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– SPORTS –

Good Hope downs Fairview 6-3 to win county championship
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First Source for Women 'investing in the gift of life'

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Local pregnancy resource center First Source for Women held its annual banquet fundraiser Thursday, April 4, at Loft 212.

Executive Director Janet Davis and Board President Julia Rushing both spoke to the night's attendees, sharing their own anecdotes and stories they've encountered throughout their time with First Source, highlighting the need for its services, and the impact those services and donations to First Source can make in the lives of others.

"God has blessed us; we saw 650 unique clients last year, which means they are all new. In addition to that, we saw all of those clients and our regular clients over 2,000 times in 2023," Davis shared. "We gave away over 21,000 diapers; in addition to that we gave away cribs » PAGE 9



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

First Source for Women held its annual banquet fundraiser on April 4, 2024, at Loft 212, with comedian Gordon Douglas performing.

West Point Scholars Bowl team taking quiz competition circuit by storm



LEE HENRY

Left to right are Aaiden Jones, JD Yovino, Sydney Holt, Eli Drinkard, Brodie Henry, Starr Boyd, Sean Harbison, Brady Laughlin and Eli Drinkard. Not pictured is Caleb Clark.

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

WEST POINT, Ala. — The West Point High School (WPHS) Scholars Bowl team has been on a white-hot streak in the quiz world, winning match after match. The students are making a name for themselves in the circuit of the smarts, as a whole and individually.

As a team, they've brought home the title of Division Two Alabama Scholastic Competition Association (ASCA) State Champion; the team also clinched one of the coveted top 10 spots at the National Academic Quiz Tournament Small School National Championship Tournament (NAQT SSNCT) coming in eighth place in the nation. Preparations, quizzes and study sessions are currently underway for the scholars, as they begin the journey to the three 2024 National Championship Tournaments they are competing in this spring, hoping to cement their place as one of the best teams and competitors in high school scholars bowl tournaments.

"We've had a lot of success over the years," said WPHS Scholars Bowl Sponsor Lee Henry. "Almost our entire team has returned this year. We will be going back to that tournament (NAQT SSNCT) the last weekend in April and hope to place even higher."

Individually, one student is preparing to fly solo at a national quiz competition. Brodie Henry will compete on Sunday, April 7, in Rosemont, Illinois. He will compete in a 260-player field, with 32 states, the District of Columbia and South Korea represented.

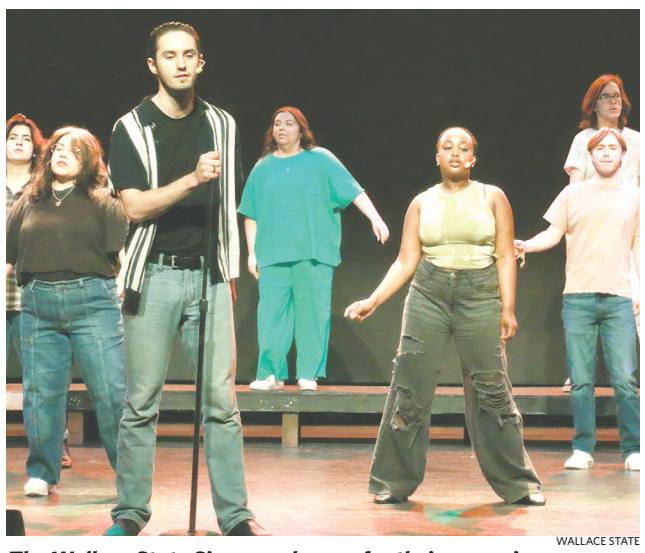
Said Coach Henry, "Quiz bowl is a team activity. The individual tournament that Brodie is competing in is a bit of a novelty. It's really the only time individuals compete against other individuals instead of teams versus teams."

The individual quiz bowl is a new concept for some of the competing schools, the NAQT bringing the individual tournaments to fruition for the first time in 2018, pausing for the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, making 2024's Individual Player National Championship (IPNC) only six years old.

"This quiz bowl event is extraordinary in » PAGE 7

Cullman County, Hanceville awarded grants for CCSO, HPD
» PAGE 5

Wallace State Singers going back in time with 'That '70s Show'



WALLACE STATE

The Wallace State Singers rehearse for their upcoming production of "That '70s Show," to be staged April 11-13, at 7 p.m. in the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre of the Garlan Gudger Student Center.
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City of Hanceville 2024 Spring Clean-up April 19-20, 22-25
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United Way seeking volunteers for Allocation Committee
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Cullman County Schools 2024-2025 kindergarten registration info
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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported April 5

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported April 5, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

April 1

- trafficking drugs; possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69N

April 2

- theft of property; CR 1668
- domestic violence; CR 469
- criminal mischief; Hwy. 69N
- assault; CR 831

April 3

- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; attempt to elude police officer; tampering with physical evidence; Hwy. 157
- theft of property; 1st Ave. S Garden City
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; burglary; Hwy. 69N
- stalking; CR 650
- theft of property; CR 244
- violation of protection order; CR 33
- domestic violence; CR 672
- harassment; CR 1224
- harassment; Hwy. 91
- theft of property; CR 1179
- burglary; Moehring Rd.
- burglary; CR 1763
- domestic violence; CR 866

ARRESTS

April 1- 3

Clark, William B.; 67
- criminal trespass - enters/remains in/on premises

Criscoe, James M.T.; 36
- FTA - driving while suspended revoked or cancelled (2 counts)

Gilbreath, Justin B.; 39
- PROBATION VIOLATION - possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- FTA - theft of property-2nd degree
- FTA - unauthorized use of auto - no force (joyriding)

Ginter, Steven J.; 50
- GJ - theft - miscellaneous (2 counts)

Hendrix, Camilla P.; 55
- assault - domestic - simple assault – family

Hunt Jr., Jimmie R.; 48
- criminal trespass - enters/remains in dwelling

Johnson, Ollie J.; 28
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Little, Peighton A.; 25
- assault - domestic - simple assault – family

Long, Craig A. Jr.; 28
- FTA - driving while license suspended
- FTA - failure/refusal to display insurance
- FTA - failure to register vehicle
- FTA - fail stop sign

McClellan, Christel R.; 49
- FTA - possession of dangerous drugs
- probation violation - possession of dangerous drugs (3 counts)
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- drug trafficking
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

McDuffie, Michael D.; 32
- PROBATION VIOLATION - theft - shoplifting $500-less than $1500

Moore, Corey A.; 28
- FTA - failure to register vehicle
- FTA - expired tag
- FTA - operating vehicle without insurance (2 counts)
- FTA - failure/refusal to display insurance (2 counts)
- FTA - tinted windows
- FTA - speeding - no workers - construction zone

Nguyen, Senny; 27
- assault - domestic - simple assault – family

Overton, Johnny L.; 58
- FTA - driving while license suspended

Owen, Jason P.; 41
- FTA - possession of methamphetamine

Penn, Crystal W.; 41
- FTA - run red light
- FTA - speed above 45 mph county road
- FTA - driving while suspended revoked or cancelled

Schaefers, Bryan T.; 64
- family offense - causing of delinquency dependency or need of supervision of children

Self, Amber L.; 39
- FTA - possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA - illegal possession of prescription drugs

Sterling Jr., Bobby J.; 39
- burglary - residence - no force

Woods, Christina L.; 41
- theft - from residence less than $500

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

March 29
- criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW

April 3
- criminal trespass-2nd degree; Wal-Mart; Olive St. SW

April 4
- Harassment-doxing; person

April 5
- Domestic violence-3rd degree; criminal mischief-3rd degree; person; damaged door; $150; Cleveland Ave. SW

ARRESTS

April 3-4

Moore, Corey A.; 28
- FTA - driving without a license
- FTA - insurance violation (3 counts)
- FTA - expired tag
- FTA - driving while license suspended
- FTA - failure to register vehicle

Mooney, Colton L.; 18
- fraudulent use of credit/debit card
- theft of property-3rd degree

Chaney, Christopher L.; 41
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia

Jackson, Clark A.; 35
- FTA – harassment

Lynn, Dana B.; 55
- theft of property-4th degree

McCurdy, Joshua E.; 23
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree
- FTA - criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA - driving while license suspended

Webb, William M.; 37
- FTA - receiving stolen property-4th degree
- FTA - driving on the wrong side of road

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Clean-up (from Front)

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The City of Hanceville invites residents to participate in the 2024 Spring Clean-up, with citywide yard sales April 19-20, followed by a free landfill pickup week April 22-25.

Yard sales: April 19-20

Kickstarting the event, residents can hold yard sales, no permit required, providing a perfect opportunity for residents to declutter their homes and enjoy a weekend of treasure hunting. This is a great chance to repurpose and rehome items that are too good to throw away.

Free landfill pickup week: April 22-25

Residents are encouraged to place their unwanted items out by 6 a.m. on April 22 for collection. This initiative provides an excellent opportunity for residents to dispose of larger items that are not typically collected during regular trash services.

However, it's important to note that not all items can be accepted for the landfill pickup. Items that will not be accepted include household garbage, batteries, gas tanks, tires, paint, shingles and hazardous materials.

Committee (from Front)

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The United Way of Cullman County (UWCC) supports 19 nonprofit partner agencies. It is currently seeking volunteers for its Allocation Committee.

Executive Director Stephanie Childers explained, "At United Way of Cullman County, we have a yearly allocations process where community volunteers come together to review and tour all nonprofits who have applied to be partner agencies.

"These volunteers will go through a training process, tour the agency sites and then choose which agencies get funding and partnership with United Way. This is a community-led process and we are currently accepting volunteers.

"This unique opportunity holds high importance because it is where donations to United Way are distributed and every penny stays right here in Cullman to help our community."

Training to serve on the committee is provided by UWCC, including a two-hour training class and an eight-hour trip around the county, checking in and speaking with directors and organizations to truly get an accurate idea and inside knowledge of which needs are paramount within the organization and most needed within the community.

After the visits have been made and the requested numbers have been looked over and discussed, the Allocation Committee, as a whole, has the responsibility of deciding which of these nonprofits will be UWCC partner agencies.

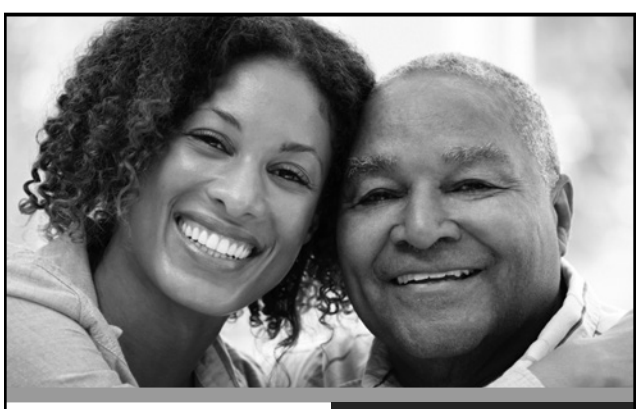
The next two-hour training course will be held on Wednesday, April 10, at the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce from 1-3 p.m. Individuals interested in serving on UWCC's Allocation Committee should contact United Way of Cullman County at 256-739-2948 or email schilders@uwaycc.org.

United Way of Cullman County is located at 309 First Ave. NE. The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce is located at 301 Second Ave. SW.

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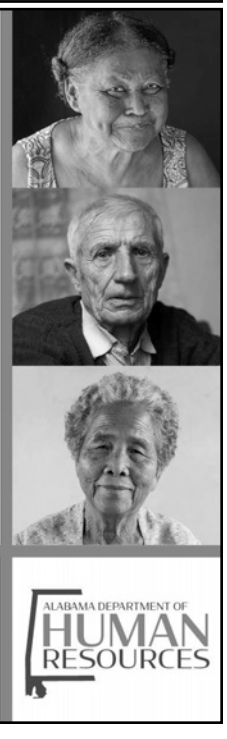


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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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.

Public Notice: Good Hope Public Cemetery Decoration Weekend Cleanup Announcement for 2024
Good Hope Public Cemetery will hold its annual Decoration Weekend on Saturday, May 4, and Sunday, May 5. Please have all worn flowers and decorations removed from the cemetery by Sunday, April 28. Any flowers and decorations remaining after April 28 will be subject to removal by cemetery maintenance with respect to condition. We ask that all new flowers and decorations be kept as close to the monuments as possible to aid in mowing. Donations to the cemetery can be sent to Good Hope Public Cemetery, P.O. Box 355, Cullman, AL 35056, are tax deductible and help us pay for cemetery upkeep. Thanks.

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, April 6 - 8 a.m. Men's breakfast and Foundry Farm outreach at 10.
• Sunday, April 7 - 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, April 7 - 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!

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.

Fairview Lions Club Spring Fling and Car, Truck, Tractor and Motorcycle Show
Saturday, April 6, at Randall Shedd Community Park on Wesley Avenue in Fairview. We will have a car show, vendors, games, music and bouncy houses. Registration is $20 and will begin at 8 a.m. with awards to be given out at 1 p.m. Vendor spots are $10 a spot, payable the day of the event. Must be set up by 9 a.m. Food vendors are encouraged to join us. Please register by March 28. Food vendor spots are $50. For more information, please contact Kita Chambers at 256-385-8805 or William Criscoe at 256-385-5596.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Revival
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.

Cullman Chapter of The National Association of Retired and Active Federal Employees Meeting
Monday, April 8, at the Golden Corral Buffet. The guest speaker will be Stephanie Childers. She is the executive director of the United Way of Cullman County. Dutch lunch at 11 a.m. and meeting beginning at noon. Members and nonmembers are welcome.

Rummage Sale
Friday, April 12, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday, April 13, from 8 a.m.-noon at Trinity Lutheran Church, 505 Commercial St., Hanceville.

Cullman Educator Retirees Association Meeting
Thursday, April 18, at 11 a.m. at Stone Bridge Farms. Our program will be the installation of our local officers for the next two years, followed by lunch and fellowship. We invite all educator retirees to join us.

40th Annual Bloomin' Festival
Saturday and Sunday, April 20-21, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. each day on the grounds of St. Bernard Preparatory School. There will be around 185 vendors this year. Admission is a $10 donation. Special reduced admission rates will also be offered to festival attendees all weekend to visit the Ave Maria Grotto.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Singing
We will have our regular third Sunday night singing on April 21, at 5 with Bloodline. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278, approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. Everyone is invited. For more information call 256-796-5986.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
APRIL 6, 2024

Public support of conservation efforts at State Parks improve natural habitats for wildlife and visitors

Ala. Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources

Smoke billows into the sky, visible to nearby residents and motorists as a sign that something is burning in the Alabama forest.

It's a prescribed fire at Oak Mountain State Park, which sometimes causes alarm because the smoke can be seen from Interstate 65 or U.S. Highway 280, but it ultimately promotes a healthy forest and better recreational opportunities for park visitors.

Prescribed fires, Simon said, accomplish a number of critical objectives.

"One of our objectives for using prescribed fire is to reduce excessive amounts of vegetative fuel on the ground and to decrease the risk of wildfire," said Simon, who earned an Ecology and Evolutionary Biology degree from the University of West Florida. "Prescribed fire is also used as a tool to control or manage invasive species, to maintain biodiversity and to stimulate the growth of new vegetation. That growth serves as valuable food for deer and creates a nesting habitat for turkey and quail."

Prescribed fire is an important land and wildlife management tool used to restore and improve natural habitats throughout Alabama's State Park System.

For example, a prescribed burn along the Talmadge Butler Boardwalk Trail at DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne was conducted in 2021 to reduce an area of dense vegetation. After the burn, more sunlight was able to reach the ground which encouraged the return of the lady slipper, a rare pink orchid, to the landscape

Before a prescribed fire can occur, Simon must coordinate with various agencies to ensure the fire is properly managed. Specific weather conditions must also be present before it can start. For instance, one of the first prescribed burns of 2024 was scheduled for Cheaha State Park between Jan. 19 and March 1. An exact date of the fire could only be scheduled by evaluating numerous conditions, including critical weather factors.

Last year, unfavorable weather conditions caused officials to postpone a prescribed fire at Gulf State Park until 2024. Prescribed burns are also planned for DeSoto, Frank Jackson, Lakepoint, Lake Guntersville and Oak Mountain state parks this year.

Funding State Parks

Alabama State Parks rely on visitor fees and the support of other partners like local communities to fund most of its operations. That means the work performed by the State Parks Natural Resources Section depends on funding and manpower. The State Parks Division budget is supplemented by revenues from Alabamians' purchase of an Alabama State Parks car tag and personalized boat decals, which designates 80% of the tag's cost to the State Parks System. This additional revenue stream helps fund management activities, such as prescribed fires.

"It's important to remember that 100% of the day-to-day operational funding for our State Parks is generated by user fees for lodging, entrance, golf, campsites and other amenities paid by guests," said Chris Blankenship, ADCNR Commissioner.

"Every time someone chooses to buy a State Parks car tag or boat registration personalized decal it helps our conservation efforts. In fact, this revenue stream has become vital for our State Parks System to thrive. I have a State Parks tag on my truck!"

In addition, the Alabama State Parks Foundation, a non-profit organization, allows individuals and corporations to give directly to specific state parks or projects. Buffalo Rock Pepsi and the Alabama Power Foundation are two recent examples of the corporate support aiding the Alabama State Park System. Donations can be made online at https://asparksfoundation.org/give/.

Alabama State Parks Director Greg Lein said the additional revenue from car tag sales and the individual and corporate support provided through the Foundation are crucial to continued conservation efforts and other improvements within the State Parks System.

"We are grateful to everyone who has purchased a car tag or made a donation through the Foundation," Lein said. "Their generous support helps us maintain and restore natural habitats within the parks as well as create new programs, features and amenities for parks visitors. Without this additional funding many of these improvements to our natural resources, trails and educational programs wouldn't be possible."

Conservation efforts

Prescribed fires at Alabama's 21 State Parks often grab the public's attention, but it's far from Simon's lone responsibility.

"We manage the land, water, soil, plants and animals of Alabama State Parks," said Simon, who is in her eighth year with the State Parks System. "Our mission is to safeguard the natural habitat and encourage responsible stewardship. By doing so, we create a tranquil environment, offering our guests peaceful moments immersed in nature."

Simon oversees the State Parks Division's conservation efforts, which requires her to coordinate a wide variety of projects.

Some days require Simon to plan and execute prescribed fire. Other days are dedicated to managing efforts to control invasive species. She also works to secure grant funding, which paired with funding provided by car tag sales and the Alabama State Parks Foundation enhances and expands all these efforts.

Alabama's state parks feature more than 50,000 acres of land and water, with parks in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, the sandy beaches along the Gulf of Mexico and all points in between. A State Park is located within a short drive of virtually every Alabamian.

Alabama is one of the most biologically diverse states in the country and Alabama's State Parks System puts that biodiversity on full display – a significant reason why the parks welcome millions of visitors every year. Alabama residents and visitors can enjoy the gorgeous scenery available alongside the State Park System's picturesque cabins, chalets and campgrounds. Reservations for overnight accommodations at Alabama State Parks can be made online at www.alapark.com.

Working for healthy state parks

The Natural Resources Section also promotes the restoration of native habitats and species within state parks, which includes managing invasive species.



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

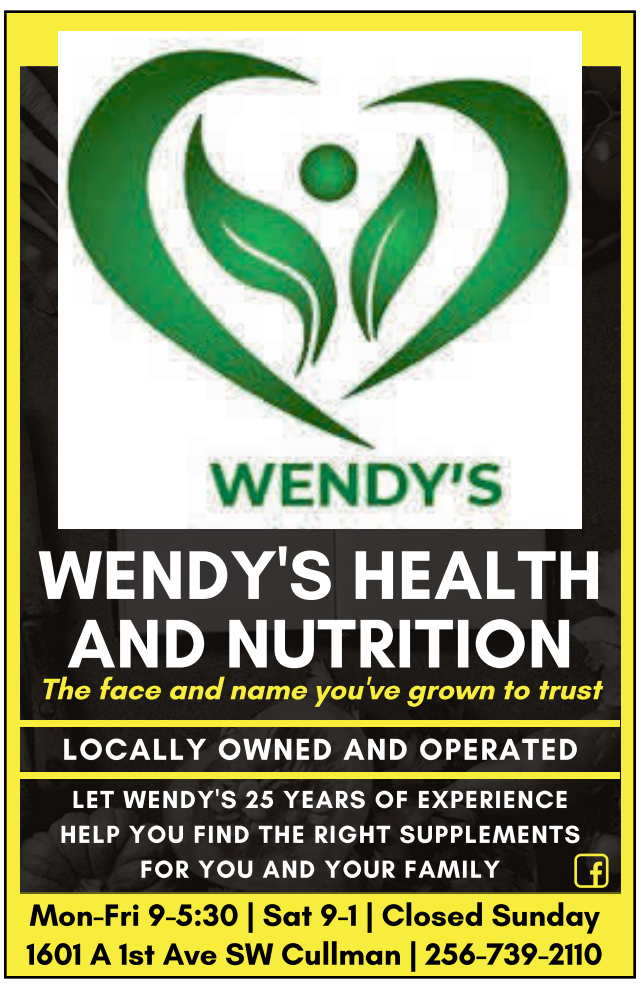
Tasha Simon, chief of the Natural Resources Section for ADCNR's State Parks Division, assisting with a prescribed fire at Gulf State Park.

A recent example of a successful public-private partnership to reduce invasive plant species comes from Chewacla State Park in Auburn, where the all-volunteer Chewacla Invasive Plant Working Group is working to control Chinese privet and tallowtree, thorny olive, wild taro, water hyacinth, kudzu and other non-native plants.

Simon helped secure a $20,000 Hearts of STIHL grant from STIHL, Inc., in 2022, which provided funding for the Chewacla Invasive Plant Working Group's ongoing efforts. She also secured another grant from the Alabama Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils to support placing pollinator gardens at 12 state parks around the state starting this year.

Additionally, Simon oversees lake management at Alabama State Parks, in conjunction with the ADCNR Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, where she plays a key role in fostering recreational fishing. This involves the preservation of suitable habitats, upkeep of water quality and efficient control of invasive species. Simon also coordinates fish stockings to bolster the lakes' overall ecological balance. The aim of these efforts is to prevent population declines and support the long-term sustainability of the fisheries.

"These conservation efforts are required so that the natural habitats within our state parks can flourish," Simon said. "The beauty of our parks system is sustained through these efforts and improves the experience for each visitor. The support of our partners and the public plays a vital role in allowing us to do this work."







Cullman County, Hanceville awarded grants for CCSO, HPD

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Gov. Kay Ivey recently awarded more than $791,000 in grants to improve public safety in 12 municipalities and seven counties. Local law enforcement agencies receiving funds include the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (via the Cullman County Commission) and Hanceville Police Department (via the City of Hanceville).

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) is administering the grants from funds made available by the U.S. Department of Justice.

"I appreciate our men and women in law enforcement who dedicate their lives to serving and protecting the public," Ivey said. "I am pleased to award these grants to help these officers, deputies and personnel carry out their duties more safely and efficiently."

"Through these grants, police departments and sheriffs' offices are able to direct funds toward needs they deem important to their agencies," ADECA Director Kenneth Boswell said. "ADECA is pleased to be a participant in this program."

Those receiving funds are:

COUNTIES

• Cherokee County Commission – $48,300 to purchase personal defense devices

• Choctaw County Commission - $49,442 to supply the Sheriff's Department with a new patrol vehicle (nearly every patrol vehicle in the department's inventory has been driven more than 100,000 miles, county officials said)

• Crenshaw County Commission - $29,849 to purchase body cameras for deputies and corrections officers in the Crenshaw County Sheriff's Office

• Cullman County Commission - $20,910 to purchase a drug incinerator for the sheriff's department; the incinerator will be used to destroy confiscated illegal and legal drugs after they have been used as evidence

• Jackson County Commission - $50,000 to establish a Special Response Team for active-shooter situations. Funds will be used to provide heavy-duty protective gear for officers responding to emergencies in which high-powered weapons may be in use.

• Pike County Commission - $50,000 to enable the sheriff's department to purchase equipment to adapt to a new radio system needed to communicate effectively with other law enforcement agencies in the county

• Walker County Commission - $49,456 to purchase body cameras for the sheriff's department to enhance accountability and transparency in drug arrests and other law enforcement duties

MUNICIPALITIES

• Autaugaville - $39,300 to purchase new radios compliant with the newer P25 radio systems used by other nearby law enforcement agencies

• Chickasaw - $40,000 to purchase a new patrol vehicle equipped with needed technology for the Chickasaw Police Department

• Childersburg - $35,000 to purchase patrol vehicle cameras and other assorted equipment for the Childersburg Police Department

• Elberta- $35,000 to purchase eight newer versions of body cameras that have censors which automatically activate when worn by Elberta police officers

• Excel - $27,412 to purchase body and vehicle cameras. The three body and two patrol vehicle cameras will offer transparency and accountability of officers

• Fort Payne – $50,000 to upgrade the Fort Payne Police Department's communication system to improve the ability to correspond with each other, the city fire department and medical emergency response personnel

• Geneva - $29,752 to enable the Geneva Police Department to purchase a portable narcotics analyzer. The analyzer can quickly identify 500 different types of illegal substances, streamlining criminal investigations and strengthening court cases and convictions

• Hanceville - $46,985 to purchase equipment to significantly upgrade the police department's digital and computer capabilities that will assist the department in investigations and traffic control

• Hueytown- $49,715 to purchase mobile license plate recognition technology for the police department to use in locating stolen vehicles and spotting improper or expired vehicle license plate registrations

• New Hope - $41,682 to purchase six body cameras and other equipment to be used by officers

• Spanish Fort - $49,632 to enhance the abilities of the Baldwin Area Mutual Response Team, a coalition of the police departments in Spanish Fort, Fairhope and Coastal Alabama Community College. The teams share equipment, training and human resources to reduce or solve crimes in the area.

• Triana- $48,650 to purchase body cameras and a breath-alcohol testing machine and various other equipment to improve public safety in the community

Cullman County Schools 2024-2025 kindergarten registration info

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CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County Schools is gearing up for kindergarten registration for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. Families interested in enrolling their children can now pre-register online at www.ccboe.org/k where a step-by-step guide has been provided. In-person registration will be available from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on designated dates for each school.

Elementary Curriculum Coordinator Margaret Guthrie shared her enthusiasm about the upcoming registration, stating, "Kindergarten registration is an exciting time for our school system. This gives us a chance to meet our incoming kindergarteners which helps us plan for the future. We expect to enroll several new kindergarteners that are zoned for their specific schools and students that live outside our district as space allows."

Parents and guardians will need to bring their child and the following documents on the day of registration:

- Birth certificate
- Social Security card
- Immunization records
- Proof of residency (e.g., a current utility bill)

Registration schedule by school:

- April 16: Harmony
- April 17: Parkside
- April 18: Welti
- April 23: Cold Springs
- April 24: Fairview
- April 25: Good Hope Primary
- April 30: Hanceville
- May 1: Holly Pond
- May 2: Vinemont
- May 7: West Point Elementary

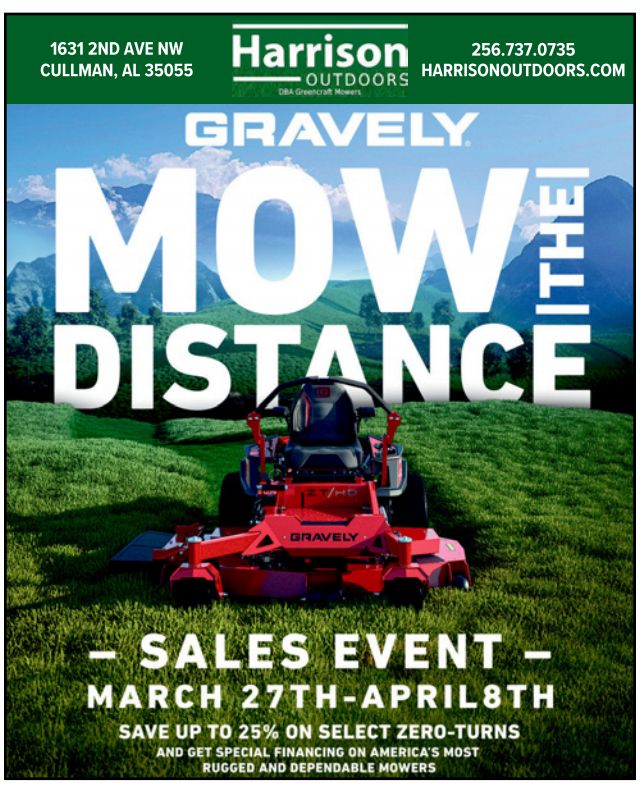
Important registration information:
Parents must initially register their child at the school within their zoned area. Those interested in requesting a school zone transfer will find the necessary form available on the website starting June 1, 2024.

For additional information, contact the school your child is zoned to attend. To begin the pre-registration process, visit www.ccboe.org/K. For further details about Cullman County Schools, visit www.ccboe.org.















COUNTY SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Good Hope downs Fairview 6-3 to win county championship

Nick Griffin
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VINEMONT, Ala. – For the first time in nine seasons, a new team stepped up to claim the county championship at the Vinemont Sports Complex Wednesday night. After toppling the nine-time defending champion West Point Warriors in the semifinals, Good Hope clashed with Fairview in the title game. The Aggies overcame an early deficit to Holly Pond to earn their spot in the county finals. The Raiders got off to a 5-0 start in the first two innings of the county championship game and Fairview was unable to overcome the early lead, allowing Good Hope to secure the county title.

Good Hope 6 – Fairview 3 (Championship Game)
RBI singles by Molly Johnson and Molly Benefield gave the Lady Raiders a 3-0 lead in the top of the first and they added to their lead when they returned to the plate in the second.

Addyson Burgess sent a triple into right field and Lizzy Steed singled back up the middle to put runners on the corners. An error allowed Burgess to score and advanced Steed all the way around to third base. A few pitches later, Steed scored on a fielder's choice to make it a 5-0 game.

Fairview cut the lead to 5-1 in the bottom of the second with an RBI single from Ayda Payne and Addison Phillips drew a walk with the bases loaded to make it 5-2. Kallie Trussell drove in another run in the bottom of the third, trimming the lead to 5-3 but the Warriors wouldn't come any closer than that. Benefield stepped into the circle for Good Hope and West Point didn't record another hit the rest of the way. Campbell Koch scored on an RBI groundout in the top of the fifth and the Raiders cruised through the final two innings to capture this year's county championship with a 6-3 win.

Benefield tossed 4.2 hitless innings in the win, striking out seven batters. At the plate, Benfield added three RBIs. Johnson posted a pair of hits and RBIs for Good Hope and Steed led the game with three hits. For Fairview, Trussell and Kylie Kovar each finished with a pair of hits.

Fairview 4 – Holly Pond 2 (Semifinals)
Holly Pond took an early 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first on a two-run single off the bat of Libby Stallings, but Fairview countered in the top of the second inning. Addison Phillips scored on a passed ball, Allison Davis crossed the plate on a wild pitch, and Ralie Gaines scored on an error to give the Lady Aggies a 3-2 lead.

After a scoreless third inning, Fairview added to its lead in the fourth. Isabella Lopez hit a leadoff double and came around to score on a fielder's choice by Kylie Kovar to make it a 4-2 game.

It quickly turned into a pitcher's duel after that, as Fairview's Ada Fales and Holly Pond's Maggie Nail kept it a two-run game going into the seventh. Ellie Burks hit a leadoff single in the bottom of the seventh, but Fales quickly struck out Alaina Folds for the first out. Fales then forced a pop out and doubled off Burks at first base to end the game and the Lady Aggies advanced to the championship game with a 4-2 win.

Kovar finished with a hit and an RBI for Fairview. Phillips added three hits, while Emily Benson, Payne, Davis, Gaines, and Lopez all collected a hit in the win. Payne gave up just three hits and no runs in her 6 2/3 innings of work and struck out six. For Holly Pond, Stallings posted a hit and two RBIs. Black finished with a pair of hits, while Molly Neal and Burks each ended up with a hit in the loss.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Good Hope Raiders defeated Fairview 6-3 in this year's Cullman County Championship Game Wednesday night.

Good Hope 3 - West Point 2 (Semifinals)
There was no score going into the third inning, but Good Hope got the first runs of the game in the bottom of the third. Campbell Koch hit an RBI single to left field to give the Lady Raiders the early lead, then two pitches later, Kynzlee Garmon drove in a pair of runs on a single to center field to make it 3-0. After being held scoreless through the first four innings, West Point got on the scoreboard in the top of the fifth.

Sidney Burks hit a one-out single, moved to second on a sacrifice bunt and ended up scoring on an RBI single by Kara Jones to cut it to 3-1. The score stayed the same going into the top of the seventh. Macie Brown hit a leadoff double for the Lady Warriors, then an error allowed her to score to make it a one-run game.

They didn't get any closer after that, though, as Molly Benefield induced a groundout, then she struck out the next batter to end the game. Good Hope knocks out the top-seeded West Point Lady Warriors 3-2 to move on to the championship game.

Garmon (two RBIs) and Koch (one RBI) each finished with a hit in the game for the Lady Raiders. Lizzy Steed added a pair of hits, while Carley Adams, Haley Lay, and Addyson Burgess each posted a hit in the win. Benefield went the distance for Good Hope, allowing just four hits and two earned runs and striking out six.

For West Point, Jones finished with a hit and an RBI, while Brown, Burks, and Kylee Quinn each collected a hit in the loss. Jones went six innings, gave up seven hits, three earned runs and struck out two.

Sammy Confer contributed to this article.

PREP BASEBALL

Cold Springs races past Altamont 13-10, Wednesday scoring recap

Sammy Confer
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Cold Springs 13 - Altamont 10 (Baseball)
Cold Springs didn't waste any time getting on the scoreboard against Altamont. They batted around and scored six runs in the first inning. RBI singles by Lindan Hill, Matt Williams, and Ethan Nabors, a two-run double by Samuel Turner, and an RBI single by Cole Bales gave them the quick 6-0 lead. The Knights countered by scoring the next eight runs in the first three innings to take an 8-6 lead. The Eagles got the lead right back in the top of the fourth. Bales scored on a passed ball, Josh Winfrey crossed the plate on an error, and Mason Gable added an RBI single to give them a 9-8 lead. Altamont tied the game up at nine in their half of the inning.

Cold Springs broke the tie in the top of the sixth as they scored a pair of runs to take an 11-9 lead. The Knights trimmed it to one at 11-10 in their half, but the Eagles added two more runs in the top of the seventh to take a 13-10 lead. They would hold off a late rally attempt by Altamont to win the game 13-10.

Williams (two RBIs), Bales (RBI), Hill (RBI), Gable (RBI), Nabors (RBI), and Turner (RBI) all finished with a hit in the win for Cold Springs (6-12).

Cullman 5 - Muscle Shoals 2 (Baseball)
Cullman got a two-out rally started in its opening at-bats against Muscle Shoals. A walk and an error put runners on the corners with two outs, then Brooks Heatherly lined an RBI single to right field to give them the early lead. Later that inning, Colten Bowen hit a two-run single, and Cooper Loftin followed that up with an RBI single of his own to push the Bearcat lead to 4-0. Cullman added to their lead in the bottom of the second as Wil McCollum scored on a double play ball to make it 5-0. A two-run single by the Trojans in the top of the seventh cut it to 5-2, but Loftin struck out the next batter to end the game and the Bearcats ended up defeating Muscle Shoals 5-2.

Bowen finished with a hit and two RBIs for Cullman (10-16). Loftin (two hits) and Heatherly (one hit) each added an RBI of their own in the win. Loftin went the distance for the Bearcats, allowing just two hits and two earned runs, walking five and striking out four.

Fairview 8 - Hayden 0 (Baseball)
Fairview struck first in their game against Hayden. Nicolas Gregory reached on an infield single to lead off the game and later scored on a two-out single by Bryceson Turner to give the Aggies the early lead. Fairview added to their lead in the top of the fourth. Colton Jennings scored on a wild pitch to make it 2-0. A hit by pitch and an error in the top of the fifth allowed Fairview to push their lead to 4-0. The top of the sixth saw the Aggies continue to pad their lead. Conner Scott scored on an error, Turner hit an RBI double and later scored on a wild pitch to make it 7-0. Gregory added an RBI single in the seventh to give Fairview an 8-0 lead. Jaxon Robertson finished off the game by retiring the Wildcats on just eight pitches to help seal the 8-0 win for the Aggies.

Turner finished with a pair of hits and two RBIs for Fairview (18-6-1). Gregory added three hits and an RBI, while Barett York collected a hit and an RBI in the win. Robertson completely shut out Hayden's offense the whole game as he pitched a one-hit shutout. He walked five and struck out four.

Oneonta 8 - Good Hope 4 (Baseball)
Good Hope got out to an early lead against Oneonta. An Oneonta error allowed Carter Rutherford to cross the plate to give the Raiders the early lead. Later on, Ayden Black and Caden Drake scored on another error to make it 3-0. The Redskins cut it to 3-1 in their half of the first, then scored three more runs in the bottom of the third to take a 4-3 lead. A bases-loaded walk in the top of the fourth tied the game up at four, but it would be all Oneonta after that as they ended up scoring the final four runs of the game to take it 8-4.

Drake and Carter Naramore each finished with an RBI for Good Hope (9-9). Rutherford, Colbi Kilpatrick and Dakota Overton each added a hit in the loss.

Ashville 13 - Hanceville 8 (Baseball)
Ashville jumped out to a quick 5-0 lead against Hanceville in the top of the third, but Hanceville cut into their lead in their half. An RBI double by Cody Belcher and RBI singles by Gabriel Ognilla and Grayson Hurter made it a 5-3 game. Ashville countered in a big way in the fourth, scoring eight times to push their lead to 11-3. Hanceville made it a 12-5 game on an error in the fifth and a passed ball in the sixth. Ashville increased their lead to 13-5 in the seventh, but Hanceville looked to make a miraculous comeback in their half. A sacrifice fly by Hurter, an RBI single by Belcher, and a passed ball made it a 13-8 game, but they wouldn't get any closer after that, though, as Hanceville ended up dropping their game to Ashville 13-8.

Belcher (two hits) and Hurter (one hit) each drove in a pair of runs for Hanceville (13-5), while Ognilla added a hit and an RBI in the loss.

Holly Pond 11 - Cleveland 8 (Baseball)



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cold Springs Eagles pulled away to defeat Altamont 13-10 Wednesday night.

Holly Pond took a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the first on an RBI triple by Carson Ryan and an RBI groundout by Kollin Brown. Cleveland put up two runs in the top of the third to get the lead right back at 3-2, but the Broncos countered in their half. Brown hit an RBI double and later scored on a wild pitch to give them a 4-3 lead. A bases-loaded walk and a sacrifice fly by Jackson Miller made it 6-3.

The Panthers cut it to 6-5 in the top of the fifth, but Holly Pond answered right back in their half. An RBI double by Peyton Queen, an RBI single by Miller, a two-run single by Sawyer Olinger, and a sacrifice fly by Ryan gave the Broncos an 11-5 lead. Cleveland made it an 11-8 game in the top of the sixth, but Holly Pond kept them at arm's length the rest of the way after that. Olinger retired the Panthers on 12 pitches to help seal the 11-8 win for Holly Pond in game one.

Holly Pond 11 - Cleveland 1 (Baseball)
In game two, Holly Pond jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead on an RBI single by Miller in the bottom of the second and an RBI double by Brown in the third. The Broncos broke the game wide open in the fourth, scoring six runs, as four different Holly Pond players drove in a run in that inning. Brown also stole home to make it an 8-0 game. Holly Pond ended things in their half of the fifth. An RBI single by Queen and an RBI triple by Brody Howard pushed their lead to 10-1, then Miller's RBI single helped seal the 11-1 win for the Broncos.

In the first game, Olinger (three hits), Ryan (two hits), Brown (one hit), and Miller (one hit) all drove in a pair of runs for Holly Pond (6-14). Queen added a hit and an RBI, while Howard collected an RBI of his own in the win. In the second game, Howard (three hits), Ryan (two hits), Brown (two hits), and Miller (two hits) each finished with a pair of RBIs in the game, while Queen and Tristan Hibbert each added a hit and an RBI of their own. Rex Harrison went the distance for the Broncos, giving up eight hits and one earned run.

West Point 5 - Jasper 4 (Baseball)
West Point jumped out to a quick lead in their game against Jasper. An RBI single by Cade Welborn, a fielder's choice, and an error allowed the Warriors to take an early 3-0 lead.

The Vikings tied the game up at three in the bottom of the second. Boston Freeman hit an RBI single in the top of the fourth to give West Point a 4-3 lead. The Warriors made it 5-3 in the sixth on an RBI single by Freeman. Jasper cut it to 5-4 in the bottom of the seventh, but Josh Cherry induced a ground ball to end the game, and West Point would go on to defeat the Vikings 5-4.

Freeman finished with three hits and a pair of RBIs for West Point (9-11) while Welborn (one hit) and Titan Thornton each drove in a run in the win.





PREP BASEBALL

West Point sweeps area series against Jasper

Nick Griffin
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WEST POINT, Ala. – After taking game one of their area series at Jasper Wednesday night, the West Point Warriors returned home Thursday for games two and three against the Vikings. The Warriors took care of business in game one, hammering Jasper 12-1 in five innings to secure the series win. J.D. Cochran led the way on the mound and Cade Welborn led the way at the plate. Cochran tossed all five innings, allowing one run on just three hits and striking out nine batters to earn the win. Welborn finished with a pair of hits, a walk and four RBIs.

West Point 12 – Jasper 1 (Game One)
Welborn drove in Jay Lamar with a single up the middle to give West Point a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first and the Warriors added to their lead in the second. Cochran punched a single into left field to plate Gus McKenney and Deacon Stutchman, stretching the lead to 3-0. Welborn tacked on three more runs with a bases-clearing double later in the inning, giving West Point a 6-0 advantage going into the third.

Stutchman ripped a double into center field to bring Cooper Howard in for another run in the bottom of the third and he scored on a passed ball later in the inning to make it an 8-0 game going into the fourth. Jasper was able to push one run across in the top of the fourth to trim the lead to 8-1 but the Warriors responded in their half of the inning. An RBI single from Howard put West Point ahead 9-1 and McKenney was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to bring in another run. Boston Freeman put two more runs on the board with an RBI single later in the inning to make it 12-1 and Cochran struck out the side in the top of the fifth to cap a 12-1 win for the Warriors.

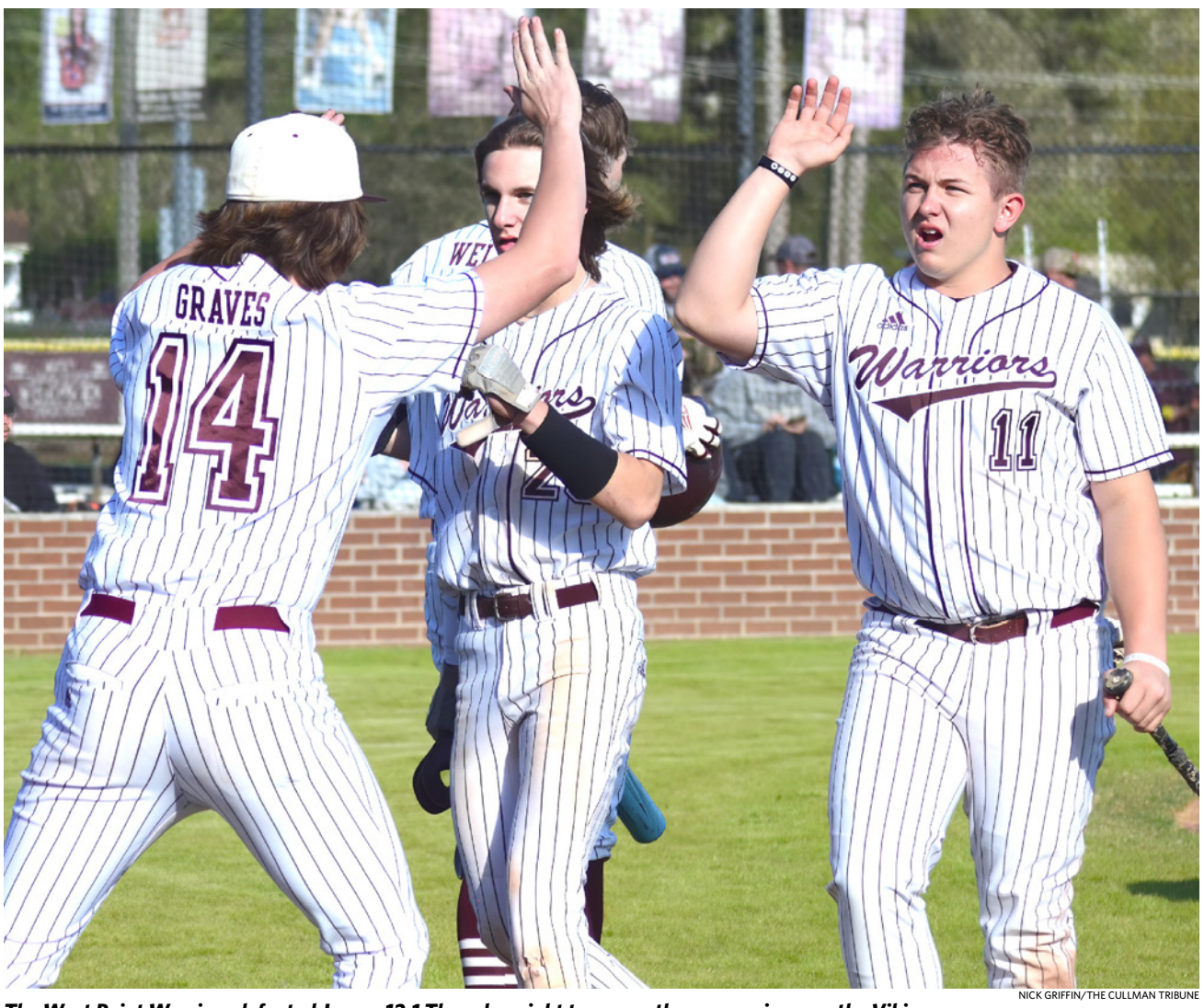
Freeman was 3-for-3 at the plate with two RBIs in the win. Cochran (one hit) posted two RBIs and Stutchman, McKenney and Howard each added a hit and an RBI as well.

West Point 7 – Jasper 4 (Game Two)
Boston Freeman and Cade Welborn each scored on errors to give the Warriors a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first, but Jasper was able to string some hits together and take a 4-2 lead in the top of the second. In the bottom of the third, Freeman scored on a fielder's choice to make it 4-3 and Jay Lamar drove a double into right field to plate Welborn and tie the game at 4 going into the fourth.

After a pair of scoreless innings, West Point moved back in front in the bottom of the sixth. Gus McKenney scored from third on a sac fly by Brayden Eaton to give the Warriors a 5-4 lead and an RBI single off the bat of Stutchman stretched the lead to 6-4. Stutchman scored on a fielder's choice just a few pitches later and West Point went into the final frame with a 3-run lead. The Warriors collected the final three outs in the top of the seventh to cap a 7-4 win and a series sweep of the Vikings.

Freeman (one RBI) and Welborn (one RBI) each finished with a pair of RBIs in the win. Lamar and Stutchman each posted a hit and an RBI as well.

The Warriors will remain home for the first game of their area series with Russellville Tuesday night.


NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The West Point Warriors defeated Jasper 12-1 Thursday night to secure the area series over the Vikings.

OTHER THURSDAY NIGHT SCORES

Good Hope 14 - Oneonta 4 (Baseball)
Good Hope struck first in the bottom of the first inning. Ayden Black hit an RBI single, then Colbi Kilpatrick scored on an error to make it 2-0. Caden Drake added an RBI single to give them a 3-0 lead. The Raiders continued to add on to their lead in the bottom of the second. Kilpatrick hit an RBI double, Carter Naramore added a two-run double, and Dakota Overton and Colten Whatley each hit back-to-back RBI singles to push their lead to 8-0. Good Hope made it 11-0 in the bottom of the third on an error and a two-run single by Caden Drake. Rutherford stole home in the fourth to stretch the Raider lead to 12-0.

Oneonta got on the scoreboard in the top of the fifth as they scored four runs to cut it to 12-4, but Good Hope decided to end things in the bottom of the sixth. Rutherford lined an RBI single to left field; he would later score on an error to help seal the 14-4 win for the Raiders.

Drake finished with a pair of hits and three RBIs for Good Hope. Rutherford went four-for-four with an RBI, while Kilpatrick (two hits), Black (one hit), Naramore (one hit) and Myles Johnson each collected an RBI in the win.

Altamont 12 - Cold Springs 2 (Baseball)
Altamont held a 2-1 lead after one inning, but the Knights exploded for eight runs in the top of the second and added a run in the third and fourth inning. Altamont ended up defeating Cold Springs 12-2.

Lindan Hill finished with a hit and an RBI for the Eagles, while Ethan Nabors added an RBI in the loss.

Muscle Shoals 6 - Cullman 4 (Baseball)
Muscle Shoals jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first. They made it 3-0 in the bottom of the third, but Cullman climbed back into the game in the next two innings. They loaded the bases with nobody out, and Bennett Johnson scored on a wild pitch to cut it to 3-1 in the fourth. In the fifth, Tanner Gaines got hit by the pitch with one out, and on just the second pitch of the at-bat, Johnson launched a two-run home run over the center field fence to tie the game up at three. The Trojans countered in their half, as a three-run home run with two outs gave them a 6-3 lead.

The Bearcats looked for one last rally in the top of the seventh. They loaded the bases with two outs, then Colter Bowen hit an RBI single to cut it to 6-4. A fly ball, though, ended the game, and Cullman ended up falling to Muscle Shoals 6-4.

Johnson led the way for Cullman with a pair of hits and two RBIs, while Bowen added a hit and an RBI in the loss.

Mortimer Jordan 10 - Cullman 5 (Softball)
Cullman got on the scoreboard first in its opening at-bats. Hattie Graham hit a one-out double and later scored on an RBI single by Taylor Au to give them the early lead, then Reese Hopper followed that up with an RBI double to make it 2-0. A three-run home run by Mortimer Jordan in their half gave them a 3-2 lead.

The Lady Blue Devils added four more runs in the bottom of the second to push their lead to 7-2. Brooklyn Morton scored on an error in the top of the fourth to cut it to 7-3, but Mortimer Jordan put up three runs in the fifth to make it a 10-3 game. Cullman made it 10-5 in the sixth on an RBI groundout by Brie Voss and a wild pitch, but that's as close as they would get the rest of the way and they ended up falling to the Lady Blue Devils 10-5.

Au (two hits) and Hopper (two hits) each drove in a run for Cullman (15-10), while Voss added an RBI in the loss.

Ashville 10 - Hanceville 5 (Baseball)
Hanceville got out to a nice lead in its opening at-bats. Gabriel Ognilla scored on an error, then later than inning, Hunter Black hit a two-run single to right field to give them a 3-0 lead. Ashville cut it to 3-1 in their half, then they added four more runs in the third to take a 5-3 lead. Hanceville tied the game up at five in the top of the fourth on an RBI triple by Jake Cornelius and an RBI single by Nelson Arteaga, but it would be all Ashville after that as they broke the tie in the fourth inning. They put up four more runs in the sixth as they ended up getting the win over Hanceville 10-5.

Black finished with a pair of hits and two RBIs for Hanceville. Cornelius and Arteaga each added a hit and an RBI in the loss.

Danville 14 - Holly Pond 1 (Baseball)
It would be all Danville in their game against Holly Pond as they jumped out to a quick 10-0 lead after two innings and ended up rolling past the Broncos, 14-1 in five innings.

Tristan Hibbert collected the only RBI of the game for Holly Pond. Carson Ryan and Brody Howard each posted a pair of hits, while Boston Gibbs, Peyton Queen and Jackson Miller each added a hit in the loss.

Decatur Heritage 13 - Vinemont 3 (Baseball)
After a scoreless first inning, Decatur Heritage put up four runs in the top of the second and exploded for six more runs in the fourth to take a 10-0 lead.

A two-run double off the bat of Jake Hale in the bottom of the fifth made it a 10-2 game, but Decatur Heritage pushed their lead to 13-2 in the top of the sixth. An RBI single by Josh Rhodes in the sixth cut it to 13-3, but a groundout ended the game, and Vinemont ended up dropping their game to Decatur Heritage 13-3.

Hale finished with a hit and two RBIs for Vinemont, while Rhodes added three hits and an RBI in the loss.

Team (from Front)

that it is an individual competition, without the support of teammates. Quiz bowl is a competitive, academic, interscholastic activity for teams of students. Quiz bowl teams use buzzers and answer questions about science, math, history, literature, mythology, geography, social science, current events, sports and popular culture," said NAQT Vice President of Marketing Dwight Kidder. "Quiz bowl matches feature a blend of individual competition and team collaboration, since no individual player is likely to be an expert in all subject areas. Participation in quiz bowl both reinforces lessons from the classroom and encourages players to develop new intellectual interests."

The Individual Player National Championship Tournament results will be updated throughout the day at www.naqt.com/go/stats/14705 on April 7.

LEGALS

VALUATION NOTICE

The appraised valuations of all property listed for taxation in Cullman County have been fixed as provided by law and filed in my office according to Sec. 40-30-20, 1975 Code of Alabama. The Board of Equalization and Adjustment will hear protest on any of these valuations provided these protests are filed in writing by May 10, 2024.

Barry Willingham, ACTA
Revenue Commissioner
Board Secretary
Cullman County

2023 Tax Year Delinquent Parcels

In accordance with Title 40, Chapter 10, Code of Ala. 1975 (§40-10-180 through 200), Cullman County Tax Collecting official has authority to auction and sell tax liens on properties for which ad valorem property taxes are delinquent. Effective with the 2023 delinquent property tax, a tax lien auction will take place in the County Commission conference room of the Courthouse of Cullman County on May 7, 2024, at 10:00.

Barry Willingham, Revenue Commissioner for The State of Alabama, Cullman County and Municipalities therein.

Note: Payment must be made with cash, cashier's check, money order, or credit card. No personal checks will be accepted.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
HAROLD DANNY CALVERT, * CASE NO. PC2023-401
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: MICHAEL RANDALL, MITCHELL RANDALL, TAMMY ALLISON, RICKEY ALLISON, LINDA HALE, AND ALL OF RESPECTIVE ISSUE THAT WOULD CONSTITUTE THE HEIRS OF THE DECEASED.

Petition for Probate of Will for the Estate of Harold Danny Calvert, Deceased, filed the 8th day of December, 2023, and made court record the 13th day of December, 2023, by Timothy Louis Arndt, Petitioner, through Attorney Mark O. South, has been rescheduled for the **21st day of May, 2024, at 10:30 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 28th day of March, 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.

Mark O. South
Attorney for Petitioner
1207 1st Ave SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
LEROY POPE , * CASE NO. PC2023-381
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: ROBERT HEATH POPE, LLOYD POPE AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN HEIRS OF LEROY POPE.

Petition for Probate of Will for the Estate of Leroy Pope, Deceased, filed the 21st day of November, 2023, and made court record the 22nd day of November, 2023, by Linda Gail Pope, Petitioner, through Attorney Tonya C. Palmer, has been rescheduled for the **21st day of May, 2024, at 11:00 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 28th day of March, 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.

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney for Petitioner
1939 Main Ave SW
Cullman, AL 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
JUDITH L. JONES * **CASE NO.: PC 2024-081**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to JENNIFER ANN HALE, as Personal Representative of the Estate of JUDITH L. JONES, deceased, on the 28th 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.

Jennifer Ann Hale
Personal Representative

Michael T. Burleson
Attorney for the Estate
200 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
MARION T. KEY, * CASE NO PC 2023-333
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: JASON KEY, AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES

Petition for Probate of Will filed the 17th day of October, 2023, made court record the 18th day of October, 2023, by Rhonda Key, Petitioner, to admit to probate the Last Will and Testament of Marion T. Key, deceased, by and through Attorney, Pamela E. Nail, has been scheduled for the **30th 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 22nd day of March, 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 Personal Representative
200 Second Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-734-3342

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
ELLEN BAILEY HESTERLEY * **CASE NO.: PC 2023-419**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to REGGIE D. HESTERLEY, as Personal Representative of the Estate of ELLEN BAILEY HESTERLEY, deceased, on the 21st 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.

Reggie D. Hesterley
Personal Representative

Kenneth Weldon
Attorney for Personal Representative
PO Box 1464
Cullman, Alabama 35056

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

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

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

SPECIAL NOTICE RE LOCAL LAWS

NO SPECIAL, PRIVATE, OR LOCAL LAW CAN BE PASSED, except in reference to fixing the time of holding courts, unless notice of the intention to apply therefor shall have been published, without cost to the State, in the county or counties where the matter or thing to be affected may be situated. The notice must state the substance of the proposed law and be published at least once a week for four consecutive weeks in some newspaper published in such county or counties. Such publication must have been completed prior to the day on which the bill is introduced.

Proof by affidavit (proof of publication) which verifies that notice has been properly published must be exhibited to the House of Representatives and the Senate, and one copy of such proof must be attached to the original copy of the bill which is offered for introduction.

The county or municipality affected by a local law introduced by a legislator must pay for advertising the notice, if the notice is signed by the Legislator, even though the bill is not passed. (Section 11-13-6, Code of Alabama 1975)

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY

NOTICE is hereby given that a bill substantially as follows will be introduced in the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature of Alabama and application for its passage and enactment will be made:

«Document» «Date» «Analyst's» («Legal/Fiscal»)«Typist's»
«Project»**DRAFT DOCUMENT: NOT OFFICIAL LEGISLATION**

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to Cullman County; to amend Section 1 of Act 2023-121 of the 2023 Regular Session, now appearing as Section 45-22-190, Code of Alabama 1975; to provide further for the expenditure of monies from the Cullman County Legislative Delegation Fund.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 1 of Act 2023-191 of the 2023 Regular Session, now appearing as Section 45-22-190, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§45-22-190

(a) The Cullman County Commission shall create the Cullman County Legislative Delegation Fund.

(b) The fund shall be comprised of the following monies received by the county:

(1) The additional three percent of TVA in-lieu-of-taxes payments received pursuant to Section 40-28-2.

(2) The proceeds collected pursuant to Section 35-8B-5.

~~(2)~~ (3) Any other monies provided for by law.

(c) The commission shall immediately pay amounts from the fund as the Cullman County Legislative Delegation may request.

Page 1

(d) The legislative delegation shall expend the monies on allowable public purposes at the discretion and direction of the legislative delegation, based on the proportion of the population each member of the delegation represents in the county.

(e) All decisions concerning the Cullman County Legislative Delegation Fund shall be made by resolutions adopted by the members of the Cullman County Legislative Delegation.

(f) Any funds allocated but not spent at the end of the fiscal year shall not be applied for any other purpose, but shall be carried forward and shall remain available year to year for expenditure as provided in this section.

(g) The revenue and expenditures of the legislative delegation office shall be audited on an annual basis."

Section 2. This act shall become effective on June 1, 2024.

Page 2

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

PB WIL BK 122 PG 900 - 04/05/2024 08:17 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
DORIS FAY CRAWFORD * **CASE NO.: PC 2024-119**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to CLARENCE WINGO and RAVEN S. SWINDOLL, as Personal Representatives of the Estate of DORIS FAY CRAWFORD, deceased, on the 4th day of April, 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.

Clarence Wingo and
Raven S. Swindoll
Personal Representatives

G. Edward Coey
Attorney for the Personal Representatives
PO Box 834
Hanceville, Alabama 35077

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

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.

WSCC: Women in Diesel Meet and Greet April 11

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College's Diesel Technology program is hosting a Women in Diesel Meet and Greet on Thursday, April 11, aimed at women interested in learning more about the program and the high-demand career opportunities available to them. The event will take place in the Diesel Technology shop from 5-7 p.m.

Attendees will be able to tour the facility, apply for classes and financial aid and meet with instructors and students in the Diesel Technology program.

Briana Morgan is a new lab assistant in the Diesel Technology program and a Wallace State alumna. She will be present to meet with attendees and share her experiences working in the field with different companies and how the Diesel Technology program at Wallace State impacted her career.

Apryl Emmons, service manager at Southland Transportation Group, will also be on hand to talk with attendees about potential career opportunities in the area.

The Women in Diesel initiative aims to increase the number of women and adult learners in diesel technology training. Supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation, Wallace State has partnered with the National Institute of Women in Trades, Technology and Sciences to diversify the student body of the Diesel Technology program.

This collaboration seeks to provide more opportunities for women and other underrepresented adult learner populations in the diesel technology field.

"Alabama's trucking industry needs the best and brightest to keep our technologically advanced fleet working safely on the roads," said Mark Colson, president and CEO of the Alabama Trucking Association.

"The best and the brightest are often women and they now have a designated pathway to becoming a diesel tech: the Wallace State Hanceville Diesel Technology program. It's the best route for women to join the team that keeps Alabama moving forward."



WALLACE STATE

Lacy Farr, Aly Stapleton, Abigail Hutchinson and Annakiah Battles, who are all Diesel by Distance students who attend night classes, pose with a Diesel by Distance truck.

At Wallace State, women can learn the skills required to join the workforce in just four semesters.

The program allows for a more flexible schedule and provides a distance learning option to better accommodate those that may be occupied during normal working hours. At the conclusion of the degree program, women will leave as certified Diesel Technicians after graduation.

For people who are interested in the field of diesel technology, but not entirely sure if is the right choice for them, Diesel by Distance Coordinator Anna Beard said the Women in Diesel Meet and Greet is a great opportunity for prospective students to meet current students and faculty members and ask their own personal questions about the industry.

"There are many different career avenues within the diesel industry and to hear about it first-hand from other students and technicians is a good opportunity for someone who thinks they might be interested but aren't 100 percent sure yet," said Beard.

"We have a variety of learners in the Diesel Technology program including male, female, dual enrollment, traditional and adult learners looking to upskill or seeking a career change."

While the Women in Diesel Meet and Greet is geared mainly toward introducing women to the field of diesel mechanics, the event is open to anybody who wishes to learn more about the Diesel Technology program at Wallace State Community College.

Wallace State offers a hybrid option of the Diesel Technology program called Diesel by Distance, which enables students to complete their work online and attend labs at night or on weekends.

Students enrolled in either option of the program can choose to attend classes either full time or part time. Both program options are Dual 2 Degree eligible, allowing students to take courses through WSCC which count towards high school requirements and college credit for a future degree.

Other highlights about the program and career:

- 95% of graduates with a Diesel Technology degree go on to work in positions with a starting pay of $16 to $24/hour. Master technicians can make up to $100,000 a year

- Employer demand is so high that current Wallace State Diesel Technology students are receiving job offers before they complete their degrees

- Coursework ranges from four months to two years, with day, evening and weekend classes available

- Scholarships and financial aid are available to pay for most students' tuition

- No diesel technology experience required

To sign up for the April 11 meet and greet, visit www.wallacestate.edu/womenindieselinfo and fill out the form to confirm your registration for the event. For more information, contact Beard at 256-352-8356 or anna.parrish@wallacestate.edu.

For more information about the Diesel Technology program, visit www.wallacestate.edu/diesel or call 256-352-8063.

Women in Diesel Meet and Greet

- When: April 11
- Time: 5 to 7 p.m.
- Where: WSCC Diesel Technology Building
- Register: www.wallacestate.edu/womenindieselinfo

Wallace State Singers going back in time with 'That '70s Show'

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — If the '70s groove is your thing, make plans to attend the Wallace State Singers' upcoming performance entitled "That '70s Show."

"We can't wait to take our audience back to the 1970s," said Tiffany Richter, director of the Wallace State Singers and other vocal ensembles at Wallace State Community College. "None of our singers were even born in the 1970s, but they have embraced the era that brought us the best of Chicago, Donna Summer, the Doobie Brothers, Journey and so many more. You will be singing along with us, I'm sure."

If hearing hits from 1970s radio doesn't have you singing along, a special section featuring a medley of theme songs from 1970s television shows will, Richter added.

"That '70s Show" will be performed Thursday through Saturday, April 11-13, at 7 p.m. at the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre in the Garlan Gudger Student Center. Admission is a $10 donation for adults and $5 for students. For more information, call 256-352-8277 or email amy.seymore@wallacestate.edu.

Other upcoming events planned by Wallace State Fine and Performing Arts programs include:

- Big Band Dance, April 19, at 7 p.m., by the Wallace State Jazz Band at the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts

- Spring Under the Stars by the Wallace State Fine and Performing Arts programs, April 25, at 6:30 p.m. at the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts



WALLACE STATE

The Wallace State Singers rehearse for their upcoming production of "That '70s Show," to be staged April 11-13, at 7 p.m. in the Betty Leeth Haynes Theatre of the Garlan Gudger Student Center.

Gift (from Front)

and car seats, clothes, just anything that a baby needs, we've been able to give away."

First Source for Women also supports its clients in the form of its baby boutique, providing parents and caregivers "baby bucks" in return for completing various parenting and informational classes.

The boutique is a place where new and expecting mothers can go to receive necessities for their children – resources, support, classes and the baby boutique are all available until children are 2 years old.

"The pregnancy tests and ultrasounds, while yes, they are giving medical information, they give us the chance to speak life into these girls. Not only do we provide these essential services and this opening of the door into hope, but we offer support all along the way," Rushing said.

"If a woman comes to us in the first few weeks of her pregnancy, we will walk with her along the way and support her and comfort her until her child is 2 years old. That is almost three years that she can take advantage of the friendship, support and education throughout her pregnancy and early family life.

"That's what we provide to the community, that's what you all are a part of."

The event theme was "Invest in the gift of life," encompassing the nonprofit's mission of empowering and supporting women navigating the trepidatious waters of unplanned pregnancies. The center has two local offices and a mobile office that travels the county, assisting women in need.

Gordon Douglas, a Christian comedian, was the entertainment for the night, cracking jokes and telling tall tales to illicit laughs; toward the end of his program, Douglas spoke about the purpose of the banquet, to raise funds for First Source to continue its outreach and ministry.

"I want you to feel like you are a part of this ministry, that you are part of saving lives and that you are investing in the gift of life – that you can celebrate when you hear that somebody chose their mind, that somebody chose to keep their baby, that somebody chose to adopt," Douglas said.

The evening closed with a plea from First Source to donate to its ministry.

Those who wish to donated can do so at www.firstsourceforwomen.org or by contacting the office at 256-352-5683.





ACES: Plastics in the environment

Allyson Shabel
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

While plastic was invented in 1909, it did not become popular until Tupperware was invented in 1946. The creation of this novel product brought plastics to the forefront as an affordable, durable, lightweight product that could be used for many things. By 1976, plastics were the most used material in the United States. Unfortunately, many of these products are single-use, short-lived, or destined for landfills quickly after they are produced.

The problem with plastics

The Environmental Protection Agency reported that in 2018, Americans produced 35.7 million metric tons of plastic waste. Of that material, 3.1 million metric tons (8.7%) were recycled, and 5.62 million metric tons (15.8%) were incinerated through combustion. The rest, 27 million metric tons (75.5%), ended up in landfills or other places in our environment.

Plastic breaks down very slowly unlike food or other organic waste that quickly decomposes. It could take over 1,000 years for large pieces of plastic to break down into smaller pieces called secondary microplastics. In the environment, these plastics can be problematic for wildlife, insects, soils, groundwater, and humans.

Plastic pollution

In the environment, plastics can accumulate in areas like ocean floors and shorelines. While much of this plastic pollution was initially produced on land as litter, the elements like rain and the wind move the material into streams, lakes, and oceans. This plastic pollution is unsightly, but it is even more troubling for wildlife.

Many animals, including birds, fish, and land animals, confuse plastic pollution for food and ingest it. Unfortunately, it can lodge in their digestive tracts, causing blockages, bleeding, or perforations of the gut. Additionally, they may become entangled in plastics such as fishing lines or plastic bags, which impact their ability to feed and possibly cause injuries or even suffocation.

Plastic degrades very slowly unlike food or other organic waste that quickly decomposes. Large pieces of plastic could take over 1,000 years to break down into smaller pieces called secondary microplastics. In the environment, these plastics can be problematic for wildlife, insects, soils, groundwater, and humans. Another source of secondary microplastics is the frequent washing of synthetic fabrics, including polyester, nylon, and acrylic clothing. Washing causes microfibers to dislodge from the clothing and move into wastewater where they are difficult to remove.

Microplastics have been found worldwide on land and in the ocean, in animals, and humans. They can bioaccumulate in animals and negatively impact food webs. Additionally, microplastics can absorb toxic chemicals, especially persistent organic pollutants, that can further contaminate soils and waterways.

What can I do to help?

While the issue of plastic pollution is overwhelming, there are some things you can do to help.

• When shopping, choose items in recyclable or biodegradable containers. Bring reusable bags when shopping.

• When possible, choose reusable instead of single-use items, including cups, utensils, and straws. Look for clothing made from organic fibers, such as cotton, wool, or linen instead of those made with synthetic fibers.

• Help keep our environment clean by picking up litter.

• Lastly, work with youth to help them understand the problems plastic can cause in the environment. Help them to make choices that are beneficial to the environment.

While plastic pollution in the environment is a big problem, every little change you make will help.

For more information on plastics in the environment, check out our Eco-Friendly Friday session 'Microplastics: Tiny pollutant, big problem' with University of Illinois Extension Pollution Prevention Extension Specialist Sarah Zack.

Obituary Announcements: April 4-5

Loretta Young, 75
Graveside service for Loretta Young, age 75, of Good Hope, is Sunday, April 7, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Good Hope Cemetery, with Rev. Steve Rodgers officiating. Visitation will be at Cullman Funeral Home on Sunday from noon-1:30 p.m., prior to graveside service. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Ms. Young was born Nov. 14, 1948, to Ozey Young and Ruby Mize Young. She passed from this life on April 3, 2024. Loretta was a sweet and beautiful soul. She loved her family, her cats, Elvis and flowers. She will be missed.

Earlene Simmons, 81
Funeral Service for Earlene Simmons, age 81 of Cullman, will be at noon on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at Seventh Street Baptist Church, with Parker Allen and Rev. Delbert Freeman officiating; burial at Emeus Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, April 5, 2024, at Seventh Street Baptist Church. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Simmons passed away on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at her residence. She was born, March 29, 1943, to Stevie Harbison and Vyria Harbison. She was preceded in death by her parents; son, Mark Simmons; husband, Hershel Simmons; brother, Jethro Harbison and stepson, David Simmons. Survivors include her daughters, Janet Smith (Ricky), Judy Allbright; grandchildren, Kassie Smith, Stacie Smith, Justin Smith, Eric (Marcia) Boatright, Lucas (Ariel) Simmons and Hannah Beth (Nick) Smith, Alicia (Adam) Boatright; brother, Larry (Sandra) Harbison; sister, Deborah (Michael) Oldacre; stepsons, Danny (Cathy) Simmons, Dennis (Heather) Simmons; stepdaughter, Sharon (Keith) Lebeau, 11 great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and many wonderful friends.

Bobby Gene Blevins, 86
Bobby Gene Blevins, age 86, of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Thursday, April 4, 2024. No services are scheduled at this time.

Pamela Whaley Hagan, 65
Pamela Whaley Hagan, age 65, of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Thursday, April 4, 2024. No services are scheduled at this time.

Florence Joann Ivey, 88
Funeral Service for Florence Joann Ivey, age 88 of Vinemont, will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 7, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Danny Garrison officiating; burial at Cook Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1p.m.to 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 7, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Ivey passed away on Friday, April 5, 2024. She was born Wednesday, April 24, 1935, to Emerson Holloway Thompson and Lola Maye Thompson. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Bill Ivey; grandson, Greg Ivey, Jr., son-in-law Mike Reed; brothers, Billy and Don Thompson. Survivors include her children, Kathy Reed, Greg (Pam) Ivey, Pam (Bill) Guyette; Grandchildren, Mikee (Chasity) Reed, Becca (Adrian) Miller, Billy (Sarah) Guyette, Adriann (Nathan) Basch, Jonathan (Paul) Guyette, Rachel (Luke) Bell; great grandchildren, Tripp Reed, Tensley Reed, Tatum Reed, Turner Reed, Preslie Basch, Ezra Basch, Mabrey Miller, William Guyette, Scarlet Guyette, Emerson Guyette, Vivienne Guyette, Henry Bell, Ivey Bell, David Hard Guyette and Ruth Hard Guyette.

Judy Tanksley, 64
Arrangements for Judy Tanksley, age 64, of Cullman, are incomplete, at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Judy was born Nov. 14, 1959, to Edsel Sparks and Minnie Marie Oden Sparks. She passed from this life April 4, 2024, at her residence. She is preceded in death by her parents; sister, Brenda Chaney; half-brothers, James Owen Abner, Roger Dale Abner, George Smoke. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Aaron Tanksley; sons, Matthew Tanksley (Destiny), P.J. Tanksley; daughter, Angie Tanksley; brother, Larry Sparks; grandchildren, Brooklyn White, Abigail Tanksley, Cora Grace Winfrey, Owen Tanksley; a host of family and friends. Judy was a very outgoing and friendly person. She was very religious and enjoyed witnessing to others. She will be missed. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Betty Jean Wamp Holt, 89
Betty Jean Wamp Holt, 89, passed away peacefully April 2, 2024. She was born May 5, 1934, in Cullman, Alabama. Jean graduated from Cullman High School in 1952, and Birmingham Southern in 1956 with a degree in Education and later received a Masters in secondary education from UAB. She was an outstanding and beloved educator at Cullman High School, East Elementary School and Vinemont Elementary School. After retirement she taught courses at Wallace state and was a supervising teacher at Athens State. Jean was an avid ballroom dancer and dance enthusiast teaching and performing around the world on cruise ships, and performing around Cullman County and North Alabama with the First United Methodist Dance Troupe that she founded. Jean was an active member of the Cullman community volunteering at the Margaret Jean Jones Center, the Donald E Green center and anywhere she could meet new friends. Jean was preceded in death by her Father, Martine Wamp and Mother Jackie Tillman Wamp. She is survived by her husband of 58 years Dodd Holt; sister, Ola Mae Wamp Quattlebaum; brother, Joe Wamp; children: Mitch Holt (Ann), Clif Holt (Stephanie), Ginger Holt ((Lauren); grandchildren: Savannah Holt Soper (Steve), Kara Holt, Kyle Holt, Jamie Jean Holt, Theodore Holt and Tillman Holt; great grandchildren: Lola Soper, Rex Soper and Ace Soper; and a host of other family members and friends. Visitation will be held Saturday, April 13 from noon to 2 p.m. with a service to immediately follow at 2 p.m. at Moss Funeral Home, burial to follow in Cullman City Cemetery. Please visit mossservicefh.com to leave condolences for the family.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Sometimes you need a jumpstart

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



You have a busy day ahead of you. Your schedule is filled with all kinds of things you had planned. You've gotten up, cleaned up, filled up, dressed up, prayed up, geared up, said your goodbyes, and headed out the door. You pull your keys from you pocket or your purse, sit down in your car, insert the key and turn the ignition only to hear that sickening clicking sound, or perhaps nothing at all. All of a sudden, in a brief moment of time, your entire day has changed and alternate plans have to be made.

Last week, this happened to Jean. Since Jean and I are both retired from full-time jobs now, we don't drive as much as we once did.

Her car had simply sat there too long without being cranked and driven. Fortunately, we have more than one vehicle.

I searched for my handy-dandy booster cables, hooked them up from one car to the dead car, and boosted it off. She was off and running once again.

That incident reminded me of what happened to me a little over three-months ago. Sometimes these old bodies need a jumpstart. Right before Christmas, the week before as a matter of fact, all my plans for the coming months came to a screeching stop.

As you may already know, I found myself having unexpected heart surgery. My battery wasn't dead, but it certainly wasn't working right.

Suddenly, I had to cancel outings and commitments in one of the busiest times of year for me.

For months now, I've missed out on getting to do many of the things I love. But the good news is, my doctors gave me a jumpstart, and things are getting back to normal.

I missed several weeks at Lanier Baptist Church, where I serve as pastor. Thankfully, I am back in full swing there. We had a wonderful Easter Sunday with a sunrise service, breakfast, and an Easter morning worship service.

I did not pick up my guitar, or any other musical instrument, until a few weeks ago. My fingers had even gotten soft, but I'm picking and strumming again.

The Christmas and Valentine's seasons are two of my busiest times for my storytelling, song singing, humorous alter ego, Bro. Billy Bob.

Those dates were all cancelled or postponed, but next week ole Billy Bob gets his own jumpstart as we dust off the rust and finally hit the road again. If you need to reschedule, call me.

My exercise for the past ten weeks has been a cardio rehab class at the hospital. This program has helped my jumpstart more than I can put into words. I've dropped a few pounds, gained a little breath, and learned how to eat better. Jean and I have started exercising together too.

Finally, last week I played pickleball for the first time in over three months. That may not seem like such a big deal to you, but for the past few years I've averaged playing about three times each week. Before that, for about 35 years, it was racquetball three times a week. It felt so good to see my Opelika Pickleball Club friends again.

It felt good to play and not feel like I was about to pass out! I even won a couple of games! Sometimes, a sudden stop forces us to slow down and regroup.

I realize more than ever, just how blessed I am to still be here, and to be able to do the things I love to do with the people I love, especially my wife and family.

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

HISTORY

Files from yesteryear: 1955

From the files of 1955

Fred Harbison won the Grand Championship at the Beef Show with a shorthorn steer. Mary Wood won Reserve Champion with a Hereford steer.

Don Morgan, nine year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Morgan, won the Cub Scout Soap Box Derby, last Sunday afternoon here.

Don is in Mrs. Ruth Edward's fourth grade room in East Elementary School.

Six year old Douglas Romine is recovering nicely in a New Orleans hospital after undergoing plastic surgery, last Thursday morning. Plans are for him to leave the hospital, on April 29th. However, he will have to go to his physician for treatment, every other day, for some time.

Douglas was seriously burned at his home in Saudi Arabia two years ago.

Mrs. Romine last month brought Douglas from Arabia to the states for the operation.

Also coming with them were the Romines' other children, Sharon and Michael, who are staying here in Cullman with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. George Romine. Sharon has entered the East Elementary School, where Miss Frances McPherson is her teacher.

This is her first experience of attending school in the states and she likes it very much.

Miss Pearl Raney, sister of the late Mrs. J.T. Winn, of Cullman, died in a Jasper Hospital, Sunday p.m. Funeral services were held in Athens, at 3:00 p.m., on Monday.

Reverend G.M. Bynum was the officiating minister, with Stanfield of Jasper directing interment. Survivors include: a sister, Mrs. J.M. Maples, of Florence and several nieces and nephews. Relatives from Cullman attending the funeral were: Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Entrekin, Mr. and Mrs. W.S. Walker and Mr. and Mrs. Carl C. Ellard.

Two mystery farms were identified this week. The farm published in the April 7th issue of the Tribune, was that of Dwight Tilley, of Route Four, Cullman and the April 14th farm was that of Eldridge Harris, of Route Two, Hanceville.

The first persons to identify the Tilley farm were Kermit Wix, Mrs. O.M. Earl and H.J. Tilley.

The previous owner of this forty acre farm was H.K. Tilley, who had owned it for some forty years, having inherited it from his father, who in turn had owned a five-hundred acre tract.

The farm was just put under plow seven years ago, when the Dwight Tilleys came into possession of it.

They do tractor farming and grow sweet potatoes and plants as well as vegetables for trucking. Their favorite livestock is hogs.

The Tilleys were married on December 22nd, 1948 and have two children, Dennis, five and Donna, three.

They are members of the Bethsadia Baptist Church and Farm Bureau. His hobby is livestock, particularly hogs and her hobbies are music and flowers.

One of the greatest honors ever received by Mr. Tilley was in 1948, when he received his American Farmer's Degree, in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Harris farm is better known as the W.B. Scott place and it was thus that the first ones, Stella White and Eloise Madison, identified it. The Harrises have very recently bought this farm.

Mrs. Harris is the former Lacie Lynn.

They were married in 1946 and have two children, Carolyn, eight and Lynn, four.

They are members of Beech Grove Baptist Church.

POET'S CORNER

The Tattoo | By: Randy C. Hale

For Erica

Over twenty years ago, when she
was 16, she wanted a tattoo, and
I was bound and determined that
would never happen, but instead
of the long argument we might
have had, bought myself all the
time I thought I needed by saying.
"Not until you're twenty."
Thinking she would be wiser and
never do such a thing.

Lo and behold, one day,
I'm inside the local Walmart
when the call came. "I did it."
"Did what?" "I got my tattoo."
And I hit the roof, forgetting
there were people all around,
and my blood pressure soared.
"I can't believe it! What a crazy,
insane thing to do!"

"You said when I turned twenty."
And there I stood, on the isle with
the band-aids, the rubbing alcohol,
and catching my eye when I was
looking for something to say,
eye patches.
"Well, I think I'll just buy me an eye
patch to start a style." I said.
And that's about all I remember
about that day.

Turns out, it was a very little one,
in an inconspicuous place and
thoughts of my mother came and
how she wouldn't think it so bad
and would have loved the little
stinker anyway.

Now here I am some 15 years
later waiting on her to get her
latest tattoo. One, she wants me
to be the first to see, on the back
of her neck just below her hairline,
in script copy of my handwriting
the words she seems so proud
to wear, "Daddy's Girl."

And though, I'm still not big on
tattoos, I have to admit a smile
crosses my lips from the
ownership I so deeply feel.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

APRIL 6

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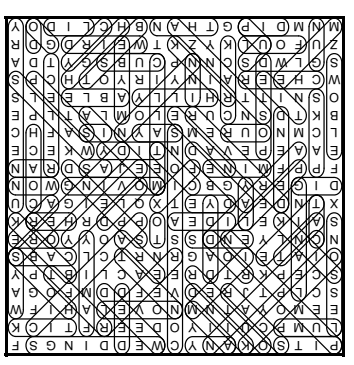
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

APRIL 6

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ANSWERS:



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2	8	3	6	5	9	7	4	1
7	9	4	1	2	3	5	6	8
1	6	5	3	8	2	4	9	7
3	7	9	5	4	6	8	1	2
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...IN THAT WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS CHRIST DIED FOR US. ROMANS 5:8

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