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PARTLY SUNNY

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NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Fairview pulls away to top Falkville 15-5
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Cullman nominated for 'Best Small Town Cultural Scene' in annual USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Awards

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman has been nominated for the USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Awards for Best Small Town Cultural Scene. The annual awards recognize that "Bigger isn't always better, especially when it comes to these 20 small towns, nominated by an expert panel as the best in the country, and each with a population of fewer than 25,000 people. What each lacks in size, it makes up for in culture: museums, art galleries, performing arts, and plenty of events." Cullman is currently in third place.

The contest by the national publication » PAGE 9



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Cullman is in the running for the USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Awards for Best Small Town Cultural Scene.

West Point Middle School dominates 2024 Cullman County Math Tournament



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Members of the West Point Middle School math teams

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The West Point Middle School Warriors are once again the grand champions of middle school math.

The 2024 Cullman County Math Tournament was held Friday, March 8, at Wallace State Community College. West Point's sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade teams placed first. » PAGE 4



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Team winners: Sixth grade, first place: West Point

Cullman Regional Airport receives $4.1M grant for apron reconstruction



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Cullman Regional Airport then General Manager Ben Harrison (center) gives a tour of the airport in 2017. » PAGE 3

Wallace State's Williams, Winfrey, Grant earn ACCC postseason awards



WSCC

Wallace State's Jimmie Williams, Jaden Winfrey and Emariah Grant each earned first team All-ACCC honors this season. » PAGE 7

Hanceville City Council discusses events; community pool set to reopen for summer

» PAGE 9

East, West students enjoy Bearcat Glow Bash

» PAGE 7

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported March 15

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported March 15, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

March. 11

- burglary; SCHOOL HOUSE RD.
- criminal mischief; CR 1657
- interference with public safety communication; CR 792
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; LINDSEY RD.
- violation of protection order; CR 590
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; CR 431
- possession of dangerous drugs; using false identity; LINDSEY RD.

March 12

- assault; Hwy. 69 N
- theft of property; Hwy. 69 S
- reckless endangerment; resisting arrest; disorderly conduct; Hwy. 69 N
- disorderly conduct; Hwy. 157
- theft of property; CR 1145
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1422
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 157
- unauthorized use of motor vehicle; CR 34
- domestic violence; criminal mischief; CR 1159

March 13

- harassment; Hwy. 157
- assault; CR 518
- harassment; CR 368
- domestic violence; criminal mischief; CR 1101
- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 1753
- harassment; CR 1699
- violation of protection order; CR 569
- theft of property; CR 515
- assault; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

March 11 – March 13

Black, April Dawn; 52
- FTA - possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)

Brant, Jared Lee; 45
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Browning, Amy Anne; 34
- making false report to law enforcement authority

Bryan, Staci Lynn; 47
- interference with public safety communication

Chance, Natalie Kay; 62
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Cunningham, Trey Joseph; 25
- FTA - driving while suspended, revoked, or cancelled

Enos, Courtney Nicole; 32
- larceny/theft-theft from residence

Freeman, Lee Earnest Jr; 33
- FTA – drivers license – not in possession
- FTA – expired tag (3 counts)
- FTA - operating vehicle without insurance (3 counts)

Garrett, James Eugene; 26
- probation violation - burglary-non-residence-no force

Grey, Jeremy Brian; 53
- larceny/theft-miscellaneous

Hamby, Jamey Lee; 39
- GJ - murder – reckless
- GJ - driving under the influence (alcohol)
- GJ - driving while suspended, revoked, or cancelled
- GJ - exceeding reasonable road speed

Hargrave, Kyle Andrew; 29
- FTA - possession of methamphetamine
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia

Holland, Glennon Wynn Jr; 41
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia

Hyatt, Jake Eugene; 34
- probation violation - possession of dangerous drugs

Jernigan, Coby Donel; 23
- larceny/theft-firearms (2 counts)

Lee, Alfred Van; 41
- public intoxication

Mcclellan, Michael Preston; 25
- possession of methamphetamine
- obstructing justice using a false identity

Mckinney, Michael Scott; 55
- FTA - possession of dangerous drugs

Mcneff, Elizabeth Rene; 35
- possession of dangerous drugs

Moore, Christina Johnson; 46
- disorderly conduct
- resisting arrest

Nix, Bobby Warren; 59
- FTA - possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Owens, Damon Michael; 44
- public intoxication

Schonberger, Holland Nicole; 26
- probation violation - assault-child abuse-simple-family

Steel, Thomas June; 34
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Sturgeon, Rachel Nicole; 35
- FTA – negotiating worthless instrument
- FTA - possession of dangerous drugs

Thompson, Antonio Roc; 26
- assault-aggravated assault police officer-other weapon
- resisting arrest
- reckless endangerment
- escape
- criminal trespass
- disorderly conduct

Villa, Patricia Dee; 42
- probation violation - assault-child abuse-simple-family (2 counts)
- probation violation – possession of stolen property
- FTA - assault-domestic-simple assault-family
- FTA – no seat belt
- FTA - driving while suspended, revoked, or cancelled

Williams, Brenda Joan; 74
- assault-domestic-menacing-gun
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Winfrey, Bryon Oneal; 51
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

March 7
- theft of property – 3rd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $173; Olive St. SW

March 8
- leaving the scene; person; damage to '12 Chev. Silverado; $600; 2nd St. SW

March 11
- criminal mischief – 2nd degree; Red Roof Inn; damaged property; Hwy. 157
- theft of property – 3rd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $323; Hwy. 157

March 12
- harassing communications; person
- theft of property – 1st degree; person; cash; $19,860
- theft of property – 4th degree; DJ Plaza LLC; cash; $50
- theft of property – 3rd degree; Lowes; miscellaneous; $684; Cherokee Ave. SW
- fraudulent use of debit/credit card; person

March 13
- theft of property – 3rd degree; person; phone; $1200; Tallyho St. SW
- theft of property – 3rd degree; person; miscellaneous; $1000; Lakehill St. NW

March 14
- forgery – 3rd degree; person; forged check;
- forgery; person; forged document;
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; person; Edgewood Dr. NW

ARRESTS

March 12 – 14

Hyatt, Tabitha B; 44
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree

Moore, Christina J; 46
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree

Anders, Shaun D; 33
- FTA - driving while license suspended

Williams, Eva N; 33
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Villa, Patricia D; 42
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree

Uselton, Johnathan S; 32
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)
- attempt to elude
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- criminal trespass-3rd degree
- expired tag

Polson, Marissa B; 28
- public intoxication

Davis, John W; 21
- unlawful possession/receiving controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- filing false report

Tucker Jr., Timothy W; 45
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

ALDOT to repair approaches to 2 bridges over I-65 in Morgan County

Staff Reports
Contributor

MORGAN COUNTY, Ala. — ALDOT will repair the approaches to two bridges carrying local roads over Interstate 65 in Morgan County in the coming weeks. Motorists should expect around-the-clock closures of the Parker Road and Bethel Road bridges and approaches for about three days each while work takes place.

Weather permitting, crews will begin repairing the approaches to the Parker Road overpass at 8 a.m. Monday, March 18.

ALDOT anticipates reopening the road by 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 20.

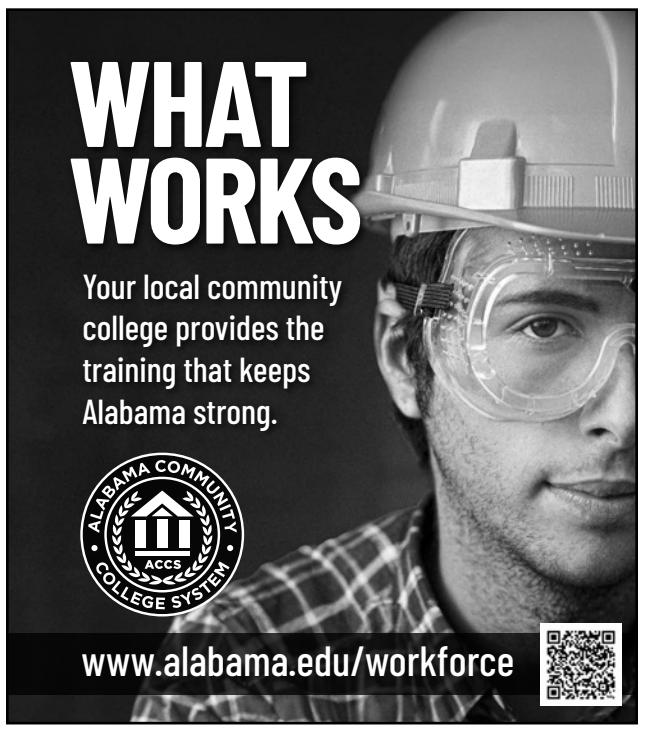
ALDOT plans to start repairs near the Bethel Road overpass the following Monday, March 25, and reopen the road on or about Wednesday, March 27.

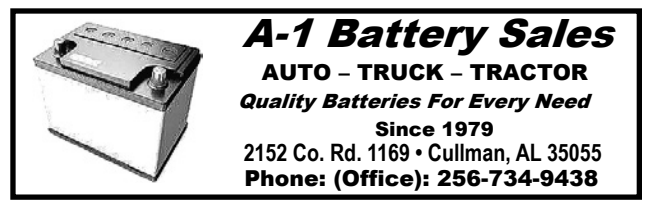
For each repair, crews will erect barricades in the vicinity of the bridges and position message boards to advise motorists of the temporary road closures.

Motorists should use alternate routes.

The work is limited to the county/city roads, and no impacts to traffic on I-65 are expected.













COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Public Notice
Mt. Zion Cemetery: Please remove all ground flowers/decorations from graves at Mt. Zion Cemetery at Vinemont (Highway 31) for spring cleaning and mowing.

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, March 16 – 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank
• Sunday, March 17 - 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, March 17 - 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 after service.
• Sunday, March 17 - A call to prayer at 2:30 p.m.! All welcome and invited.

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.

HUGE BOOK SALE at the Hanceville Public Library
Saturday, March 16. Sale begins about 8:30 a.m. All books are 50 cents each. You are welcome to come purchase books at any time. We have a good selection of children's books up to preteens. All proceeds go to our children's programs.

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.

Fairview Lions Club Soup and Chili Supper
Saturday, March 16, from 4-7 p.m. at Fairview Town Hall, 7525 Alabama Highway 69 N. Your choice of several kinds of soup or chili, cornbread or crackers and a drink for $8. All proceeds will go to the Fairview Lions Club project fund. For more information call Kita Chambers at 256-385-8805 or William Criscoe at 256-385-5596.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Singing, Revival
We will have a "Redback Church Hymnal" singing on Sunday, Saint Patrick's Day, March 17, at 5 p.m. All churches are welcome. We will be having our spring revival the week of April 7. Services will be Sunday, April 7, at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., and Monday-Wednesday, April 8-10 at 7 p.m. The evangelist will be Brother Jared Dixon. Everyone is invited. 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.

Lenten Fish Fry Dinner at Sacred Heart of Jesus Family Life Center
Friday, 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.

East Point Cumberland Presbyterian Church Easter Family Fun Day
Saturday, March 23, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Activities include games, bouncy house, egg hunt and lunch. Bring an Easter basket and enjoy free fun for the whole family! 1441 U.S. Highway 278 E, Cullman.

Grace Café Reopening!
Enjoy a free lunch with no strings attached, 11:30-12:30 every fourth Wednesday. On March 27, join Cullman's professionals, retirees, office workers, craftsmen and unemployed for a BBQ chicken plate, homemade desserts and singing with the Arnold Street Band. Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St. NE, Cullman.

Suspect in Tuesday's high-speed chase arrested, identified

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com


CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Antonio Roc Thompson

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) was involved in an incident that started at Parkside School Tuesday, March 12, and became a high-speed pursuit that ended in Morgan County a short time later.

Sheriff Matt Gentry said the incident started at Parkside when the school resource officer attempted to arrest a subject who was causing issues at the school.

"The subject resisted and ultimately fled in a vehicle, Gentry said Tuesday. "This led to an extended car pursuit that ended in Morgan County after multiple agencies joined in the pursuit in order to make the arrest."

On Friday, March 15, Gentry identified the suspect as Antonio Roc Thompson, 27, of Blountsville. He was arrested and charged with resisting arrest, aggravated assault, reckless endangerment, escape, trespassing and disorderly conduct.

According to the CCSO, the incident began just prior to school letting out Tuesday, and Thompson was apprehended in Morgan County at about 3:50 p.m. The event lasted, in total, approximately one hour.

Thompson is currently being held in the Cullman County Detention Center on a $23,100 bond.

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Grant (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Regional Airport has received a congressional allocated grant in the amount of $4,177,000 for apron reconstruction. This funding is through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Grants-in-Aid for Airports program which was included in the federal funding bill. Cullman Regional Airport's was one of only six grants received in the state of Alabama under this funding allocation.

"We appreciate Senator Katie Britt and her commitment to airport safety and infrastructure.

"She and her staff worked diligently to secure this funding for the airport, which is a key component of transportation and economic development for Cullman City, County and the region," said Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs, president of the Cullman Regional Airport Board.

Airport Director Ben Harrison said, "The receipt of this grant will allow the apron project to be built as one large construction project instead of being phased over several years which would disrupt the follow of traffic at the airport. We are so thankful for this allocation."

Cullman Regional Airport is a joint venture between Cullman County and the City of Cullman. Boasting a 5,500-foot runway and numerous corporate hangars and t-hangars, the airport is heavily utilized and plays a major role in Cullman's economic success.

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Tournament (from Front)



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Team winners: Sixth grade, second place: Hanceville



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Team winners: Sixth grade, third place: Vinemont



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Team winners: Seventh grade, first place: West Point



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Team winners: Seventh grade, second place: Cold Springs



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Team winners: Seventh grade, third place: Hanceville



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Team winners: Eighth grade, first place: West Point



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Team winners: Eighth grade, second place: Good Hope



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Team winners: Eighth grade, third, place: Fairview



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Individual top 10 - Sixth grade: 1. Adon Graves, Hanceville; 2. Gracie Horton, West Point; 3. Ethan Davis, West Point; 4. Asher Kirkpatrick, Good Hope; 5. Colt Ashley, West Point; 6. John-Luke Guthrie, West Point; 7. Elijah Wilhite, West Point; 8. Mackenzie Phillips, Vinemont; 9. Canaan Thrower, West Point 10. Kylee McNeely, Hanceville



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Individual top 10 - Seventh grade: 1. Colin Cooner, West Point; 2. Abram Moote, West Point; 3. Jaxon Smith, Cold Springs; 4. Sam Hembree, Hanceville; 5. Thatcher Armstrong, West Point; 6. Lola Haynes, Fairview; 7. Carson Duke, West Point; 8. Mason Wright, Hanceville; 9. Harley Long, Harmony; 10. Olivia Wells, West Point



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Individual top 10 - Eighth grade: 1. Lezli Echeverria, West Point; 2. Ava Pruett, Fairview (tied for second); 3. Eduardo Rodriguez, Fairview (tied for second); 4. Boston Nunnelley, West Point; 5. Rylan Quick, Good Hope; 6. Carson Cain, Hanceville; 7. Kimberly Gentry, West Point; 8. Jax Rodgers, West Point; 9. Audrey Blocker, Holly Pond; 10. Zeke Spradlin, West Point

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NATURAL GAS UTILITY WORKERS' DAY

Cullman-Jefferson Counties Gas District Celebrates Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day on March 18, 2024.

Cullman-Jefferson Counties Gas District Celebrates Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day on March 18, 2024. This is the ninth year in which Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day has been officially celebrated across the country. This day of recognition is a time when communities such as ours give recognition to the employees who provide one of their most valuable assets—their natural gas utility.

The official Gas Utility Workers' Day is March 18 because that is the date of the New London, Texas school explosion in 1937 that led to the widespread odorization of natural gas and an increased emphasis on safety. Safety is a vital aspect to natural gas distribution and the employees of distribution companies endeavor to make natural gas delivery as safe as possible.

This annual nationwide event is intended to build public awareness about the hard work done by the employees of natural gas utilities. Our customers recognize the need to access reliable, affordable, safe energy and depend on the service of natural gas utility employees for that need.

Cullman-Jefferson Counties Gas District looks forward to continuing to bring safe, reliable natural gas into your homes and businesses. We also hope you join us in supporting natural gas as a premier energy source for our country. As the cleanest burning fossil fuel, natural gas can help us achieve energy security and build a more competitive economy.

If you would like to learn more about the benefits of natural gas and how your natural gas system works, please contact us at (256)734-1911.

Spring Showcase draws hundreds of high school students to Wallace State

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Over 1,100 10th-grade students descended on the campus of Wallace State Community College for the annual Spring Showcase this week. The event gave sophomores from eight area high schools the opportunity to explore the various Liberal Arts, Applied Technology, Health and STEM programs available at the college.

"We are delighted to host area students for this event each year, and to provide them an introduction to our campus and the many opportunities Wallace State offers," said Kristen Holmes, Vice President for Students.

Stacey Sivley, Director of Dual Enrollment and Recruiting at Wallace State, said the event plays an important role in helping high school students explore the different career opportunities available to them.

"The Spring Showcase is a chance for high school students in our area to discover various paths they might not have considered before," said Sivley.

"This event plays an important role in getting students excited about the opportunities available in our area, and we are always grateful to host them here at Wallace State."

Cold Springs, Hanceville, Vinemont, Holly Pond, Good Hope, Fairview, West Point and Hayden High Schools visited the Showcase.

R.J. Means from West Point said he enjoyed meeting with instructors in the Wallace State Horticulture program.

"I am thinking about going into landscaping, so it was really interesting to hear from the instructors here about what they do," said Means. "The event today was good, and I enjoyed it."

To begin the day, students arrived at the Garlan Gudger, Sr. Student Center where entertainment was provided by groups from the Wallace State Fine and Performing Arts program.

Students then toured the Simulation Center in the School of Nursing and Center for Science to visit with each of the Health Science programs offered by the college. Inside the building's Peinhardt Conference Center, students got the chance to style mannequins' hair with the Salon and Spa Management program, draw on a large posterboard provided by the Graphic Arts and Design program, eat snacks prepared by the Culinary Arts program and meet with instructors from the Computer Science, Paralegal and Business programs. Instructors from the Engineering Technology, Construction Management, Industrial Electronic Technology and Criminal Justice programs also gave presentations in adjoining classrooms.



WALLACE STATE

Students learn to move an X-Ray table from Diagnostic Imaging students.

In the Center for Welding Technology and Innovation Center, students learned the difference between TIG and MIG welds, saw plants grown by the Wallace State Horticulture program, checked out refrigeration schematics from the HVAC program, felt parts fabricated by the Machine Tool Technology program and saw an excavator, skid steer and racecar provided by the Advanced Automotive Technology and Diesel Technology programs.

Priority registration for summer and fall semesters will begin April 1.

Summer 2024 classes begin May 22. For more information, visit www.wallacestate.edu, call 256-352-8000 or come by Lion Central in the lobby of the James C. Bailey Center Monday-Wednesday 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Thursdays 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or Fridays 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MARCH 16, 2024

PREP BASEBALL

Fairview pulls away to top Falkville 15-5

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — After handling Cleveland on the road 10-3 Monday, Fairview was back at home at Mark Moore Field Thursday night for a matchup against Falkville. The Blue Devils struck first, taking a 1-0 lead in the top of the first but the Aggies answered with a pair of runs in the bottom of the first and four more in the second to build an early lead. Falkville was able to get a few more runs on the board in the next few innings but couldn't keep pace with Fairview's bats and the Aggies improved to 10-3 on the season with a 15-5 win over the Blue Devils.

Nicolas Gregory and Connor Scott led off the bottom of the first with back to back singles. Both of them advanced on an error and Lucas West drove in Gregory with a sacrifice fly to tie the game at 1.

A couple pitches later, Isaac Elrod grounded out to second, allowing Scott to score and giving Fairview a 2-1 lead going into the second inning.

Falkville tied the score at 2 in the top half of the second, but the Aggies moved back in front in their half of the inning. Scott smoked an RBI single into right field to plate Carson Jones and put Fairview in front 3-2 and two pitches later, another sac fly off the bat of West drove in Gregory to make it 4-2.

An error allowed Scott to score on the next pitch and Colton Jennings sent an RBI double into right field to push Elrod across the plate and give the Aggies a 6-2 lead going into the third.

West drew a walk with the bases loaded to keep Fairview ahead 7-3 in the third and in the fourth, Jennings scored on an RBI groundout from Caden Barrett and Bryceson Turner scored on a wild pitch to make it a 9-3 game.

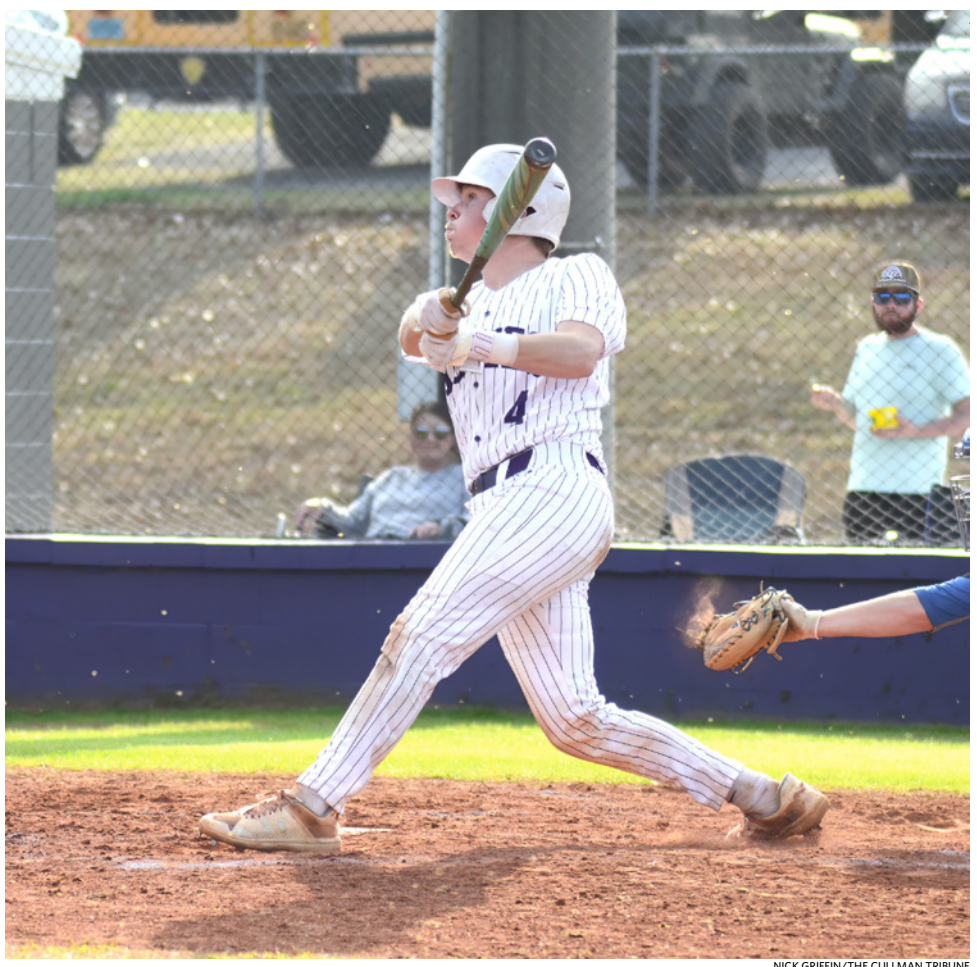
The Blue Devils tacked on a pair of runs in the top of the fifth, but the Aggies responded with two more in the bottom half of the inning thanks to an RBI single by West and an RBI double off the bat of Elrod.

Falkville loaded the bases in the top of the sixth, but the Aggies got out of the jam and added to their lead in the bottom half of the inning. Barret York knocked a triple into center field to push Kolt Redding and Barrett across the plate and two pitches later, Gannon Black punched an RBI single through the six hole to bring in York and make it 14-5.

The Aggies decided to wrap things up early, loading the bases to put pressure on the Blue Devils' defense and an error allowed Black to score and cap a 15-5 win for Fairview.

West (one hit) finished with four RBIs in the win and Elrod (one hit) drove in three more. Scott (one RBI) posted three hits and Gregory, Turner and Redding each added a pair of hits for the Aggies. York (one hit) recorded two RBIs.

Fairview is scheduled to host Dora Saturday at 11 a.m.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Fairview catcher Lucas West led the Aggies with four RBIs in their 15-5 win over Falkville Thursday.

PREP BASEBALL

Hanceville falls to J.B. Pennington 11-9, Thursday scoring recap

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — After picking up a pair of wins against Fultondale on Tuesday, the Hanceville Bulldogs looked to continue that momentum on Thursday afternoon against J.B. Pennington. However, a late rally from the Tigers in the seventh inning proved to be the difference in the game as they ended up getting past the Bulldogs 11-9.

J.B. Pennington got on the scoreboard in their opening at-bats on a Hanceville error, but the Bulldogs countered in their half. Jake Cornelius and Cody Blecher each hit back-to-back singles to lead off the inning and later that inning, an RBI single by Jackson Cleveland tied the game up at one. An error loaded the bases with one out, then a bases-loaded walk gave Hanceville a 2-1 lead. Cleveland scored on a fielder's choice, then during that play, an error allowed Tripp Lewis to score to make it 4-1. The Tigers cut it to 4-3 in the top of the second on another Bulldog error.

A passed ball in the top of the fourth helped J.B. Pennington tie the game at four. The Tigers added two more runs in the top of the fifth to take a 6-4 lead, but as quick as a flash, though, Hanceville got something going in their half. They loaded the bases with one out, then an RBI groundout by Lewis and an RBI single by Hunter Black tied the game up at six. The Bulldogs looked to get the lead in the bottom of the sixth. Pinch-hitter Gabriel Ognilla hit a two-out triple to right field and scored on a wild pitch to give them a 7-6 lead. The Bulldogs loaded the bases again, then Nelson Arteaga got hit by the pitch to make it 8-6.

The Tigers, though, responded with a two-out rally in the top of the seventh. A two-run double, a two-run single, and an error gave them an 11-8 lead. Hanceville looked for some late-game heroics of their own. Luke Brown hit a two-out double and later scored on a wild pitch to cut it to 11-9, but a groundout ended the game, and the Bulldogs dropped a heartbreaker to J.B. Pennington 11-9.

Black finished with a hit and two RBIs for Hanceville (9-3). Cleveland (two hits) and Lewis (one hit) each added an RBI, while Arteaga, Dalton Pirkle, and Grayson Hurter each collected an RBI in the loss.

Curry 13 - Cold Springs 3 (Baseball)
Cold Springs loaded the bases with one out in their opening at-bats, and Cole Bales scored on a Curry error to give them the early lead. The Yellow Jackets quickly responded in their half, scoring three runs to take a 3-1 lead. They added four more in the bottom of the second and five more in the fourth to take a 12-1 lead. An RBI double by Lindan Hill and an RBI single by Matt Williams made it 12-3, but Curry put up their final run of the game in their half as they ended up defeating Cold Springs 13-3.

Hill and Williams each finished with a hit and an RBI for Cold Springs (3-9), and Bales added a hit of his own in the loss.

Sumiton Christian 12 - Cold Springs 0 (Softball)
It was all Sumiton Christian from the start in their game against Cold Springs as they scored all of their runs in the first three innings and ended up collecting a shutout win over the Lady Eagles.

Ciara Calvert and Cameron Baty collected the only hits of the game for Cold Springs (2-4).

Fairview 15 - Vinemont 6 (Softball)
Both teams went into the top of the third inning tied up at two. Fairview, though, quickly broke that tie that inning. Kylie Kovar hit an RBI double, then later scored on a Vinemont error to give them a 4-2 lead. Allison Davis followed that up with a two-run home run to make it 6-2, but the Eagles countered in their half.

Arleigh Thomason hit a leadoff double and later scored on a Fairview error to cut it to 6-3, then later that inning, another error allowed Maci Smith to score to make it 6-4. An RBI single by Brooklyn Knott and another error allowed Haley Millwood to cross the plate to help tie the game up at six.

The Lady Aggies broke the tie in the top of the fourth. Kovar and Ayda Payne both scored on an error, and Addison Phillips scored on a passed ball to give them a 9-6 lead. Fairview broke the game wide open in their next at-bats, scoring five times, with four of them coming via home run. A three-run shot by Payne was followed by a solo home run by Phillips to make it 14-6, then in the sixth inning, Emily Benson added an RBI double to help stretch their lead to 15-6.

Payne finished with the three-run home run for Fairview (8-3). Kovar (three hits) and Davis (two-run home run) each added two RBIs. Benson and Phillips each collected a pair of hits and an RBI in the win. For Vinemont (0-6), Knott finished with a pair of hits and an RBI. Thomason, Millwood, Katelyn Evans and Brinlee Pair each collected a hit in the loss.

Priceville 11 - Good Hope 4 (Softball)
Priceville scored a pair of runs in the home half of the first inning to take the early 2-0 lead. Good Hope cut it to 2-1 on a two-out RBI double by Addyson Burgess in the top of the second, but the Lady Bulldogs put up two more runs in their half to take a 4-1 lead.

Priceville added three more runs in the third to make it 7-1. Good Hope cut into the deficit in the top of the fourth as Molly Benefield scored on a Priceville error, and Carley Adams added a two-run double to make it a 7-4 game. The Lady Bulldogs, though, didn't let them get any closer after that as they scored two runs in the fifth and the sixth inning to take the game 11-4.

Adams finished with a hit and two RBIs for Good Hope (4-2). Burgess added a hit and an RBI. Lizzy Steed and Campbell Koch each ended up with a pair of hits, while Haley Lay and Kynzlee Garmon each posted a hit in the loss.



ST. BERNARD PREP

Nelson Arteaga (15) struck out 11 batters in 6.1 innings pitched against J.B. Pennington Thursday.

Good Hope 11 - Holly Pond 3 (Baseball)
A sacrifice fly by Brody Howard put Holly Pond on the scoreboard first in their opening at-bats. Good Hope got on the scoreboard in the bottom of the second. William Cordes scored on an error, Dakota Overton hit an RBI groundout, and Colbi Kilpatrick added an RBI single to give them a 3-1 lead. The Broncos cut it to 3-2 in the top of the third on an RBI single by Kollin Brown, but the Raiders made it 4-2 in their half on a sacrifice fly by Brady Stripling.

Good Hope added four more runs in the fourth on a wild pitch, a sacrifice fly by Ayden Black, and a two-run single by Carter Naramore. Holly Pond cut it to 8-3 in the top of the fifth on a Raider error. Good Hope added to their lead in the sixth inning. An RBI single by Caden Drake, and a two-run single by Naramore pushed their lead to 11-3, and the Raiders would go on to defeat the Broncos 11-3.

Naramore finished with a pair of hits and four RBIs for Good Hope (7-4). Kilpatrick added a pair of hits and an RBI, while Black (one hit), Drake (one hit), Stripling (one hit) and Dakota Overton each collected an RBI in the win. For Holly Pond (1-9), Brown finished with a hit and an RBI. Howard added an RBI, while Boston Gibbs and Luis Arreguin each added a hit in the loss.

Hanceville 15 - Dora 10 (Softball)
Hanceville struck first in their opening at-bats on a two-run home run by Isabella Spinks, but Dora put up three runs in their half to take a 3-2 lead. Hanceville loaded the bases with one out in the top of the second, and Kynzlee Farr ended up hitting a two-run double to give them a 4-3 lead.

Lakin McBee added a sacrifice fly later that inning to make it 5-3. Hanceville made it 6-3 in the top of the third on an RBI single by Karrigan Pipkin; she added a three-run triple in the fourth to push their lead to 9-3.

Dora put up three runs in their half to cut it to 9-6, but Hanceville looked to widen their lead in the fifth. Farr hit an RBI triple and later scored on an error to make it 11-6.

Dora made it 11-7 in their half on an error, but Hanceville broke the game wide open in their half. Spinks hit a bases-clearing double, and Katelyn Twilley added an RBI single to make it 15-7.

Dora made it 15-10 on a stolen base, but Spinks struck out the next hitter to end the game, and Hanceville ended up getting a big win on the road against Dora 15-10.

Spinks finished with four hits and five RBIs for Hanceville (4-10). Pipkin added three hits and four RBIs. Farr finished four-for-four with three RBIs. Twilley ended up with a hit and an RBI, while McBee collected an RBI in the win.

Vinemont 7 - Brewer 4 (Baseball)
Vinemont quickly got their offense going in their opening at-bats. The Eagles loaded the bases with two outs, then Owen McKinney promptly unloaded them with a bases-clearing double to give them a 3-0 lead. Brewer put up a pair of runs in their half to cut it to 3-2 and scored on an error in the second to tie the game up at three. Vinemont broke the tie in the top of the sixth inning.

Jaxon Holcomb hit a leadoff single and later scored on an error to give the Eagles a 4-3 lead. Later that inning, Hayden Robinson scored on a wild pitch, and Jordan Eller added a sacrifice fly to make it 6-3.

Michael Foust scored on a passed ball to increase the Vinemont lead to 7-3 in the top of the seventh. The Patriots hit a leadoff home run in their half, but Brady Johnson retired the side after that to help seal the 7-4 win for the Eagles.

McKinney led the way for Vinemont (13-3) with a hit and three RBIs, while Robinson and Eller each added an RBI in the win.

Auburn research examines feasibility of hydroponic strawberry production

Paul Hollis
Contributor

AUBURN, Ala. — Fresh Alabama strawberries in November, December, January and February?

It's not as far-fetched as it may sound. In fact, research taking place at the Auburn University Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station (AAES) is showing great promise in growing strawberries in alternative production systems, including hydroponics.

"Our research program combines physiological knowledge with modeling approaches to develop decision-support tools to understand the plant's physiological responses to environmental stress and climate variability," said Melba Salazar-Gutierrez, assistant professor of horticulture in the College of Agriculture and researcher with AAES.

"Currently, we are studying a broad range of topics on fruit crops, including blueberries, strawberries, peaches and watermelons, some of which are grown in conventional systems while others, like blueberries and strawberries, are grown in alternative production systems such as containers, high tunnels, greenhouses and the combination of greenhouse and hydroponics," Salazar-Gutierrez said.

In Alabama, small fruit production — including strawberry production — is increasing. And since strawberries are a relatively new production crop for Alabama, there is little research dedicated to it.

In 2017, it was estimated that Alabama had 111 acres of strawberry production valued at $339,000, but it has the potential to expand as new methods and technologies for growing become available, Salazar-Gutierrez said.

"The goal of the hydroponic strawberry project is to assess the feasibility of cultivating strawberries in a controlled environment," she said.

Hydroponics is a type of horticulture that involves growing crops without soil by using water-based mineral nutrient solutions. Production usually occurs in a controlled environment, such as a greenhouse.

"Our research aims to understand and model the whole plant physiology, including phenological stages, growth development and yield, to develop models for decision support tools that address farmers' and industry needs," Salazar-Gutierrez said.

"We also hope to reduce the use of pesticides for management practices, implement IPM strategies to monitor and control pests using biological controls, and introduce beneficial organisms such as predatory insects to naturally control pests."

Another goal of the research is to strategically exploit the advantages of hydroponics to shift and extend the traditional strawberry cultivation season in Alabama, she said.

"We want to achieve strawberry production during non-traditional months such as November, December, January and February," Salazar-Gutierrez said. "This extension of the growing season can add value for growers in terms of market advantage and diversifying the availability of fresh strawberries. It also will help meet consumer demand outside the typical production period in Alabama, which traditionally occurs from March to June."

The demand for strawberries is high due to several factors, Salazar-Gutierrez said. Strawberries are considered a nutrient-rich superfood and rank among the top 20 fruits that are high in antioxidants. Additionally, strawberries are a great source of many vitamins, minerals and other beneficial compounds.

"Consumers also prefer locally sourced produce, and they place a high value on the reduction of pesticide use in production, she said."

While the primary aim of the project is to evaluate the possibility of growing strawberries in an alternative system, researchers also want to create a model to help understand the physiological process of the crop under greenhouse conditions.

"Additionally, we want to provide information that can be used by farmers who are interested in growing strawberries in greenhouses and hydroponics," Salazar-Gutierrez said.

"Globally, progress is being made in this type of production system to help meet the worldwide food demand."

The research itself involves growing two day-neutral strawberry cultivars, "Albion" and "San Andreas." These cultivars were planted in September 2022 at the AAES Plant Science Research Center at Auburn University to evaluate the feasibility of the crop being grown under hydroponic conditions. A new cycle of the same cultivars was planted in September 2023. After this crop cycle, a new one will be planted this fall.

Measurements, including photosynthesis, phenology, growth and development are being conducted.

"Further evaluations have been performed for fruit quality, yield and dry matter accumulations to completely know these cultivars' performance," Salazar-Gutierrez said. "In addition, weather data in the greenhouse was collected to evaluate the influence of climatic conditions on plant performance for later model development. We have now begun the second year of data collection."



AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Auburn University Assistant Professor Melba Salazar-Gutierrez (right) and Ph.D. student Maverick Mariquit pick hydroponically grown strawberries at the AAES Plant Science Research Center at Auburn University.

This study is the first of its kind at Auburn University, she said, so results will be of significant help to Alabama growers by providing relevant information on strawberry cultivation under protected environments.

When growing strawberries in an open field, soil quality, water use, pesticide application, climate management, space (land) and field cultivation are subject to seasonal variations, limiting the availability of fresh strawberries to specific times of the year, Salazar-Gutierrez said.

"At this point in the research, we have found that it is possible to grow strawberries using hydroponics," she said.

"We began our second year of planting this past September, but it is still too early to provide specific recommendations. As this is a research project, we still have much to evaluate. This includes not only the production of the strawberries but also conducting a sensory panel and nutritional analysis.

"We plan to conduct further research to identify the investment required, which can be high but can start at a small scale. This alternative can be tried for out-of-season production when prices are typically high."

Results of the research, Salazar-Gutierrez said, will be shared through a variety of methods, include peer-reviewed publications.

"In addition, we will also share preliminary information during growers' meetings," she said. "We recognize the importance of providing a complete picture to growers, and as such, we will work closely with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System to ensure that our findings, including the advantages and disadvantages, are communicated effectively."

Support for the research project has come from an Auburn University College of Agriculture-AAES seed grant as well as an aquaponics grant from the USDA. As more data becomes available, researchers will apply for federal grants to help support their work.

ACCC (from Front)

Special to the Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College basketball players Jimmie Williams, Jaden Winfrey and Emariah Grant were each recognized by the Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) with postseason awards announced this week for Division I. Postseason awards are voted on by ACCC coaches.

Williams, a freshman guard from Cleveland, Ohio, was named to the men's First Team, while Lady Lions sophomore guards Winfrey, of Cullman, and Grant, of Huntsville, were named to the women's First Team.

Williams, who was named tournament MVP in the Lions win over Bishop State in the ACCC Division I Championship, scored 752 points for the season, averaging 22.8 points per game, leading all players in the conference.

He scored 48 points alone in the opening game of the ACCC tournament, a modern record for WSCC for points scored in a single game.

Williams and the Lions will head to Hutchinson, Kan., to compete in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I Men's Basketball Championship, March 24-30 at Hutchinson Sports Arena.

Winfrey scored 483 points for the season averaging 16.1 points per game, with her highest scoring game coming during a Dec. 14 match-up against Snead State, when she scored 33 points.

Her points per game average placed her third in the conference.

She was also third in the conference in field goal percentage, with a 50.4 average.

Grant, who was named to the ACCC Division I All-Tournament team along with Nylaa Fuller, a freshman guard from Huntsville, followed Winfrey on the leaderboard in points per game.

She totaled 458 points for the season, with an average of 15.3 to come in at fourth in the conference in points per game.

Her highest scoring game was 31 on Jan. 11 against Calhoun Community College. She ranked second in the conference in assists, with 4.6 per game.

Bash (from Front)

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The parent-teacher organizations (PTOs) of East and West Elementary Schools spent a chunk of their time over the past month planning, preparing for and executing their biggest collaborative effort to date. The first Bearcat Glow Bash was held at Cullman Middle School on Thursday, March 14. Fifth- and sixth-grade students from each school came together to mingle, dance and get their glow on as the district begins to prepare them to merge into one student body when the anticipated restructuring of Cullman City Schools takes place.

Administrators and teachers from each school were on-site during the party, bringing the co-mingling and relationship-building to their faculty and staff, as well as their respective student bodies. Teachers laughed and giggled at and with each other in the 360-degree photo booth, some dancing to the beat as their technicolored glasses illuminated their faces.

Cullman City Schools Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff was in attendance at the bash and shared his appreciation, saying, "Thank you to the PTOs from both schools and the teachers and staff who attended the Bearcat Glow Bash. There weren't kids from East and kids from West Thursday night.

Instead, it was over 100 fifth- and sixth-grade students from the Cullman City School System having the time of their lives. We are fortunate in Cullman to have such wonderful students, supportive employees and families who are engaged."

As the DJ spun tunes from the teachers' generation, like "Party in the USA" by Miley Cyrus and T-Pain's "Apple Bottom Jeans," the students waved their glow sticks and got their feet moving. When songs such as Morgan Wallen's "Last Night" or "Truck Bed" by country star Hardy came through the speakers, every voice was raised, shouting the words as if they were performing their own concert.

The PTOs of both schools were running the event, with a concession stand and a plethora of glowing and pulsating light-up toys and glow sticks.

"It was wonderful to see the PTOs, staff and fifth- and sixth-grade students from Cullman City Schools come together for a great night of fun. I look forward to this being an annual event. It is great to see the collaboration of adults and students," said East Elementary School Principal Melanie Harris.

"I loved seeing the students' faces of excitement to see us, the administration, and teachers from the school join in on the fun. (West Elementary School Principal) Dr. (Jay) Page and I even got to show our moves.

"I appreciate all the hard work of the PTOs and the parents and staff members being present. I am very excited for the future of Cullman Intermediate School."

Page added to Harris's sentiment, saying, "It was fun to see our fifth- and sixth-grade students come together for a fun event. Ms. Harris came up with the idea, and it was a great success.

"Our parent-teacher organizations worked together to make this event fun. Our students were so excited about the event. We want this to be an annual event for our students as we move toward the new Cullman Intermediate School."

Read more about Cullman City Schools restructuring at www.cullmantribune.com/2023/09/10/kallhoff-gives-updates-on-city-school-projects.



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Fifth and sixth-grade students in the Cullman City Schools system enjoyed the Bearcat Glow Bash Thursday, March 14, at Cullman Middle School.





LEGALS

DISTRICT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY
500 SECOND AVENUE SW
Room 303
Cullman, AL 35055

BIVINS ECONOMY MOTORS, INC..

(PLAINTIFF)

vs **CASE NO: SM 2019-900162**

SHARAF, SARAH

(DEFENDANT)

NOTICE OF FILING OF LAWSUIT

DEFENDANT, **Sharaf, Sarah**, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the complaint brought against her by the PLAINTIFF, **Bivins Economy Motors, Inc.** for $2,009.78 plus court cost, cause of action being: Money owed on sale/financing of automobile.

ANSWER TO THE COMPLAINT MUST BE MADE BY THE SAID DEFENDANT on or before the 22nd day of April, 2024, or a default may be rendered against her in the above styled cause.

DATED THIS THE 14th day of March 2024

Lisa MCSwain
LISA MCSWAIN DISTRICT COURT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

NOTICE TO PUBLISHER:
Please publish once a week for four (4) successive weeks in the Cullman Tribune beginning March 16, 2024.

PB MIN BK 222 PG 411 - 03/08/2024 10:00 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
MICHAEL DELANE DAVIS *
Deceased. *
CASE NO.: PC 2024-047

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Kathy Milligan Davis, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Michael Delane Davis. deceased, on the 6th day of March, 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.

Kathy Milligan Davis
Personal Representative

Douglas C. Martinson
Martinson & Beason, P.C.
Attorney for Petitioner
115 North Side Square
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

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

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

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

PB MIN BK 222 PG 391 - 03/08/2024 09:40 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of)
EREK SHANE RAYL) CASE NO. PC 2024 - 058
Deceased.)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration have been granted to Stephanie Rayl-Moore, as Administratrix of the Estate of Erek Shane Rayl, deceased, on the 7th day of March, 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.

Stephanie Rayl-Moore

Shay Persall
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
700 Second Avenue SW
Cullman AL 35055
(256) 841-7800

Attorney for Administratrix

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

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:

2020 Chevrolet Malibu, Vin# 1G1ZG5ST3LF085157
2002 Dodge Ram 1500, Vin# 3D7HA18Z62G131933

These vehicles will be sold on April 26, 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 *
WILMA EDMONDS * CASE NO PC 2023-203
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: NICK LINDSEY, KALEENA NICOLE QUICK,
AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTEREST PARTIES

Petition for Probate of Will filed and made court record the 22nd day of June, 2023, by Richard Lindsey, to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Wilma Edmonds, deceased, by and through Attorney, Pamela E. Nail, has been re-scheduled for the **18th day of April, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.**, before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate. Cullman County, Alabama.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Cullman County Courthouse
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Done this the 29th day of February, 2024.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper

Pamela E. Nail
Attorney for Petitioner
200 Second Avenue, SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
THERAL THOMAS MILLICAN, * **CASE NO.: PC2024-072**
Deceased. *

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS FOR THE ESTATE OF THERAL THOMAS MILLICAN, DECEASED. Letters of Testamentary upon the Estate of said Decedent having been granted to the undersigned on the 29th day of February, 2024, by Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same, duly sworn to, in the Probate Court of County within the time allowed by law, or else same will be forever barred.

Done this the 29th day of February, 2024.

Connie M. Millican
Personal Representative

Charles P. Gaines
Gaines, Gaines, P.C.
Post Office Box 275
Talladega, Alabama 35161

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

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

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

PB WIL BK 122 PG 34 - 02/28/2024 04:20 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of)
GILBERT ALAN LAW) Case No.: PC-2024-025
Deceased)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Ann Law Irani and Donald Wayne Law, as the Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Gilbert Alan Law, deceased, on the 28th 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.

Ann Law Irani
Co-Personal Representative of the Estate of
Gilbert Alan Law, deceased

Donald Wayne Law
Co-Personal Representative of the Estate of
Gilbert Alan Law, deceased

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

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

Beverly Paschal Poston (PAS001)
Attorney for the Estate of
Gilbert Alan Law, deceased.
201 2nd Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama, 35055
bposton@beverlypaschalposton.com
(256)739-3970 Fax (256)739-3968

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate
Cullman County, Alabama

PB WIL BK 122 PG 258 - 03/07/2024 03:05 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
LILA JEAN FILYAW,) **Case Number: PC2023-356**
Deceased.)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama

In the matter of the Estate of Lila Jean Filyaw, Deceased

Letters Testamentary upon last will and testament of said decedent, having been granted to the undersigned on the 7th day of March, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are required to file an itemized and verified statement of such claim in the office of the said Judge of Probate within six months from the above date, or said claim will be barred and payment prohibited.

Tammy McAlpine
Personal Representative

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney for Personal Representative
1939 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 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
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

DOCUMENT 13

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
3/14/2024 9:18 AM
25-CV-2024-900077.00
CIRCUIT COURT OF
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
LISA MCSWAIN, CLERK

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

HUNTER KENNETH,)
HUNTER BRENDA,)
Plaintiffs,)
)
V.) Case No.: CV-2024-900077.00
)
AVCO FINANCIAL SERVICES)
OF ALABAMA,)
Defendant.)

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: ANY AND ALL PERSONS, ASSIGNS, HEIRS OR DEVISEES OF AVCO FINANCIAL SERVICES OF ALABAMA, INC.; ALABAMA FINANCIAL SERVICES OF ALA., INC. AND ALABAMA FINANCIAL SERVICES OF ALABAMA, claiming any right, title and interest to the following described real property, to-wit: Parcel # 08-06-14-0-001-009.043 and Parcel # 08-06-14-0-001-009.035

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ON THE 29TH DAY OF February, 2024 a Complaint in Rem to Quiet Title was filed by Plaintiffs Kenneth Hunter and Brenda Hunter, by and through their counsel of record, Beverly Paschal Poston, wherein all parties at interest were given notice and wherein it was alleged that said Complaint was filed against the property described above, and it was alleged that Plaintiffs were the owners in fee simple of said real property.

The parties at interest are further notified that Plaintiffs aver in said Complaint that they claim title to the real property by reason of the following chain of title to wit:

(a) On the 16th day of March 2001, a decree was rendered by the Revenue Commissioner of Cullman County for the sale of land herein described and conveyed for the payment of State and County taxes of Defendant **AVCO FINANCIAL SERVICES OF ALABAMA.**

(b) On the 2nd day of May 2001 said lands were duly and regularly sold by the Revenue Commissioner of said county for taxes, costs, and expenses owed by Avco Financial Services of Ala., Inc. At said sale Plaintiffs Kenneth Hunter and Brenda Hunter purchased said lands at and for the sum of said taxes, costs, expenses, and additional sums and forthwith paid said sums to the Revenue Commissioner and received from said Revenue Commissioner a certificate of said sale.

(c) The time of redemption of said lands has elapsed and said certificate of purchase had been returned to the Revenue Commissioner of said county.

(d) On or about the 17th day of November, 2004, Plaintiffs came forward and notified the Revenue Commissioner that they had taken lawful possession of the land and were due a deed pursuant to the Code of Alabama, specifically, but not limited to Title 40-1–29 and act number 84-493. Plaintiffs met all of the requirements under these two statutes and other provisions of Alabama Law and were granted a Tax Deed for each parcel and the same was recorded on November 17, 2004, in Deed Book 543, Page 798 and Deed Book 543, Page 799, in the records of the Probate Court for Cullman County, Alabama.

(e) Title to the real property described hereinabove stands upon the records in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, in the name of the Plaintiffs.

YOU ARE HEREBY DIRECTED TO answer this Complaint on or before thirty (30) days from the 13th day of May, 2024, or upon failure to do so, suffer a default judgment may be rendered against you.

DONE this 13th day of March, 2024.

/s/ MARTHA E. WILLIAMS
CIRCUIT JUDGE

COLUMN

Snakes hiss me off

Joe Hobby
Contributor

It's springtime, and I knew it was bound to happen with all this warm weather we've been having. Today, I almost stepped on a snake during my morning walk. For those of you who think an overweight old man can't jump, I beg to differ. Put me in the path of a snake, and I will show you a vertical leap that would make LeBron James proud. Followed closely by a high stepping dance and a scream so shrill you would think came from a falsetto opera singer.

Later in the day I told a friend about my early morning encounter. He asked me, "What kind of snake was it?" This is the standard question you get from anyone when you tell them a snake story. Like I care. It was a snake. I don't know the variety. Let's just say it was a copper-headed rattle moccasin. That should about cover it. Look, I know there are good snakes, but I just can't get there. I hate snakes. Hate them. The good Lord said snakes are bad and that's good enough for me. And they scare me. If I run over a dead one in my car, I raise my legs up.

Of course there are people who like them. Some of them even own exotic "pet snakes." Pet snakes, indeed. In my opinion, the words "pet" and "snake" should never be used together in the English language.

They're not fluffy, cute or adorable. They look evil. And why would you want to own something that can kill you? What is the thought process that even goes into that decision?

"Honey, I was thinking - it sure would be nice to have a pet around the house. But what should we get? Hmmm. You're allergic to cats, and dogs are just high maintenance. Wait! I've got it! What about a venomous reptile?"

Whenever I hear talk about pet snakes, I always think about a guy in Moody, Alabama – a little suburb just outside of Birmingham. Several years ago, he had this whole community terrorized when the "pet" spitting cobra he owned escaped.

This was a serpent so lethal that you would die within 45 minutes of a bite without antivenom.

As if that wasn't enough, it could spit poison accurately up to 10 feet, causing blindness if it got in your eyes. Sounds like the perfect pet, right? Just one step below a Golden Retriever.

I'm sorry, but in my opinion, this man was out of his mind. This is what happens when the snake and its owner only have two teeth each.

He said the cobra knocked the cardboard lid off the top of the aquarium, which allowed the snake to make a break for it.

So the only thing between this guy and something that could kill him was a piece of an Amazon shipping box. How reassuring.

They looked for weeks and never found it. That bothered me.

See, I think the spitting cobra bred with a southern rattlesnake. Do you know what that means? Now the woods may be full of snakes that can hock poison loogies.

I also remember how crazy the local news reporters were when this story broke. I suppose it's difficult not to talk about a missing spitting cobra scaring a bunch of people half to death.

For several weeks it seemed that every broadcast was chocked full of footage showing teams in protective gear searching for this missing reptile.

But what I will forever remember is what one of the broadcasters said.

It was undoubtedly one of the most useless pieces of advice that has ever been given.

This guy said that if you are in the area and spot the snake, cover your eyes so it can't spit venom in them.

Let me tell you something. If I saw that snake, the only place it would spit venom on me would be the back of my pants.

That's because when properly motivated, an overweight old man can also run really fast.

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

BOOK REVIEW

'A Land Remembered' by Patrick D. Smith

Cathy Lay Mayor
Tribune Contributor

"A Land Remembered" was the March selection for my book club. This novel is historical fiction of Florida from 1858 until 1960s. It was published in 1984. I did not think this could possibly be a choice for a book review in 2024. But "A Land Remembered" was winner of the Florida Historical Society's TeBeau Prize for the Most Outstanding Florida Historical Novel. It is now in its 14th hardcover printing. It was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in 1984. It was also ranked #1 Best Florida Book by Florida Monthly Magazine. If you grew up watching "Rawhide" or "Wagon" Train with your daddy or are a fan of "Yellowstone," this book is for you!

The novel begins in Miami in the 1960s with Sol MacIvey, who is now an old man. At the end of life, he is regretful for all the land developments he has implemented, which damaged the environment.

The next chapter is about Tobias and Emma MacIvey and their son Zechariah, who have left Georgia in search of a better life. They settle in central Florida near the Kissimmee River. First the MacIveys struggle to survive in the wilderness of Florida. They suffer from hunger after wild boars destroy their crops. Bears try to tear down their barn to eat the oxen. Mosquitos dominate the wetlands of the undeveloped countryside. Confederate Army deserters try to steal their cattle, their horse and the beef they have butchered and preserved.

The MacIveys become friends with a tribe of Seminole Indians, who teach them how to capture the wild cattle. The Seminoles also give the MacIveys a small horse, known as a marsh tacky, and two dogs to help with herding and protection. The MacIveys and other new arrivals to Florida are nicknamed Florida Crackers because they use whips to move cattle: a name that is still used today.

After much time and hard work the MacIveys have enough cattle to move to the coast to sell. While moving cattle they have to deal with rattlesnakes, alligators, bushwhackers and cattle rustlers. Later on, they try growing orange trees. After a several failed attempts, Tobias is successful. He is sure growing oranges will be easier than herding cattle. But the orange business has its own set of problems. The MacIveys must endure the blizzard of 1899, the Miami hurricane in 1926 and the Lake Okeechobee hurricane in 1928.

The majority of the book is about the pioneer men. But the pioneer women worked just as hard to settle the Florida wilderness. The author's writing is so descriptive, he paints a picture with his words. The reader feels transported to the Florida wilderness. This novel is fast paced and full of adventure.

Patrick D. Smith was an American author. His works have been nominated seven times for the Pulitzer Prize and five times for the Nobel Prize for Literature. He was voted the most beloved of Florida's contemporary writers by a major Florida magazine. "A Land Remembered" has been voted the most insightful book ever written about Florida. He was inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame, which is the highest honor that can be bestowed on any Floridian in the arts. Smith was selected as one of the Great Floridians by Governor Rick Scott. His novels has been published in 48 languages.

Cathy Lay Mayor grew up in Cullman and graduated from Cullman High School in 1976. She says when she writes book reviews, she tries to remember what Mrs. Gilbert taught her in 11th-grade English. She lived in Dothan for more than 30 years and is married with three adult children and six grandchildren. She retired to Panama City, but still calls Alabama home.

Scene (from Front)

describes Cullman: "Situated between Birmingham and Huntsville is this small town that's full of personality. Here you'll find one-of-a-kind attractions like the Ave Maria Grotto, a 4-acre park featuring over 100 miniature reproductions of world-famous religious structures, including St. Peter's Basilica. Other interesting cultural attractions include the Cullman County Museum, 4D Farm, and the Highway Pickers Antique Mall & Flea Market."

According to USA TODAY, "Nominees are submitted by a panel of experts. 10Best editors narrow the field to select the final set of nominees for the Readers' Choice Awards. Readers can vote once per category, per day."

Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism Executive Director Nathan Anderson said, "It's exciting to see the spirit of Cullman's culture reaching beyond our local borders, earning a well-deserved nomination for the 10Best Small Town Cultural Scene by USA TODAY. This accolade reflects our community's dedication to fostering an environment where attractions, parks, museums and cultural events not only thrive but draw hundreds of thousands of visitors each year."

Readers can vote once per day at https://10best.usatoday.com/awards/travel/best-small-town-cultural-scene-2024 through Monday, April 1, at noon ET. The winners will be announced on Wednesday, April 10.

Anderson said he hopes readers will join him in voting for Cullman as the town inches closer to the top of the poll, imploring, "We invite everyone to support Cullman by casting their votes, helping us climb even higher on USA TODAY's 10Best Small Town Cultural Scene list."

Hanceville (from Front)

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Hanceville City Council convened for its bimonthly meeting on Thursday, March 14. Key highlights of the meeting included planning for three significant upcoming events: the Hanceville Irish Festival, a free landfill pick-up week and the City of Hanceville yard sale weekend.

The council agreed that the Irish Festival, scheduled for March 16 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. downtown, would follow the same parameters as the previous year. Additionally, the council approved waiving the vendor permit requirements for the event, facilitating a smoother process for participants.

Attention then turned to the yard sale weekend, with the council waiving permit requirements and setting the dates for April 19-20.

Following the yard sale weekend, the City will organize a citywide landfill pickup from April 22-25. The council approved this initiative, allowing residents to dispose of unwanted items free of charge.

The City requests community members have their items ready for pickup by 6 a.m. on April 22.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on the community pool. After considering various options and the financial challenges associated with its operation, the council resolved to open the pool this summer, ensuring residents will once again have access to the community resource.

In other business, the council:

• Held a public hearing related to Ordinance No. 2024-1 (Property Annexation/Zoning The Broadway Group / KME Development) – motioned and approved the tabling of the discussion until the March 28 council meeting

• Motioned and approved Resolution No. 2024-2 (Revised ATRIP II ALDOT Agreement), changing the U.S. Highway 31/Alabama Highway 91 turn lane project from a right turn lane installation to a left, northbound install

• Motioned and approved a three-year contract over the emergency notification system previously presented to the council.

• Motioned and approved AirMedCare Evac for Hanceville Fire Department volunteers

The next Hanceville City Council meeting will be held Thursday, March 28, at Hanceville City Hall. The work session will begin at 5 p.m. with the meeting following at 5:30. The public is invited to attend.

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LEGALS

INVITATION TO BID!!!

P. F. Moon & Company, Inc. is currently accepting proposals from suppliers and subcontractors for the City of Good Hope AL Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion project. P F Moon and Company Inc is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We encourage DBE/MBE/WBE participation. For more information regarding this and other projects P. F. Moon & Company is currently bidding. Contact Jerry Eubanks at 706.643.1524.

SECTION 001116
INVITATION TO BID

1.1 BID INFORMATION

A. Project: Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion
B. Owner: The City of Good Hope
C. Engineer: Canyon Engineering, LLC

1.2 ANNOUNCEMENT

A. Your firm is invited to submit a sealed Bid for the project listed above. Owner will receive Bids at the City of Good Hope City Hall, located at 135 Municipal Drive, Cullman, Alabama, 35057, until **10:00 AM local time on the 4th day of April 2024**, at which time and place the Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids not received by the indicated time will not be opened.

B. Project Description: *Construction of a 2 basin SBR treatment plant, rated at .225 MGD with equalization basin, drum screen, compactor, controls, blowers, sludge pumps, diffused aeration, decanter, and all required appurtenances.*

C. Owner requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days.

D. Bidding Documents for a Unit Price contract may be obtained from the office of the Canyon Engineering, LLC, 404 1st. Street E., Fort Payne, Alabama, 35967. Electronic copies will be free to download to all potential bidders. Paper sets are available upon receipt of a $150.00 non-refundable amount per set.

E. Potential bidders may view the Bid Documents at the office of Canyon Engineering by appointment only.

F. Bidders will be required to provide Bid security according to the requirements in Document 002113 - Instructions to Bidders and Document 003100 - Available Project Information.

G. Refer to other Bidding requirements as described in Document 002113 - Instructions to Bidders and Document 003100 - Available Project Information.

H. Submit your Bid on the Bid Form provided. Bidders are required to submit the bid form, bid bond, and the E-Verify documents at the time of the bid. Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope bearing the name and address of the bidder, the bidder's General Contractor's license number, the project name, and bid date. Bidders are asked not to submit the full contract documents and specifications book at the time of the bid.

I. Bidders must carry the Municipal and Utility construction classification as listed in the roster of the Alabama State Licensing Board for General Contractors to be considered for the award of the project.

J. Your Bid will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 calendar days after submission.

K. The Owner reserves the right to waive irregularities and to accept or reject any or all Bids.



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Obituary Announcements: March 14-15

Wendy Lee Brewster, 74
Wendy Lee Brewster, age 74, of Crane Hill, passed away on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at Cullman Regional Medical Center. She was born Tuesday, April 5, 1949, to Herman Brewster and Marion Haddaway. She was preceded in death by her parents and son, Keith Tucker. Survivors include her husband Richard Williams, son Kenneth Tucker, sister Janet Reuling, granddaughter, Cayla Tucker, grandson, Michael Tucker, three great-grandchildren and two fur babies Skippy and Bo. Her interests included cooking, gardening, traveling and watching hummingbirds. Although she was originally from Maryland, she had moved to beautiful Alabama recently to enjoy her retirement. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Richard Clay Noblett Jr., 81
Richard Clay Noblett Jr., age 81, of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Thursday, March 14, 2024. Richard was born in Cullman, Alabama on Aug. 23, 1942, to Richard Clay Noblett Sr. and Evelyn Schneider Noblett. Richard graduated from Cullman High School in 1960. He graduated from the University of Alabama with a BS degree in Commerce and Business Administration. He is a veteran of The United States Air Force and served his country from 1966 to 1970. He loved the outdoors fishing and hunting. Funeral services will be held on Monday March 18, 2024 at Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel at 1 p.m. Interment will follow services in Cullman City Cemetery. Survivors are: Wife of 42 years: Pam Noblett, Sons: Brian Clay Noblett, Richard C. Noblett "Trae" III, Daughter: Amy (Shannon) Bolte, and four grandchildren. Visitation will be on Monday, March 18, 2024, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Please share condolences and memories with the family at www.mossservicefh.com Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Steve Witcher, 74
Funeral service for Steve Witcher, age 74, of Cullman, Alabama, is Sunday, March 17, 2024, at 3 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home chapel, with Brian Witcher officiating. Family will welcome friends from 1 p.m. until 3 pm. Interment will follow at Berlin Cemetery (Mt. Carmel). Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Steve was born to W.D. "Shorty" Witcher and Jeanette Hodge Witcher on Aug. 16, 1949, and passed from this life on March 14, 2024. He is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Wendell (Wendy) Witcher, Donnie Wayne Witcher, Jon Gary (Red) Witcher. He is survived by his sons, Jeffery Stephen Witcher, Chad (Shannon) Witcher; grandchildren, Allie Witcher, Zac (Brittni) Witcher, Kylie Witcher, Kennedy Witcher, Natalee Witcher, Maddie Witcher, Jon Luke Witcher; great-grandchildren, Liam Witcher, Logan Witcher; brother, Doug Witcher; companion, Sherry Gilley; a host of extended family and friends. Steve loved to fish and went every chance he could. He retired from a long career at S&W Drywall. He was known and loved by many. He will be missed. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Jacob W. Knight Jr., 64
Jacob W. Knight Jr., age 64, of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Jacob Knight: A Life of Passion and Purpose – Jacob Knight, a native of Hanceville, Alabama, was a standout athlete from a young age. His prowess on the football field earned him a spot on the 1st All-State Football Team at Hanceville High School. His academic journey led him to Wallace State Community College, where he met his future wife, Cindy Knight. The couple married in 1980, and Jacob continued his education at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), where he completed his bachelor's degree, he later obtained a master's in teaching. Jacob's passion for sports seamlessly transitioned into a career in teaching and coaching. He began his tenure at Vinemont High School, where he inspired countless students both in the classroom and on the field. During a brief hiatus from teaching, he acquired a state home builder's license and partnered with Larry Tucker to build houses, Jacob returned to education around 1987 as a PE teacher at Good Hope School. In 2011, Jacob retired from teaching but remained active in the community. He ventured into business, operating Smith Lake Marina and Resort alongside Larry and Lilly Tucker. His entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to service continued to shine through in this new chapter of his life. Above all, Jacob Knight is remembered as a loving father, a hard worker, and a generous soul. His love for music and singing was as profound as his commitment to sports. Known for giving the best advice, Jacob's wisdom and kindness have left an indelible mark on all who knew him. His story is one of unwavering dedication to his family, his students, and his community—a true testament to a life well-lived. Jacob is survived by his wife, Cindy Brooks Knight; his son Britton Knight; and his daughter Ally Knight (Luke Johnson); his grandson Fox Johnson, his father-in-law Donald Brooks; his brother Rodell Knight (Laura) and his sister-in-law Kim Roberts (Scott); his sisters Rebecca Barnett (Ralph) and Jo Bales (Harold) and his close friend and business partner Lillie Tucker. As well as a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Jacob was preceded in death by his parents J.W. and Phamie Knight and his mother-in-law Gail Brooks; his sister Bess Thompson; two Infant Children, and his special cousin and business partner Larry Tucker. A celebration of life visitation for Jacob will be held Tuesday, March 19, 2024 from 1:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. at Daystar Church, 200 Daystar Drive, Cullman, AL 35057, followed by a celebration of life funeral service at 4 p.m. Jacob will be laid to rest in Valley Springs Cemetery, Cullman, Alabama. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.mossservicefh.com for the Knight family.

Robert Fulton Cobb, 81
Robert Fulton Cobb, a cherished soul known affectionately as Robert, passed away peacefully on March 3, 2024, in Paris, Texas. Born in Cullman, Alabama, on May 12, 1942, to loving parents Fulton Woodrow and Zula (Ellinburg) Cobb, Robert grew up to be a man marked by his humor, kindness, and an unwavering dedication to family and community. A graduate of the Hanceville High School class of 1960, Robert proudly served in the United States Air Force, a career that honed his discipline and his love for the skies. On Aug. 26, 1978, he married his cherished partner, Vanessa, and together they navigated the journey of life with love and companionship. He enlisted in the Air Force as an aircraft maintenance specialist and received an honorable Discharge in February 1965 as Airman First Class. After re-enlisted he received another Honorable Discharge in February 1969 as a Staff Sergeant. Robert worked at Tinker Air Force base in Oklahoma City after his Air Force journey and then later worked for FAA when he retired from Government service after many years. In his professional life, he was known for his skillful hands and entrepreneurial spirit, particularly through his work at his small engine repair shop in Tuttle, Oklahoma and later C&W Lawn Equipment with small engine repair in Hugo, Oklahoma. He and Vanessa moved to Hugo, Oklahoma, in 2010, where they became an integral part of the community. Robert's spirit was most alive while serving at the First Baptist Church, where his outgoing nature shone brightly. He was a deacon, facilitator at men's prayer breakfast for many years and was the substitute Sunday School teacher for his adult class. He was a man who never met a stranger, greeting each day and every person he encountered with a humor and warmth that were uniquely his. Because of the love for animals, Robert and Vanessa rescued many animals including their last beloved dog, Lady Buckles, being a testament to this affection. Left to honor Robert's memory is his son, Robert Wayne Cobb of Washington DC; his grandson, Dominic Cobb of Germany; and his loving sisters, Dorcas Fitzgerald of Warren, OH, Debbie Martin of Birmingham, AL, and sister-in-law, Brenda O'Neill, and husband Robert O'Neil, of Hugo. He will also be fondly remembered by numerous in-laws, nieces and nephews including, Dustin O'Neill and wife Lisa, and their daughter Bailee, of Hugo, Oklahoma, Justin O'Neill and wife Amy, and their daughter, Tanna, of Hugo, Oklahoma, and a host of other relatives and friends, including his special cousin, Charles Cobb of Cullman, Alabama. The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to caregivers Susie Q, Abbie, Foxy Roxie, and Ramondo for their tender care in Robert's final days. A service to celebrate Robert's life was held on Friday, March 8, 2024, at Prater-Lampton-Mills & Coffey Chapel, with Pastor Doug McClure and Dr. Danny Mills officiating. Robert's memory will forever be cherished in the hearts of all who knew him as his legacy continues to inspire love and fellowship in the community he adored.

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

Hidden treasures under our house

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



When I was growing up, we didn't play inside the house, except when it was raining or during winter when it was too cold to play outside. Mama used to say, "Get outside and play, or I'll find you something to do." I didn't always enjoy what she found for me to do. Playing in the dirt was always more fun, in my humble opinion, not Mama's, that shelling or shucking what she had grown in the dirt! I will admit, that sometimes, after I went outside, I came back inside...not back inside the house but under the house.

We didn't have a basement, but we did have a fairly-large crawlspace. Our house was built on a slope, so the crawlspace was much taller at the entrance than at the other end. It was tall enough for a young boy to stand up in, if he stooped over a little.

That opening room held all kinds of wonders including Mama's canned goods from her 100-acre garden. There she stored canned beans, peas, and pickled items such as beets and cucumbers, which, again in my humble opinion, were not fit to eat otherwise. I loved sweet cucumber pickles. I hated pickled beets, but I thought they made good red war paint. Mama definitely didn't agree!

To this very day, I do not know why, but there was a dozen or so wooden boxes filled with blue chalk under there. Someone said roadbuilders used blue chalk to mark black asphalt, but the road in front of our house didn't have any blue chalk on it...but then, it didn't have any asphalt either.

Several large rocks dotted the landscape of our front yard. Those rocks made good roads for my toy trucks, so they had lots of blue chalk marks. My sister and I played tic-tac-toe on those rocks, and I did some beautiful blue drawings on them too. Amazingly, no one ever signed me on as a chalk artist! I could have been a starving artist, but Mama fed me too well for that!

The real treasures, the mysterious hidden treasures, were under the far end of the house where the crawl space became quite tight.

There I found pencils, crayons, and glass marbles... at least in my younger days. I actually knew how they had gotten under there, but I wasn't so sure what had caused that little round hole in the floor above. Watching things disappear through that hole sure was fascinating.

One day, I guess I had grown too much to go that far under the house. I'm not sure if I was actually stuck, but I believed so. I couldn't turn around and crawl back out. I called Big Pud, my best dog-friend, to come help me out... you, know like Lassie used to do. He wasn't about to come under there.

I wondered if my family would one day find my remains and know it was me? If it hadn't been for that big spider I saw, I might never have found the motivation to realize that I really wasn't stuck. I never crawled under that old house again, and to this day, I won't crawl under any house, if I can help it. A few years ago, when the floor fell in, my brother and I retrieved the remaining treasures I had left behind.

Sometimes in life, we get ourselves into some awfully tight jams. We may be tempted to think we can never get out, but so often we indeed can. We simply need the right motivation, and a little prayer doesn't hurt either! God makes ways of escape. (I Cor. 10:13)

Bill King can be reached at bkpreach@yahoo.com or 334-728-5514 (office).

HISTORY

Files from yesteryear: 1951

From the files of 1951

New Harmony News

Charley Benefield was buried at New Home last Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Carmon Maze spent last week with relatives in Gadsden.

Mrs. Delia Noles and children, of Jasper, spent a few days last week with Uncle Scab Noles and other relatives who live here.

Bethany News

Hoyt and Hilda Perdue and Dot Bowling spent last weekend in Pensacola, Florida. Mrs. Junior Robinson returned with them. She had spent last week with her husband, who is working down there.

Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Harbison and Vyon, of Robertsdale, in Baldwin County are visiting Mr. and Mrs. M.E. Harbison and the Willoughbys for a few days.

New Hope North News

Mrs. C.A. Drinkard and her husband and Mildred Grant, of Birmingham, spent the weekend at home with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Grant.

Private Tom Arnett is leaving for California and a new assignment.

119 Babies Born in August

119 babies were born in Cullman County during August, according to information released this week by the Cullman County Health Department.

Girls were born to Mr. and Mrs. C.L. Ward, J.C. Berry, L.C. Hall, Lofton Wisner, J.T. Tolbert, Ocie McDonald, J.A. Hancock, Howard Baker, J.B. Harper, C.A. Teichmiller, D.M. Holmes, R.C. McAnnally, T.J. Martin, J.H. Chambers, Gertis Stevens, Arthur Bowen, B.L. Johns, B.L. Jones, H.M. Parker, J.E. Rhodes, B.L. Gray, D.W. Burney, J.S. Sterling, L.E. Boren, George Stidham, E.L. Tidwell, Samuel Martin, J.F. Baker, Junior, K.G. Doss, F.M. Gilliland, Ernest Holmes, C.L. Holmes, S.J. Willis, W.I. Price, E.A. Peinhardt, Roy Hanson, G.A. McClurry, W.G. Glenn, J.C. Reid, M.L. Huffstutler, Bill Watwood, E.I. Woerz, L.C. Forrester, H.C. Serrett, J.B. Phillips, F.H. Brock, F.H. Brock, M.G. Webb, E.W. Jones, Jake Frank, H.A. Loyd, N.C. Skinner, W.L. Reed, H.F. Schultz, Orvel McSwain, B.L. Nunnelley and H.A. McGriff.

Boys were born to Mr. and Mrs. G.E. Aaron, Enloe Barrett, Walter Brown, Charles Baker, L.J. Godfrey, Talmadge Hogland, William Huffstutler, Carlos Speegle, E.J. Brown, W.T. Johnson, L.E. Graham, W.E. McWhorter, Clint McIntosh, David Tanner, J.B. Blaylock, B.O. Whaley, W.R. Harper, E.C. Mayhall, Hugh Chambers, E.E. Edwards, Herman Grund, J.H. Fortenberry, O. Z. Davis, J.H. Dunlap, T.H. Kelley, H.E. Henderson, Emmett Smith, V.H. McAfee, W.E. Fuller, J.A. Self, R.J. Samples, A.H. Finnell, E.C. Massey, W.S. Sharp, E.A. Hunter, J.L. Tucker, C.P. Grund, H.D. Brock, J.H. Howell, A.J. White, Lee Griggs, Carl Waddle, J.J. Swann, J.C. Richard, W.L. McKinney, Lonnie Warden, D.E. Waldrop, G.B. McCoy, E. C. Gibbs, Junior, O.W. Oden, J.S. Caretti, H.C. McNiece, L.D. Byrd, L.H. Berry, Harold Mayo, N.S. Graham, H.W. Brown, Earnesteen Gable, F.W. Hale, H.C. Peinhardt, R.C. Ryan and C.R. Pace.

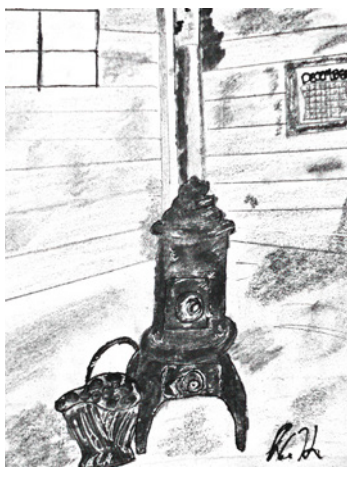
POET'S CORNER

The Coal Pile | By: Randy C. Hale

In my grandparent's backyard,
a short trail from their house, a
mound of black coal was stored.
It was as common as green grass
and the chickens scratching and
pecking in the yard each day.
Inside was a chest high cast iron
stove, the centerpiece of a simple
room we called the den.

To this day, I can describe each
item's exact place; my grandfather's
blue chair with the cloth arms worn
slick; the sofa with the homemade
gun rack cradling the old 4/10
shotgun above;
An old-fashioned dark walnut
stained desk and a picture of little
Samuel on the wall at prayer.
From the stove's top, reaching to
and through the ceiling, was a
sheet metal pipe which carried
the billowing smoke from a fire
that smoldered and burned to the
cloud fleeced winter sky above us.
The heat producing warmth outside
you and within, bringing comfort
like the hand sewn quilts piled high
over you the night before.

When the coal scuttle got low,
a familiar trip was made outdoors.
I often carried it to and fro when I
had formed the muscles to do so.
The trip in my mind, providing
the required fuel for the old
locomotive, raising its hood and
shoveling in the black gold that would soon glow red, keeping
those frosty mornings away.



CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

MARCH 16

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

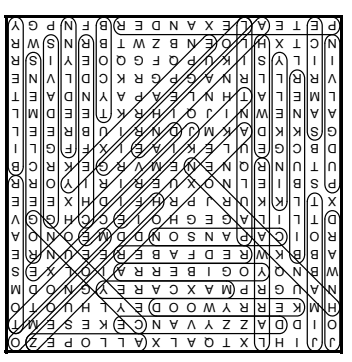
Al Kaline
Al Lopez
Alex Rodriguez
Bill Buckner
Bill Terry
Cap Anson
Chief Bender
Cy Young
David Cone
Dazzy Vance
Ed Walsh
Eppa Rixey
Fred Lynn
George Davis
Hank Aaron
Hideo Nomo
Jim Abbott
Jim Rice
John Ward
Kerry Wood
King Kelly
Larry Walker
Lou Gehrig
Max Carey
Mel Ott
Paul Quantrill
Pete Alexander
Pud Galvin
Red Faber
Roger Clemens
Sam Rice
Tim Keefe
Tom Seaver
Ty Cobb
Yogi Berra

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

MARCH 16

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						5		
8				9				5
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ANSWERS:



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

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

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!

Chamber hosts tourism panel

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JANET CHANDLER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman County Tourism Bureau held a tourism panel on Friday, March 15, discussing plans to boost tourism in the city. Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism Executive Director Nathan Anderson is pictured.

CULLMAN, Ala. — The All Steak's banquet room was bustling with excitement on Friday afternoon as the Cullman County Tourism Bureau held a tourism panel for the members of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce at the chamber's monthly community luncheon.

The event was sponsored by HomTex, whose CEO Jeremy Wootten acted as emcee for the afternoon, directing questions to board members, asking them to share their hopes and five-year plans for increasing tourism and economic revenue for the city.

With Cullman nominated for 'Best Small Town Cultural Scene' in the annual USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Awards, the panel was prepared to lay out its plans to elevate the downtown area's visual appeal and ease of visiting. Tourism is a major part of a town's thriving culture. Visitors spend money and support the local economy, and those businesses and organizations enrich other businesses and entities, pushing the wheels of progress forward.

Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman, was the first to take the mic, speaking about the various beautification projects spearheaded during his tenure on the Cullman City Council. Gudger is responsible for petitioning the City to create Cullman's current downtown cityscape. A council member and then council president, Gudger is now a member of the Alabama Senate. Constant improvement, progress and evolution were the themes of Gudger's address.

"If we have all these entities all in the same boat, rowing the same direction, we can promote Cullman to people not only in Cullman but to people outside of Cullman coming in, whether it's for a weekend, a track meet or any kind of sports event. We can show that when people ask you where you're from and they say, 'Cullman, Alabama,' they know where Cullman, Alabama is," he said. "Someone's interpretation of Cullman 20 years ago should be totally different than it is today."

Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism (CPRST) Executive Director Nathan Anderson was the next speaker, sharing details on festivals and upcoming plans for the new Cullman Civic Center. The city is home to 13 parks, five recreation facilities, two golf courses, an RV resort, 27 miles of walking/riding trails and the recently added WildWater park, all of which fall under Anderson's watch. Festivals also fall under his purview. The estimated economic impact of Cullman's three festivals – The Alabama Strawberry Festival, Oktoberfest and the newly added Christkindlmarkt – for 2023 is $17-20 million, with the anticipated five-year impact to be in the range of $125 million.

Anderson displayed an infrared heat map of Cullman, stating, "This is a heat map from our festivals. Attendance from last year's festivals was 280,000 guests that came through to our city – 70% of these people are not from Cullman County; that's what's amazing."

Of the city's new waterpark, he said, "WildWater is fully funded by outside money; the operational overhead and the deck service is funded – at least 90% funded – by outside dollars. The festivals are growing because we built an attraction that people are willing to travel an hour, two hours, in our case, 49 states have attended our festivals."

Another subject of discussion for Anderson was the new Cullman Civic Center, to be added to the area now dubbed the OmniSports District, including the Field of Miracles, WildWater, Cullman Wellness and Aquatic Center and Heritage Park.

"This last piece we are really excited for – we are hopeful that a year from now it will be open – Lord willing, March 2025, we will be opening up what I feel is the most major missing piece. It's a 115,000-square-foot facility," he said, "(with) eight basketball courts, six team volleyball courts and about 83,000 square feet of flexible civic center space."

Trident Marina President and Cullman County Tourism Bureau Chairman Jeff Tolbert shared insights on tourism at Smith Lake and increasing property values. In 2019, he said, the average price of a home on Smith Lake was around $450,000; in 2023, the market saw a skyrocketing increase of 80% and those same homes are now selling in the $800,000 range. The appeal of the lake goes far beyond the reach of its waters; waterfront properties and recreation options bring home buyers and tourists from out of state.

"For the first 50 years, Alabama Power issued 4,500 dock permits. In the last 12 years, they're now up to over 8,500 dock permits," Tolbert said.

"It's not just dock permits. On top of the explosive growth of Smith Lake, we have now topped the $5 million (real estate) market on Smith Lake; we sold the first house that exceeded $5 million and that is quite honestly a benchmark because it was somebody out of state."

Tourism Director Hugh Stump was the last speaker on the panel. Touching on the importance of the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center, Stump shared plans that have been made with Cullman County Commission Chairman Jeff Clemons for the multiuse arena, hoping to freshen and attract more crowds to the town's northernmost point. The center holds events and festivals most of the weekends that it operates, attracting crowds that may not know of the offerings of Cullman when they're inside its very borders.

"We need to do a better job as the Tourism Bureau and we're going to do that job of letting people know what's going on," Stump said. While at an event at the center in November, Stump said, he noticed the majority of the attendees came from across the nation. "Around 500 people and a couple of them were from around here; (the others) were from Texas, California, Colorado. They were down here for seven days."

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