicting with the Chamber of Commerce's 2nd Fridays events during the summer

- A special event request from Helen Allen for the annual Relay for Life on April 27, 2024, at Depot Park

- An ordinance to observe the Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday on the third full weekend in each July

- An ordinance to state the penalties and interest for delinquent tax filings in the Code of Ordinances

- A resolution to adopt the city's annual municipal water pollution prevention resolution

The Cullman City Council normally meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 7 p.m. in the City Hall auditorium. The public is invited to attend.

Voss (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City Council on Monday evening, Feb. 19, recognized Mike Voss, recently retired chairman of the City of Cullman Planning Commission, for his 16 years of service to the City on the commission. Voss had served since September 2007, and had been chairman for the last 12 years. He submitted his resignation on Jan. 9, 2024.

Mayor Woody Jacobs presented Voss a resolution noting, in part, that "during Mike's many years of service, his expertise and active participation were invaluable to the Planning Commission's goal of ensuring orderly and sustainable growth, while preserving Cullman's unique character," and "as Chairman Mike presided in a firm but impartial manner over the monthly Planning Commission meetings, building a reputation and a legacy as a well-informed, respected and fair leader with a genuine love for his community."In his own words, Jacobs commended the orderliness of Voss' commission meetings, sharing, "If you've ever attended a planning commission where, maybe, the crowd was a little hostile – and that happens occasionally – Mike was fair, and he would say, 'We want to hear from you, but we're not going to repeat the same thing over and over and over,' and he meant it."

Council President Jenny Folsom told Voss, "Sixteen years on the planning commission is extremely commendable. It's a very important committee, and your service has just been extraordinary. Thank you."

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LEGALS

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned motor vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80, as per Legislative Act 2015-470:

2004 Chrysler PT Cruiser, VIN: 3C8FY68B94T229649
2002 BMW 3 Series, VIN: WBAET37482NG73874
2000 Chrysler Town and Country, VIN: 1C4GP54L3YB561207
2005 Honda Civic, VIN: 2HGES26775H546895
2016 Nissan Rogue, VIN: KNMAT2MT8GP674748
2017 Chevrolet Cruze, VIN: 1G1BC5SM6H7218534
2008 Chevrolet Uplander, VIN:1GNDU23W28D178506
1993 Chevrolet C/K 1500 Series, VIN: 1GCDC14H9PZ188490

These vehicles will be sold on April 5, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. for towing/storage fees if not claimed. Located at Hammock Auto Sales, 17 County Road 406, Cullman, Alabama 35057, 256-775-3754.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF MARGARET GAIL COMPTON, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC 2024-020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Anthony Joe Compton, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Margaret Gail Compton, deceased, on the 20th day of February, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

Anthony Joe Compton
Personal Representative

Melvin Hasting
Attorney for Personal Representative
PO Box 517
Cullman, Alabama 35056

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

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 14
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, ALABAMA, TO EXEMPT CERTAIN "COVERED ITEMS" FROM THE MUNICIPAL SALES AND USE TAX DURING THE "BACK-TO-SCHOOL SALES TAX HOLIDAY" AS AUTHORIZED 40-23-210 THROUGH 40-23-213, CODE OF ALABAMA 1975.

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

Section 1. In conformity with the provisions in 40-23-230 through 40-23-233, Code of Alabama 1975, providing for a State Sales Tax Holiday, the City of Cullman, Alabama, has affirmatively voted to grant the exemption of municipal sales and use taxes on certain purchases covered by 40-23-210 through 40-23-213, *Code of Alabama 1975* during the third full weekend of July 2024, beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 19, 2024 and ending at twelve midnight on Sunday, July 21, 2024 **and continuing each subsequent year thereafter during the same time period as the State's "Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday"** until and unless annual participation in the exemption is rescinded by further action of the council.

Section 2. This ordinance shall be subject to all terms, conditions, definitions, time periods, and rules as provided by 40-23-210 through 40-23-213, Code of Alabama 1975.

Section 3. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to certify a copy of this ordinance under the seal of the City of Cullman, Alabama, and to forward said certified copy to the Alabama Department of Revenue to be recorded and posted on the Department website.

Section 4. This ordinance shall become effective upon its approval and publication as required by law.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 19th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024. /s/Jenny Folsom - President of City Council
ATTESTED BY: /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk
APPROVED this the 19th day of February, 2024. /s/Woody Jacobs – Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 15
THE PENALTIES AND INTEREST FOR DELINQUENT LICENSES AND TAXES IN THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama as follows:

SECTION 1. To add the following section to the Cullman Municipal Code of Ordinances:

Sec. 4-39. - Penalties and interest.

A) All taxes not paid on or before the date they fall due shall be assessed with a penalty of fifteen (15) percent. There shall be assessed a penalty of thirty (30) percent if the license and assessed penalties are not paid within thirty (30) days of the due date.

B) Interest shall be added to any license or other tax levied which is not paid by the due date, subject to Code of Ala. 1975, § 40-23-2.1. The interest shall be computed based on the underpayment rate established in Code of Ala. 1975, § 40-1-44(a).

SECTION 2. Each and every provision of this Ordinance is hereby declared to be an independent provision and the holding of any provision hereof to be void or invalid for any reason shall not affect any other provision hereof and is hereby declared that the other provisions of this Ordinance would have been enacted regardless of any provisions which might have been invalid.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption and approval.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL this the 19th day of February, 2024. /s/Jenny Folsom - President of City Council
ATTESTED BY: /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk
APPROVED this the 19th day of February, 2024. /s/Woody Jacobs – Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 2024 - 16
TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 2022 – 32 DESIGNATING OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA

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

1. That SECTION IV is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

SECTION IV. The following officers of the City, all of which have some level of authority over employees of the City, exercise some discretionary policy making authority, or a portion of their duties is the ability to discharge some portion of the sovereign power of the City, shall be appointed by the majority of the City Council:

A. Police Chief.
B. Fire Chief.
C. Director of Economic Development.
D. Sanitation Superintendent.
E. Street Superintendent.
F. Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent.
G. Water and Sewer Superintendent.
H. Garage Superintendent.
I. Chief Building Official.
J. Director of Risk Management.
K. Director of Information Technology.
L. ROW Maintenance Superintendent.
M. City Engineer.
N. Director (Operations) of Parks and Recreation.
O. Director (Executive) of Parks and Recreation.
P. Director of Human Resources.
Q. Court Clerk.
R. Public Safety Director.

All officers set out in this Section shall serve for one year or until their successors are appointed. All officers set out in this Section shall be directed by the Mayor, and shall report to the Mayor and the designated Committee Chair to keep the Council informed of the operations of their departments. In addition to the normal duties of their respective departments, these officers shall set formal procedures for personal conduct of the employees within their departments not inconsistent with the policies set by the Council and Mayor. All officers set out in this Section are exempt employees (employees at will) and may be removed prior to their term of service without cause by the Council. The Mayor may temporarily suspend or remove any officer, superintendent, chief, or department head in this Section; the suspension or removal of any of the above officials, if sustained by a majority of the Council, shall be final. The Mayor may temporarily fill the vacancy of any office in this Section until a permanent replacement is appointed by a majority of the Council.

3. This Ordinance shall be effective following its passage, approval, and publication as required by law.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this the 19th day of February 2024. /s/Jenny Folsom - President of City Council
ATTESTED BY: /s/Wesley M. Moore - City Clerk
APPROVED this the 19th day of February 2024. /s/Woody Jacobs – Mayor

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF RICHARD WALTER COLLIER, SR., Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC 2024-034

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Richard Walter Collier, Jr., as Personal Representative of the Estate of Richard Walter Collier, Sr., deceased, on the 14th day of February, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

Richard Walter Collier, Jr.
Personal Representative

J. Bradley Wilson
Attorney for the Estate
206 Ninth Street, SW, Suite 102
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of PATRICIA ANN SEYMORE, Deceased.) CASE NO. PC 2024 - 036

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration have been granted to J C Seymore, as Administrator of the Estate of Patricia Ann Seymore, deceased, on the 20th day of February, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, and 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.

J C Seymore

Shay Persall
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 Seventh Street, SW
Cullman AL 35055
(256) 841-7800

Attorney for Administrator

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of publication.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

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Body (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Police Department on Wednesday morning, Feb. 21, located the body of a woman who was reported missing about two hours before.

Police Chief David Nassetta said 69-year-old Gloria Parker was reported missing by her family. "We received the call at 8:12 this morning, and she was located at 10:08 a.m.," he said Wednesday.

Nassetta said Parker was last seen on Friday, Feb. 16, at her home on Scott Street.

"After a brief search in a wooded area around her home, she was located, deceased," Nassetta said. "It is very early in the investigation, but at this time, her death does not appear to be suspicious."

After identifying Parker, he said, "Her body will be sent to Alabama Department of Forensic Science for an autopsy to assist in determining the cause of her death."

More information will be released as it is provided.

LEGALS

PB WIL BK 121 PG 805 - 02/20/2024 11:17 A.
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *

BETTY SUE GARRETT, * CASE NO.: PC2024-011

Deceased. *

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Melinda Kay Garrett, AKA Melinda Belue, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Betty Sue Garrett, deceased. on the 20th 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.

Melinda Kay Garrett, AKA Melinda Belue
Personal Representative

Malcolm S. McLeod
Attorney for Personal Representative
McLeod & Associates, LLC
1980 Braddock Drive
Hoover, Alabama 35226
malcolm@mcleodlaw.net
205-930-1774

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

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Alabama USSSA set to hold umpire clinic in Vinemont Feb. 25

Staff Reports
Contributor

VINEMONT, Ala. — Alabama USSSA Baseball is set to host an umpire clinic in Vinemont, inviting enthusiasts of baseball and softball to enhance their skills and potentially turn their passion into a rewarding yearlong endeavor. The clinic will take place on Sunday, Feb. 25, from 2-5 p.m. at the Vinemont Sports Complex. The clinic will be catered to beginners and those with a deeper understanding of the game.

Participants are encouraged to arrive 15 minutes early and to dress appropriately for the weather, as the clinic will span three hours.

Dee Black, the state director of USSSA, highlighted the increasing demand for umpires, stating, "The world is getting bigger. All 206 cities that play baseball with us have grown 16-20% in baseball. So yeah, there is a big demand."

This surge in interest has led to the construction of additional fields and a heightened need for more well-trained umpires.

Black emphasized the importance of a genuine passion for baseball or softball in prospective officials, saying, "Love for the game. You have got to love the sport that you officiate.

"That's how you get started in sports officiating, you start with the sport you love first."

Black has made it part of his focus to train and enable participants to officiate in the sport they are passionate about first. This approach not only boosts confidence, but also cultivates a dedicated group of officials capable of supporting a variety of sports communities throughout the year.

Addressing potential attendees who might be hesitant, he said, "Come out and learn. There is no reason to be nervous about it.

"If you are willing to learn and be open-minded about it, we are willing to teach you to safely umpire and safely get you home in one piece."

Black's ultimate goal is for the knowledge imparted during the clinic and future officiating to be passed on, fostering a cycle of learning and passion for the game.

"The real truth is, I hope they take what I teach them and teach that to somebody else, that's really ultimately what I want," he added, saying he hopes to ignite the same fervor in new officials that he has carried throughout his involvement in the game.

The clinic will take place at the Vinemont Sports Complex, located at 18293 U.S. Highway 31, Vinemont, AL 35058. For more information, contact Dee Black by call or text at 256-710-2388 or visit the Alabama USSSA Umpire Clinic Vinemont Facebook page.



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Obituary Announcements: Feb. 20-21

Sammie Wilson, Jr., 70
Celebration of Life service for Sammie Wilson, Jr., age 70, will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024, at Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, Colony, AL, with Rev. Willy J. Twitty officiating. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Wilson passed away on Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024, at The Folsom Center. He was born, March 15, 1953, in Connecticut, to Sammie Lee Wilson, Sr. and Mary Lee Wilson. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Carl Wilson and wife, Sharla Wilson. Survivors include a host of children and grandchildren; brothers, Marcelle Rasheed, Calvin Wilson, and Sonny Polk; and family and friends.

Timothy Mark Willis, 64
Funeral service for Timothy Mark Willis, age 64, of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Deon Black and Mike Tidwell officiating; burial at Cullman Heritage Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Willis passed away on Monday, Feb. 19, 2024, at his residence. He was born Thursday, Dec. 3, 1959, in Cullman, Alabama to Vernon Willis and Bonnell Willis. He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife of 44 years, Vanessa Willis; daughter, Michele (Jason) Heaton; son, Robert (Charlene Sorrow) Willis; grandchildren, Blake Heaton, Emilyn Heaton, Cullen Bagwell, and Larson Heaton; sisters, Bonita (Jim) Peppers and Amy (David) Hale; brother, Ronnie (Peggy) Willis; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Vada Christine Smith, 93
Graveside service for Vada Christine Smith, age 93, will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 23, 2024, at Flint Creek Cemetery with Rev. Gary Peebles officiating; burial at Flint Creek Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Smith passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024. She was born Thursday, Sept. 18, 1930, in Lawence Cove, Alabama to Lee Roy Kinney and Gustie Nevada Kinney. She was preceded in death by her husband, Hollis Smith; parents; brother, Armon Kinney; and sister, Marlene Oden. Survivors include her daughter, Janice (Glenn) Campbell; son, Michael (Lee Anne) Smith; grandchildren, Sean Campbell, Matthew Smith, and Ben Brook.

Gloria May Workman, 79
Gloria May Workman, age 79, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024, at Cullman Regional. She was born Sunday, May 21, 1944, in Canada, to Cecil Luscombe and May Luscombe. She was preceded in death by her husband, George Workman and her parents. Survivors include her children, Richard Workman, Rodney Workman, Phyllis (Bill) Ray and Janine Dexter; grandchildren, Kevin Dexter, Morgan Ray, Hunter (Bailey) Ray, Hayden Ray, Emily Workman; great grandchild, Noah Ray, brother, Gary Luscombe and sister, Valerie Wagner. In lieu of flowers please make donations to Quanita M. Welaver Foundation of Hope of 49 Quick School Road, Fayetteville, TN 37334, or www.QMWfoundation.com.

Dorothy Gadbois Holland, 84
Dorothy Gadbois Holland, age 84, of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Monday, Feb. 19, 2024. Dorothy was born in Fall River, Massachusetts and raised in South Pasadena, California. She was preceded in death by her husband Edmund Holland; her father Alexander J. Gadbois and her mother Dorothy C.A. Sherrock Gadbois and brothers Alexander & John Gadbois. Dorothy is survived by her daughter Ann M. Holland. A visitation for Dorothy will be held Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. A rosary service will occur at 7 p.m. Funeral mass will be Friday, Feb. 23, 2024, at 10 a.m., at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The rite of Christian burial will occur Friday, February 23, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery, Ninth Street SE, Cullman, AL 35055. The Family wants to Thank Lifefirst Oncology, Clearview Cancer Institute and Cullman Regional Home Care and the Hospice Programs for their Exceptional Care To leave condolences for the family please visit www.mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

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THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!

Good Hope (from Front)

games.

"We just continued to be us. We applied a ton of pressure. We wanted to get into as fast paced a game as possible with Priceville and we felt like that did nothing but help us out," Aby said.

"So that's what we did and once again we had our community behind us. The fan support was great, so it was a great atmosphere."

Ava McSwain led the Lady Raiders in scoring with 31 points and earned Regional Tournament MVP honors. She posted 61 combined points in the wins over Deshler and Priceville and after going through a slump earlier in the season, she's heating up at the right time.

"I've just been preparing really hard with my team this week," McSwain said. "I kind of went through a slump where my threes weren't falling so, I'm just glad that they've started falling."

Good Hope seniors Ivey Maddox and Bailey Tetro have helped the Lady Raiders to Regional appearances each of the last three seasons and now that they've broken through to the Final Four, they're excited to see what they can do in Birmingham next week.

"It's pretty surreal considering we've been put out the last three years and now that we're heading to Birmingham it's just a great feeling," Maddox said. "It's really special."

"Yeah, it's awesome," Tetro said.

"I'm so glad that I got to experience a win like this with teammates that I've been playing with for four or five years and I'm just excited for what we can do next week and I'm ready to prepare for it."

Good Hope 62 – Priceville 44 (Northwest Regional Championship)

Charly Johnson buried a three from the right corner to give Good Hope a 3-0 lead early in the first quarter. Baskets by Ava McSwain and Ivey Maddox made it a 7-0 game and Maddox sank a pair of free throws midway through the period to make it 9-0.

Bailey Tetro whipped a quick pass into the paint to a cutting McSwain and she laid it in to put the Lady Raiders in front 11-2.

McSwain finished the first quarter strong, scoring six straight points in the final minute of the period to extend Good Hope's lead to 17-2 at the start of the second.

McSwain's scoring run continued into the second quarter with a pair of free throws that made it a 19-2 game.

Heather Tetro knocked down a jumper to give the Lady Raiders a 21-2 lead, but Priceville was able to cut it to 21-8 with just over five minutes to play in the first half.

Bailey Tetro drilled a three from the right corner and McSwain laid another one it to keep Good Hope in front 26-10 midway through the second.

After another McSwain basket, Bailey Tetro hit a pair of free throws to make it a 30-14 game with two minutes remaining in the first half and the Lady Raiders went into the locker room leading Priceville 32-19 at the break.

McSwain's big night continued in the second half. She scored Good Hope's first nine points of the third quarter to keep the Lady Raiders ahead 41-26.

Baskets by Maddox and Bailey Tetro helped maintain a 47-30 lead with less than two minutes to play in the third and Good Hope went into the final frame with a 16-point lead over Priceville.

Maddox scored the first five points of the fourth quarter for Good Hope to make it a 52-33 game and baskets by Bailey Tetro and McSwain kept the Lady Raiders in front 56-38 with four minutes on the clock.

Priceville sent Good Hope to the line to extend the final three minutes, but the Lady Raiders sank five of their final six attempts to put things out of reach and secure a spot in the Final Four with a 62-44 win.

McSwain racked up a game-high 31 points in the win. Maddox finished with 12 and Bailey Tetro posted 11.

Good Hope will now begin preparing for a 4A State Semifinal matchup with Prattville at Legacy Arena in Birmingham Tuesday at 3 p.m.

City (from Front)

Leanne West
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The City of Cullman's 36th Tree City Dedication/Arbor Week Celebration ceremony was held Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024, on the lawn of Cullman City Hall.

Arbor Week Celebration

The ceremony began with Mayor Woody Jacobs proclaiming the week of Feb.18-24, 2024, Arbor Week in the city of Cullman. Arbor Day began in 1872 when J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees. This holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and is now observed throughout the nation and the world. In Alabama, Arbor Week is recognized each year during the last full week of February.

In conjunction with Arbor Week each year, local fifth graders participate in the Arbor Day Poster Contest.

This year's poster contest them was "Trees are Terrific ... in Cities and Towns!" Posters were judged by the Cullman Tree Commission and a first- and second-place poster selected from each participating school.

In addition, an overall winner was selected. This year, West Elementary School, Cullman Christian School, St. Paul's Lutheran School and Sacred Heart Elementary School participated in the contest.

"It's great that kids participate in this poster contest and learn about the role trees play in our cities and towns," said Jacobs. "We appreciate you teachers and parents for encouraging students to participate."

Second-place winners in the poster contest were Lexi Scheer (Cullman Christian), Ryan Keough (Sacred Heart) and Jase Holderfield (St. Paul's). Each of these students received a certificate and a $25 check from Jacobs.

First-place winners in the poster contest were Harper Mitchell (Cullman Christian), Kristyn Contreras (Sacred Heart), Trendyn Thomason (St. Paul's) and Avery Maples (West Elementary). Each of these students received a certificate and a $50 check from Jacobs.

The overall winner this year was Mitchell. Barry Slatton, chairman of the Cullman Tree Commission, presented Mitchell with a beautiful handmade tree-themed quilt. He explained that the quilt was made locally and sponsored by Cullman Savings Bank.

Tree City dedication

Cullman was recently named a Tree City USA for the 36th consecutive year by the Arbor Day Foundation. Cullman achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: having a tree commission, having a tree care ordinance, having an annual community forestry budget of at least $2 per capita and having an annual Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Dan Lambe, president of the Arbor Day Foundation, sent the following statement: "Tree City USA communities see the positive effects of an urban forest firsthand. The trees being planted and cared for by Cullman are ensuring that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life. Additionally, participation in this program brings residents together and creates a sense of civic pride, whether it's through volunteer engagement or public engagement."

Cullman also received the Arbor Day Foundation's Growth Award again this year.

To receive the Growth Award, a community must be recognized as a Tree City USA and earn at least 10 points per calendar year by reaching various milestones and conducting or participating in activities that help build long-term sustainable community forestry.

"With the additional recognition of a Growth Award, your community has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to sustainable urban forestry management," stated Lambe in a letter received by Jacobs last month.

"Over the last few years, the value and importance of trees has become increasingly clear. Cities and towns across the globe are facing issues of air quality, water resources, personal health and well-being, and energy use. Cullman has taken steps to a brighter, greener future."

Forester Mary Claire Smith and Forestry Specialist Jason Downs with the Alabama Forestry Service presented the Tree City USA and Growth Award materials to Jacobs. Included in the materials was a new Tree City flag that will replace last year's flag at Cullman City Hall.



CULLMAN CHRISTIAN

Tree Commission member Joel Moon and Chairman Barry Slatton present a tree-themed quilt to overall winner Harper Mitchell.

"Cullman has always placed an emphasis on planting and caring for trees," stated Jacobs. "A few years back, we planted some blight-resistant chestnut trees at the Palomino RV Park to try to bring back the beauty of those trees that historically grew in Cullman and Cullman County. We will continue to plant and care for our trees in the city of Cullman."

Additional information

Planting trees in an urban space comes with myriad benefits past the recognition of this program.

Urban tree plantings:

- Help reduce energy consumption by up to 25%, which will reduce general energy costs and help with the overall cooling of the city as well.
- Benefit the community, as properly placed trees increase property values from 7-20%.
- Positively affect the local ecosystem by helping clean water and create animal habitats to encourage biodiversity.

To learn more about the Tree City USA program, visit www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA or contact the Arbor Day Foundation at 1-888-448-7337.

To learn more about the Alabama Forestry Commission visit www.forestry.alabama.gov or contact the Cullman office at 256-734-0573. The Cullman office is located at 1527 Sportsman Lake Road NW.

To learn about the FAWN program, visit www.cullmanswcd.com/education or contact the Cullman County Soil & Water Conservation District at 256-734-1431.

More information on forestry and natural resources can also be found at www.aces.edu or by calling the Cullman County Extension Office at 256-737-9386. The Extension Office is located at 402 Arnold St. NE, Suite G-1.

To find out more about the Cullman City Arborist or Tree Commission visit www.cullmanal.gov/depts/trees or contact the Mayor's Office at 256-775-7102 or lwest@cullmanal.gov.