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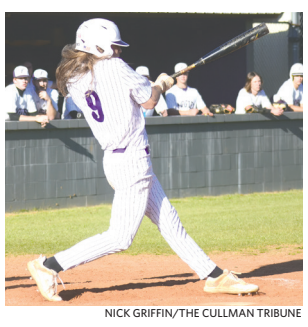
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SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

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NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Elrod's walk-off sac fly leads Fairview past Hayden 5-4, Aggies clinch playoff berth

» PAGE 4

Despite controversy, Chainbreaker's Ministries celebrates opening of Frierson House in Holly Pond

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. — Local nonprofit Chainbreaker's Ministries on Saturday, April 6, cut the ribbon and welcomed visitors to the grand opening of the Frierson House addiction recovery/transition center in Holly Pond. Founders/Directors Doug and Cassandra Canter introduced volunteers and the men living there, and invited visitors to tour the facility, eat lunch and hear the story behind the house. Doug Canter refused to label his residents as "patients" or "clients," instead calling them "family."

"We're proud to do what we're doing, you know," he said. "This is an honor to do this, and just to watch these guys. There was a young lady that brought them some cupcakes, and three of my guys just started crying. And I said, 'Well, what are you crying about?' They said, 'I never felt what it felt to be loved enough for someone to bring me something like that.'"

The center » PAGE 6



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Doug and Cassandra Canter look on as Ray Frierson Jr. (center) cuts the ribbon at the Frierson House Saturday afternoon, April 6, 2024.

Flying Fifty Hotel grand opening set for May 4



CHALLIE KNETTER

The grand opening of The Flying Fifty Hotel, Cullman's first luxury boutique hotel, will take place Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman's first luxury boutique hotel will be open its doors to the public Saturday, May 4, 2024.

The Flying Fifty Hotel is preparing to welcome its first guests as it pays homage to Cullman's visionary leaders of the 1950s, offering a luxurious experience steeped in the city's vibrant history.

Owner/Manager Challie Knetter said the grand opening will take place from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

"Tours will be available to the public throughout the day," she said.

"We look forward to sharing The Flying Fifty Hotel with guests. Our goal is to honor those who strived to make Cullman a wonderful community and inspire others to carry on their legacy."

The hotel will feature seven luxury hybrid self-check-in hotel suites, each with a theme focusing on the region.

"We made a commitment to use Alabama-made products throughout the hotel including Redland Cotton towels, HomTex sheets, Blue Spring Living Water and more," Knetter said.

The Flying Fifty is conveniently located at 515 Fourth St. SW.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/theflyingfifty.

Background: www.cullmantribune.com/2023/12/25/flying-fifty-hotel-coming-to-cullman-in-2024

Cullman man dies in single-vehicle crash » PAGE 2

ARCHERY

Cullman Middle, Good Hope's McCury win NASP State Championships



CULLMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Cullman Middle School posted a score of 3,324 to win this year's NASP State Championship. » PAGE 3

PREP TRACK & FIELD

Cold Springs' Edgeworth shines at Arcadia Invitational



CASEY HOWELL

Cold Springs' Ethan Edgeworth clocked a time of 8:38.49 to finish sixth in the 3200-Meter Run at this weekend's Arcadia Invitational. Edgeworth's time is the fastest ever recorded by an Alabama runner and the ninth-fastest time in national high school history.

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported April 8

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported April 8, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

No incidents reported.

ARRESTS

April 4- 7

Bartlett, Christy L. J.; 48
• possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Brock, Leasa S.; 60
• FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Bryant, Alyssa G.; 28
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• Possession of methamphetamine

Bryant, Timothy A.; 57
• possession of methamphetamine
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• promote prison contraband (drugs)

Clark, William B.; 67
• indecent exposure
• stalking-2nd degree
• FTA – criminal trespass

Connell, Ben C.; 60
• buying/receiving stolen property, $1500 or more
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Delgado, Angela R.; 41
• PROBATION REVOKED - possession of dangerous drugs

Early, David A.; 28
• causing of delinquency, dependency or need of supervision of children

Gumm Jr., Danny R.; 26
• PROBATION VIOLATION - assault - child abuse - simple – family

Gutierrez Pineda, Ricardo; 38
• assault - domestic - simple assault – family

Hargrave, Kyle A.; 29
• possession of dangerous drugs

Keplinger, Benjamin E.; 21
• domestic violence-3rd degree - harassing communications

Laney, Brandon C.; 28
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• possession of methamphetamine
• tampering with physical evidence
• attempting to elude a police officer

Light, Jonathan K.; 42
• FTA - negotiating worthless instrument (2 counts)
• FTA - public intoxication
• FTA - possession of dangerous drugs
• FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA - obstructing criminal investigation
• FTA – disorderly conduct

Lynn, Dana B.; 55
• assault - harassment (harassment/intimidation)
• criminal trespass
• criminal mischief – damaged property

McCurdy, Joshua E.; 23
• FTA – driving without driver's license

Nugent, Donald G.; 53
• PROBATION VIOLATION - failure to register as a sex offender
• FTA – indecent exposure
• FTA – criminal trespass

Odom Jr., Michael D.; 38
• FTA - possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
• FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)

Pace, Amber N.; 38
• assault – harassment

Parker, Angela D.; 38
• FTA - passing forged instrument

Parker, Korie D.; 28
• domestic violence-3rd degree - harassing communications

Pendergraft, Unique N.; 31
• criminal mischief – damaged property

Pugh, John R.; 34
• negotiating worthless instrument (2 counts)

Reid, Kristofer M.; 32
• possession of dangerous drugs
• possession of marijuana-2nd degree
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Self, Michelle; 41
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• possession of methamphetamine

Smith, Jeremiah E.; 47
• driving under the influence (alcohol)

Smith, Timothy M.; 37
• public intoxication
• obstruction – government operations

Sorrow, Lisa C.; 50
• FTA - driving while license suspended

Townsel, William R.; 39
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Weaver, Jennifer N.; 37
• FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)

Whitaker, Brian K.; 42
• FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA - assault - domestic violence - criminal trespass 3rd degree

Whitehead, Joseph C.; 42
• assault-domestic-harassment-family

Willingham, Tyren S.; 27
• resisting arrest

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

April 2
• theft of property-1st degree; GLS Supply, LLC; cash
• forgery-3rd degree; Cullman Veterinary Hospital PC; forged check
• Identity theft; person

April 5
• forgery-3rd degree; theft of property-1st degree; Stricklin Mechanical, LLC; forged check
• forgery-3rd degree; theft of property-1st degree; person; cash
• theft by deception-1st degree; person; cash; $18,000
• harassment; person; Hwy 157

April 6
• criminal trespass-3rd degree; person; Mitchell Rd. NW

April 7
• leaving the scene; person; damage to '19 Ford F250 & Trailer; $9,000; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

April 5-7

Powell, Daiquiri T.; 34
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• unlawful possession of marijuana-2nd degree
• obstructing governmental operations
• resisting arrest

Morris, William M.; 38
• possession of drug paraphernalia

James, Matthew S.; 33
• FTA - theft of property-4th degree

Peterson, Ashley S.; 41
• FTA - theft of property-4th degree

Copeland, Makaliah R.; 26
• FTA - domestic violence-3rd degree

Scoggins, Brittany C.; 24
• FTA - theft of property-4th degree

Willingham, Tyren S.; 27
• FTA - driving while license suspended
• FTA - insurance violation
• FTA - domestic violence-3rd degree

Stancil, Jason L.; 54
• FTA - DUI-controlled substance

Jones, Jeffery D.; 53
• GJ - theft of property-1st degree
• home repair fraud

Sanford, Joshua R.; 41
• violation of protection order

Howse, Debra A.; 49
• theft of lost property-3rd degree

Pannell, Brandon L.; 39
• theft of property-4th degree

Brown, Janet D.; 57
• theft of lost property-3rd degree

Baker, Frank R.; 49
• public intoxication
• unlawful possession of marijuana-2nd degree
• violation of protection order

Cofield, Joseph C.; 35
• FTA - driving while license suspended

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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



Cullman man dies in single-vehicle crash

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Cullman man was killed in a single-vehicle crash on County Road 813 in the Trimble area at approximately 9:20 a.m. Monday, April 8. Cullman County Coroner Jeremy Kilpatrick identified the victim as James Kenneth Neal Sr., 89. Alabama State Troopers said Neal's vehicle struck a ditch and overturned multiple times. They said he was not using a seat belt at the time of crash, was ejected and pronounced dead at the scene. Nothing further is available as Troopers with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency's (ALEA) Highway Patrol Division continue to investigate.

Heritage Homestead hosting Intro to Canning class April 9

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

FALKVILLE, Ala. — Heritage Homestead will host an Intro to Canning class on Tuesday, April 9, at the home of Joanna McConnell, located at 558 Hills Chapel Road in Falkville. Scheduled from 6-8:30 p.m. to accommodate working families, this class promises to be a comprehensive guide to both water bath and dry canning methods. The class is free.

Tammy Hodo, a veteran canner with years of experience, will teach the class. Participants will learn about the necessary tools and supplies for canning and safe foods for preservation and walk away with simple yet effective recipes. Hodo's approachable teaching style aims to make canning accessible for beginners while offering valuable insights for seasoned canners.

"Tammy has many tips and tricks to make the canning process less intimidating and she will walk through all of the steps for first-time canners so they can be successful in preserving food this way," shared event coordinator Joanna McConnell.

Each attendee will have the opportunity to take home a jar of water bath-canned salsa or dry canned flour, prepared during the class to demonstrate the canning process. In addition to the hands-on learning experience, the class encourages a sense of community through a shared meal.

"We ask that people who come bring a simple finger food so we can all eat and fellowship together before we get started learning," McConnell added.

Families are encouraged to attend, as children are welcome to join and play together during the class.

"It's never too early to expose your children to new skills," McConnell noted, emphasizing the inclusive nature of the class.

The Natural Living Workshop series, including the Intro to Canning class, stems from Michael and Joanna McConnell's desire to foster a community focused on natural living and skill sharing.

"We teach about simple and practical things that you can do at home to live more naturally, but we also work hard to provide a community. We strive to be a place where you can ask questions and we can all collaborate to find answers and to help each other. We work to provide a place where if you are just curious about ways to live more naturally or if you are full-time homesteaders that we can all grow together. Our passion is to create a community, not that is marked by where you live in relation to each other, but one that supports each other as we work to better ourselves, one choice at a time," explained Joanna McConnell.

For more information, contact McConnell at mckidslearnathome@gmail.com, send a message to the Heritage Homestead Facebook page or reach out directly via text or call to 205-441-3095.



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.
• Tuesday, April 9 - 24x7: Homesteading, Prepping & Simple Living. Come join fellow Christian homesteaders, preppers and likeminded believers at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall! Family and friends welcome.
• Wednesday, April 10 - Healing Strong at 5:30 p.m. Children and youth classes, women's Bible study class "Rest for Your Soul" and men's Bible study class "Honor Begins at Home" at 7. Free pizza for children at 6:30. Van runs in the 5 Points Area at 6. Call Guy Sunter 727-215-9092 for pickup.
• Friday, April 12- 5:45 p.m. Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Bring a dish, dessert or drink for a potluck meal at 5:45. Small group starts at 6:30. Childcare provided!
• Saturday, April 13 - Youth trip to Stars & Stripes in Huntsville
• Sunday, April 14 - 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 14 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area. Call Guy Sunter at 727-215-9092 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11. Leadership meeting after service!
• Sunday, April 14 - 5 p.m. Healing service. Miracles, Signs & Wonders follow those who believe!

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.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Revival
Remaining services will be Tuesday-Wednesday, April 9-10, 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.

Fairview High School 1963 Luncheon/Meeting
The class will meet at 1 p.m. on Friday, April 19, at the Golden Corral, 1720 Cherokee Ave. SW in Cullman. The meeting will be held in a reserved room. For more information call Joyce Williams Rodgers at 256-339-3451.

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.

NASP (from Front)

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — This year's NASP Alabama State Championships were held in Montgomery Thursday and Friday and several locals put together great performances. Cullman Middle School was the middle school division champion after posting a score of 3,324, narrowly defeating Vinemont Middle School (3,308).

In the high school competition, Good Hope's Mason McCury was the individual champion with a score of 296.

Vinemont High School (3,379) finished runner up in the high school division and in the Elementary competition, East Elementary (3,073) and Vinemont Elementary (3,012) placed second and third, respectively.

TOP INDIVIDUAL SCORERS

• 1st - Mason McCury, Good Hope High (296)
• 12th - Ashley Cornelius, Cullman High (286)
• 3rd - Thatcher Lucas, Cullman Middle (292)
• 2nd - Nora Burks, Vinemont Middle (286)
• 4th - Kamryn Huff, Vinemont Elementary (275)
• 4th - Bailey Howard, Vinemont Elementary (268)

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
APRIL 9, 2024

Alabama falls to UConn in NCAA Final Four 86-72

Steven Gonzalez
UA Athletics

PHOENIX, AZ. – The No. 4 seed Alabama men's basketball team fell to defending national champion and top overall seed UConn, 86-72, in the 2024 NCAA Men's Final Four Saturday night inside State Farm Stadium.

Mark Sears led three Crimson Tide players in double figures with 24 points to go along with five rebounds and three assists.

Grant Nelson had a season-best 15 rebounds to go along with 19 points to earn his fourth double-double of the season and second in the NCAA Tournament. Aaron Estrada added 13 points, three rebounds and three assists in the loss.

UConn (36-3) was led by Stephon Castle who finished with 21 points, while Donovan Clingan scored 18 and Tristen Newton had 12 points and nine assists in the win.

Head Coach Nate Oats Postgame Comments

"First, just want to thank our guys for getting this school to a Final Four for the first time in school history. We had an unbelievable run. I can't say enough about the leadership of these guys, particularly in the last few weeks.

"Unfortunate that it ended tonight, but we played arguably the best team in the country. I mean, UConn is top five in offense and defense. It showed tonight. I thought our guys did a good job staying in there, not giving up big runs.

"After we tied it there in the second half, I think they went on an 8-0 run after that, if remember that, it was pretty quick.

"UConn is great. It's going to be a great matchup Monday night. Our guys were really good from this stretch in the NCAA tournament.

"We just came up a little short tonight, but we came up short against a great team."

Team stats

- Alabama finished the season with a 25-12 overall record and reached the program's second-ever Elite Eight (2004) and first Final Four
- The 25 wins is tied for seventh-most while the 37 total games are tied for the most in a single season
- Sears finished the year with 797 points and 26 games of scoring at least 20 points – both season school records
- For the first time this season, Alabama failed to score any fast break points
- Grant Nelson finished with 15 rebounds in the game while the rest of the team combined for 14 total boards
- Head coach Nate Oats is now 8-4 (.750) in 12 career NCAA Tournament games at Alabama, which includes three Sweet 16 appearances along with this year's Final Four



UA ATHLETICS

The Crimson Tide's NCAA Tournament run ended with an 86-72 loss to UConn in the Final Four Saturday night.

First half

- The opening 20 minutes proved to be a close affair as both teams held multiple leads with neither team leading by more than seven points
- The two teams were tied five teams and had seven lead changes in the opening stanza
- The Huskies went 11-14 from the foul line compared to 4-5 foul shooting for the Tide
- The only run of the half came from UConn when it went on a 12-4 spurt that turned a 31-30 Alabama lead into a 42-35 advantage for the Huskies with 1:15 left to play
- Mark Sears hit all five of his shots to lead UA with 11 points, three rebounds and two assists

Second half

- The second stanza began with UConn and Alabama alternating four consecutive runs of 7-0, the final one of which gave the Huskies a 64-56 lead with 10:15 remaining
- The Crimson Tide continued to battle, cutting the lead to six on several occasions
- Alabama went without a field goal for a crucial five-plus minute stretch (8:02-2:54) that allowed the Huskies to extend its lead to double figures for the first time in the contest
- After shooting a blistering 8-11 (73 percent) from deep in the opening half, the Tide finished the game going 3-12 (25 percent) from beyond the arc over the final 20 minutes

PREP BASEBALL

Elrod's walk-off sac fly leads Fairview past Hayden 5-4, Aggies clinch playoff berth

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — The Aggies took game one of their area series with Hayden 8-0 on the road Wednesday and they returned home to Mark Moore Field Friday night with a chance to win the series and clinch a postseason berth. The Aggies dropped a back-and-forth game one 4-3 but bounced back to win game two in dramatic fashion 5-4 and secure a playoff spot.

Hayden 4 – Fairview 3 (Game One)

Nicolas Gregory led off the bottom of the first with a triple deep into center field and he scored on an RBI groundout from Isaac Elrod later in the inning to put Fairview in front 1-0. After a scoreless second and third inning, Hayden strung some hits together in the top of the fourth and put a pair of runs on the board to take a 2-1 lead. The Aggies answered in the bottom half of the inning. Elrod reached first with a leadoff single and after stealing second a couple of pitches later, he moved over to third on a wild pitch and Bryceson Turner drove him in with a sac fly to tie the game at 2.

The Wildcats scored in the top of the fifth to retake a 3-2 lead, but Fairview responded in the bottom half of the inning. Gannon Black knocked an RBI single into left field to tie the game at 3 going into the sixth. After a scoreless sixth inning, Hayden played one more run in the top of the seventh to move back in front 4-3 and the Aggies were unable to answer in the final frame.

Black and Elrod each posted a hit and an RBI in the loss. Gregory, Lucas West and Connor Scott added hits as well.

Fairview 5 – Hayden 4 (Game Two)

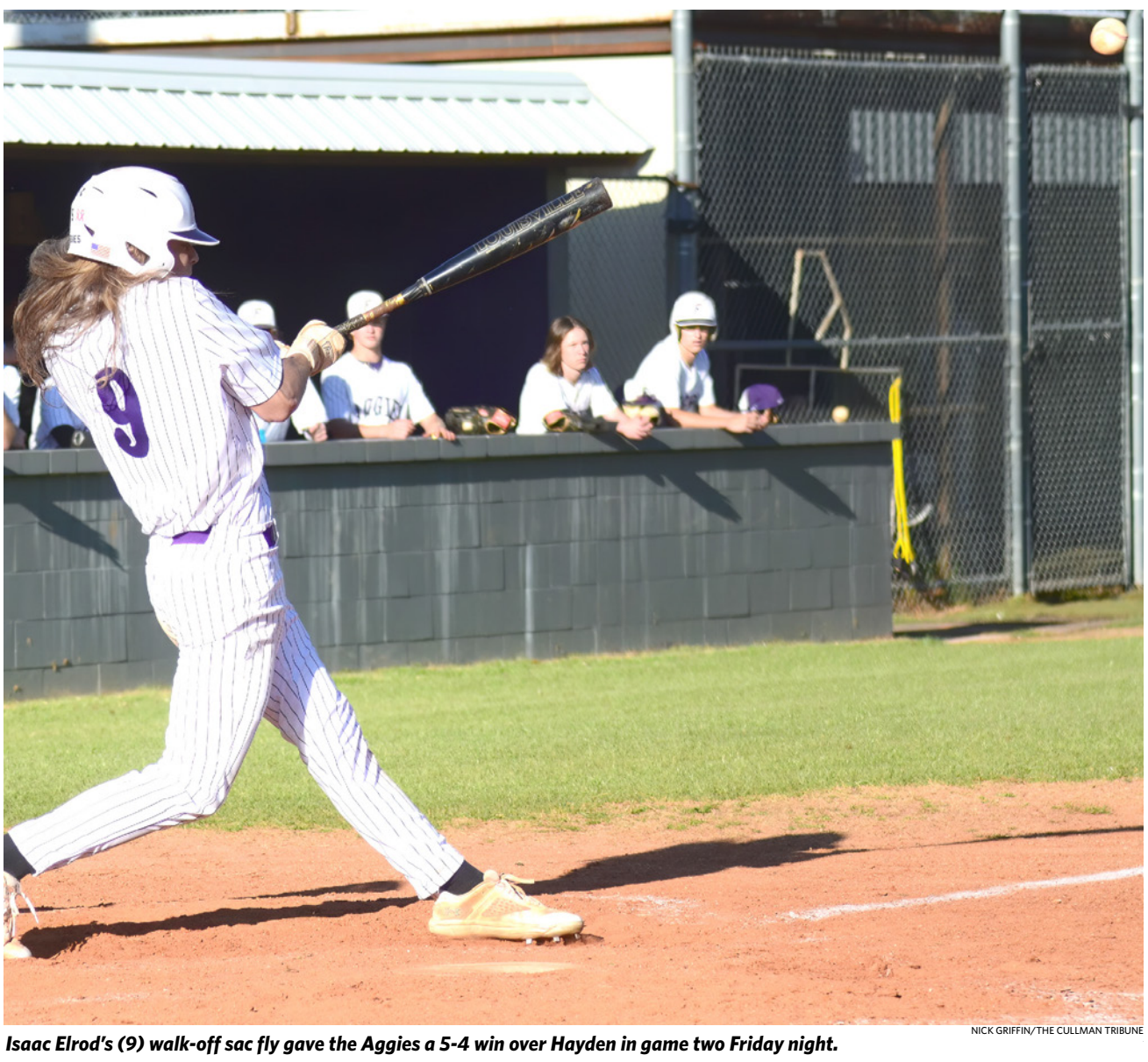
After a scoreless first inning, Hayden scored on a fielder's choice to take a 1-0 lead in the top of the second. An error allowed the Wildcats to stretch their lead to 2-0 in the top of the third, but the Aggies got the run back in the bottom of the third when Connor Scott drove in Jaxon Robertson with an RBI single to make it 2-1.

Neither team was able to get on the board in the fourth or fifth, but Fairview's bats came alive in the sixth. Back to back singles from Barett York and Colton Jennings gave the Aggies a pair of runners and an error allowed York to score later in the inning and tie the game at 2. Two pitches later, Gannon Black barreled up a single to right field to drive in two more runs and give Fairview a 4-2 lead.

The Wildcats wouldn't go away. They scored a pair of runs in the top of the seventh to tie the game at 4 but the Aggies had one more answer in them in the bottom of the seventh. Caden Barrett led off with a single and Lincoln Wright laid down a sacrifice bunt to move him to second. Barrett advanced to third on a fielder's choice a few pitches later and that's when Isaac Elrod sent a sacrifice fly deep into right field and pushed Barrett across the plate to secure a 5-4 win for Fairview.

Scott finished with a pair of hits and an RBI in the win. Black (one hit), Lucas West and Elrod added RBIs as well.

The Aggies will be back at Mark Moore Field Tuesday for game one of their area series with Springville.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Isaac Elrod's (9) walk-off sac fly gave the Aggies a 5-4 win over Hayden in game two Friday night.

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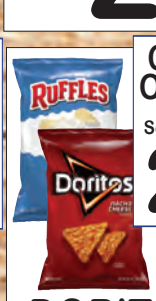
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Flourish raises more than $26K at annual banquet

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CULLMAN, Ala. — It was a night straight out of the heart of Mobile, with sparkling greens, gilded golds and shimmering purples at Flourish of Cullman's annual fundraising banquet, this year with a Mardi Gras theme. The event, complete with bingo and a silent auction, drew a record crowd, with all 35 tables sold out – a first in the history of Flourish.

Silent auction items included a four-day, three-night stay at a cabin in the mountains donated by Jill and Randy Powe, an Alabama football autographed by Sherman Williams offered by Salley Whaley and a stunning Sorrelli necklace and earring set given by Doug Doggett Jewelers.

The Venue at Cotton Creek was the perfect spot for the evening. The building's warehouse left ample room for chit chat between guests, with discussions on auction items and the winding line to dinner: an authentic shrimp boil.

David Dempsey and Blake Isbell travel the state with Crawdaddy Dave's, and they cooked up a traditional Cajun feast. Set up outside, the team prepared the meal onsite. Guests dined on a boil of whole Gulf shrimp, red potatoes and Conecuh Sausage. The sweet treat at the end was a plate of miniature beignets, dusted with powdered sugar.

Flourish of Cullman was founded in 2016, when the founders noticed a need in the Cullman community for individuals with differing abilities to have a support system, allowing those individuals, with the help and assistance they may need, to live, play and work independently. Businesses partner with Flourish to offer employment opportunities for their clients who wish to take the steps to an independent life and career.

Flourish of Cullman Founder and Executive Director Melissa Dew looked over the crowd and said, "Let me tell you right now, Cullman has really stepped up and offered employment to the people that we serve in our community and we are so thankful for everyone that gives us an opportunity and employs somebody and to see the possibilities of them doing what they are supposed to do."

Flourish currently received funding from the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services and Alabama Department of Mental Health. However, local donors and philanthropists alleviate a large portion of its day-to-day expenses.

During the meal, Dew spoke to the gathered guests to welcome them and explain why they had been included in the evening of Fat Tuesday fun. The event's purpose was to raise funding and support for the nonprofit's independent living skills apartment.

"All of tonight's proceeds will go to our new independent living skills apartment. This apartment is where individuals can come and spend a few hours, they can spend the night, to see what they need to work on to be independent within our community," she explained.

"We will help them with assessments and what they will need to learn, what is safety-related for them to do, so we are really excited about that. To date, we have raised $48,000 for that apartment."

After Dew thanked and recognized Flourish staff and board members for making the night and organization possible, three clients were recognized for their improvement, willingness to work and overall success in their professional lives.

Isaac Jackson was called to the stage to accept an award for the individual with the Most Impact on a local business; Jackson is an integral part of the staff at Cullman Florist and its day-to-day operations, greeting customers with a smile and positivity.

Gauge Garrison, a Foodland Arab employee, was recognized with the award for Most Improved. Dew said his progress from the beginning of his time with Flourish until now has been a huge, with him learning the basics and beyond of community employment and involvement.

Monograms Plus employee Morgan Coker received the final client award for the evening, receiving the Keep Moving Forward award and recognition for her time and dedication to her place of employment, going above and beyond the duties and expectations of her job description with a brilliant smile on her face.

Flourish also recognized two local individuals and presented them with awards for their dedication to the nonprofit through unexpected and unrequested donations.



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

At its annual banquet on Saturday, April 6, 2024, Flourish of Cullman recognized Tillman Oldacre for his philanthropic efforts for the nonprofit.

"Our last two awards are for individuals that have really stepped up in our community and supported Flourish," said Dew.

The first outside recognition was Tillman Oldacre, a young aspiring chef using his culinary skills to raise awareness and funds for the nonprofit.

In November 2023, Tillman used his skills to host a fundraiser of his own, selling chocolate-covered pretzel rods to the community, with the proceeds benefiting Flourish. His efforts to raise awareness and deliver a much-needed $1,200 to Flourish earned him the night's Young Philanthropist Award.

Jon Shiflett, owner and operator of Beggars & Thieves, a mobile barbershop that serves the Cullman community, was the evening's second outside recognition. The Giving Cup is a staple at the barbershop, a designated area for patrons to drop change and cash. Shiflett, in turn, frequently gives the gathered funds to Flourish of Cullman.

Through the Giving Cup, Shiflett has generously donated over $1,500 to the nonprofit.

When the awards and recognitions were out of the way, the fun began. While the silent auction was open all night, bingo was the evening's other draw. David Wiggins was tapped to be the emcee and caller for the bingo game, his humor and hilarious demeanor adding that much more fun to the evening.

Whoops and hollers and dances and shakes happened each time a line was made on a card and a prize collected.

Additional cards were available for purchase if guests needed just one more shot at winning one of the high-value prizes like a $200 gift card to local Mexican restaurant, Alamitos, or two general admission tickets to Rock the South.

At the end of the night, the event raised an astounding $26,000 to go toward the independent living skills apartment. Dew was overwhelmed with appreciation for the community and board for their dedication and involvement.

"This was the best year ever for Flourish; we made $26,177.46," she smiled. "Cullman showed up for us with participation and donations. Several people approached me Saturday night and gave me a check for donations.

"We appreciate such support from our community, and our board of directors has stepped up to make this event successful. Board members are Brandon Tolbert, Jake Johnson, Blake West, Sally Whaley, Nikki Brooks, Michelle Ray, Rachel Gooch, Lee Powell, Abby Lynn Myers, Lisa Butts, Brain Corliss, Karlie Baker, Katie Fine, Robbie Downs and myself. Teamwork makes the dream work."

Food and fellowship: Renovation Church hosts Spring Fling

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WEST POINT, Ala. — Renovation Church hosted a fun-filled community fellowship event after its church service on Sunday, April 7. The non-denominational congregation came together to feed and entertain attendees at its first Spring Fling.

"The Spring Fling was an event designed to give our Easter guests another opportunity to meet all the incredible people at Renovation Church. It was a simple but yet very fun activity for the whole family," said Pastor Dwayne Harbison.

A large bounce castle was set up outside of the church for the tiny attendees to enjoy, while siblings and friends doodled on the asphalt with brightly colored chalk. Parents and caregivers stood close by, supervising and chatting among themselves before making their way around to the back, where adults and older children congregated around a huge slingshot and cornhole boards.

As families and friends mingled with church visitors who popped in for the festivities, connections grew and seeds of relationships were planted.

The church wanted to have a filling option for the afternoon's grub – smoked pulled pork, complete with all the fixings. The food was provided and prepared by parishioners of the church, volunteering their time and expertise to feed the hungry masses and share the love of Christ in the most Southern way possible – through good food.

Harbison said that after all was said and done, the event was a smashing success, smiling, "The food and fellowship was fun and we hope all had a great time."





Karma's hosting Silent Book Club April 9

Lauren Estes
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CULLMAN, Ala. — Karma's Coffee House is bringing a different type of book club to the community: the Silent Book Club.

"The Silent Book Club is an international club that is perfect for all readers," Owner Katie Nelms-Fine said.

According to the Karma's Facebook page, "We will start at 5:15 with an introduction of yourself and the book you are reading and then have a silent dedicated time of reading for 45 minutes. Following our reading time there will be 15 minutes of networking."

Catering & Events Manager Magan Bartlett said the coffee shop wanted to bring a new type of event to the community.

"We already have guests who grab a cup of coffee and read, so why not get them all together," Bartlett said.

The Silent Book Club will meet the second Tuesday of every month at 5:15 p.m. in the back area of the coffee shop.

For more information, see www.facebook.com/karmascoffeehouse or www.silentbook.club/blogs/events/cullman-alabama-usa-karmas-coffee-house.

Local author Dorenda Doyle hosting Young Writers Workshop April 10

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CULLMAN, Ala. — In honor of "Encourage a Young Writer Day," the main branch of the Cullman County Public Library System (CCPLS) will be home to an interesting new offering for young adults and teens. Local author Dorenda Doyle will host a Young Writers Workshop on Wednesday, April 10, at 3:30 p.m.

On a mission to increase literacy and expand children's imaginations, Doyle travels to different communities, hosting seminars and young writer workshops, teaching and instructing budding authors about reading and writing. Her books, "The Kid" and "The Dog" series, are laced with fun alliterations, metaphors and other tips she has picked up along the way to help entice children into a love of reading.

The Alabama State Department of Education says literacy rates across the state are low, with 24% of Alabama's third graders reading below grade level. Encouraging children to read and write does more than improve literacy; according to research performed by the Barbara Bush Literacy Foundation, children who are avid writers and write daily tend to have increased communication, memory and comprehension skills. Reading and writing have a symbiotic relationship, one improving and strengthening the other.

"It's kind of like the age-old dilemma of which comes first, the chicken or the egg? In this case, do you need to be a good reader to be a good writer, or vice versa? The best way to explain it is this: reading and writing are like one's breath. Reading is the inhale, and writing is the exhale – you must have both to live successfully," Doyle said.

"I am on a mission to improve literacy, not only in Alabama but across the U.S. Doing local workshops like this is just one way I can try to make a difference. I guess, once a teacher, always a teacher."

The workshop is free to attend and writers can expect to learn five main ideas from the hour-long class. Doyle will cover the main steps and procedures to becoming a published author, how to create a mind map and story outline, how to create a vivid picture with words, the ideas behind choosing a genre, arc and plot, as well as learning about word counts, character development, publishing opportunities and marketing development.

Participants will leave the workshop with a complimentary mind map and story outline, as well as sources for book layout templates, plot outlines and writing prompts. A writing workshop geared toward adults hosted by Doyle will be offered at the library's main branch on Wednesday, May 1.

The main branch of the Cullman County Public Library is located at 200 Clark St. NE.



DORENDA DOYLE

Local author Dorenda Doyle will host a Young Writers Workshop at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10, at the Cullman County Public Library.

House (from Front)

was named for the Canters' friend Ray Charles Frierson, a worship musician who helped Doug Canter through his own hard times. Frierson's son Ray Charles Frierson Jr. cut the ribbon.

While they are like family to the Canters, the director emphasized that his men are subject to strict discipline, including regular 16 panel drug screens that can detect not only typical illicit substances, but also the still-legal substances sold at many convenience store checkouts. According to Doug Canter, even energy drinks are prohibited in the facility, and medicines as benign as Tylenol are kept under lock and key.

"I told them the other day, 'I'm doing this because I care. I'm not doing this because you're in a penitentiary. I'm not doing this because I'm trying to be rude, but I'm doing this because I know what it takes to bring a life back from where it is.' And I have more respect from every one of these guys than I've ever imagined having. My wife walks in the house, and every one of them stands up and starts talking: 'Miss Cassie, can we do anything for you, Miss Cassie?' They're very, very respectful – very respectful. And they're just hurt."

Canter said he has already seen two men fail drug tests, but his approach is to relocate offenders to better equipped facilities rather than expel them onto the streets.

"We have zero tolerance for (failed) drug tests, but we don't throw them in the street," said Canter. "If they fail a drug test with me, obviously my program's not working, so I pick up the phone and I call my other ones (partner agencies) and we find them a bed somewhere else."

The facility has a large barrack-style bedroom where men start in bunk beds with no privacy. As they move through the program, they can graduate to other rooms with more personal space. A separate room with regular beds has been designated for older participants who might have trouble with the bunks.

"Because addiction has no age limit," said Canter.

The posted list of regulations is three pages long, including requirements as basic as made-up beds every morning. On the posted weekly schedule, 6 a.m. is the typical wake-up time, with lights out at 9 p.m. In between, the men do chores, participate in Bible study and travel to meet with addiction recovery support groups. On Sundays the group travels to local churches for worship.

The Frierson House hosts only men. Canter said he partners with other agencies to which he refers women who need similar services.

Facing controversy

As recently as the Monday before the opening, the Holly Pond Town Council received heated complaints about the facility, including an allegation of misinformation about the conversion of a former but currently unused church building. One audience member, Mary Nardozza, argued, "That church was a church; it didn't have nothing to do with a rehab center," and asked if the organization had properly notified the community of its intent.

Mayor Carla Hart, who attended Saturday's opening, answered the complaint, "We have been three meetings over discussion of this rehab or transition house. It has been stated in the last two meetings: we didn't bring them here. We have no say about it; we cannot micro-manage them. Under federal law, they are a disability group. They do ministry there. A lot of this has already been checked out – their license. But I'm telling you: this has already gone over.

"And I don't mind how you feel and your comments. Like I said, that's what we're here for. We're all here together; we all live here together. But we have no say. We cannot tell them what they can and can't do. We can't tell them they can't be there. It's no different from you buying your home the way they bought that.

"That should be against the law, because people have rights," responded Nardozza.

Asked about zoning, Hart reiterated that Holly Pond has no zoning ordinance. Nardozza's husband Tony Nardozza complained about "rehab hiding in a church" and predicted lower property values around the facility.

Town Attorney Dan Willingham addressed the complaints, emphasizing the absence of a zoning ordinance in the town and pointing out, "It's a protected class of people; you can't zone them out any more than you could a minority of any other sort. And if we tried to, then we would be violating the federal statutes. And so, I guess you can look at it like this: you can't decide who can live in anybody's house. You know, you can't decide how many kids they can have and how – if they've got handicapped children, or anything of that nature. They're protected classes, and you can't regulate those."

Councilwoman Julie Ray, who at previous meetings voiced opposition to the facility, told the audience, "Let's pray for these guys and this situation, OK, first and foremost. I live on the other side of it; I know what goes on every day. I see it, and it's very unfortunate. I don't know their circumstances; I can tell that they've been through some really rough stuff. They're not in a good frame of mind, I'm sure. There's a lot of them."

Ray called what she has heard about – and from – the former church facility "heartbreaking," saying, "That is tough to hear, and I have heard it at 10 at night, I have heard it at 4 in the morning, I have heard it all hours of the day. So we need to pray for that building. We need to pray for the people that are there, because what was told that was going to happen there has not been happening. So it really hurts my heart to know that that is a precious building, and what has been said over there is not very nice, because it's like a microphone. It carries, OK? So keep that in mind."

Canter said his men are aware of the concern and opposition, noting, "And they know about the few that don't want them here, and all they say is, 'Let's pray for them.'"

In a statement to The Tribune following the opening, Canter wrote:

"Chainbreaker's Ministries wants to thank Holly Pond community, Refuge Church of God and members, Bread of Life (Pastor) Wayne Barnette and members, Kingdom Impact Church (Pastors) Zach and Alisha Beard and members, Cowboy Church of Holly Pond and members, Holly Pond Methodist Church (Pastor) Dwight Kidd and members, Jason and Amanda Whitehead, Good Samaritan clinic, The Link in Cullman, Chad Smith (live band), Mayor Carla Hart of Holly Pond, Councilwoman Debrora Holcomb of Holly Pond, Lisa Holmes Celebrate Recovery of The Methodist Church, Rodney Thompson, and so many others who came out and supported the opening of The Frierson House. If we missed anyone we do apologize.

"A special thank you to Ray Frierson, Jr. for the ribbon cutting. Most importantly, thank you Jesus, because without you none of this would be possible.

"We are so blessed God chose us to be a part of helping change lives. Without God being in the ministry, it simply wouldn't work. God has already started changing lives. Fourteen men have given their lives to Christ, and four have rededicated themselves to Christ!

"Most of all, we hope that the community will continue to support The Frierson House. We serve a second chance God, and with all of us working together, our community can be changed and lives restored. We look forward to seeing what God has in store!"

Canter concluded his statement with a quote of Jeremiah 29:11-15 – "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, sanity the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not evil, to give you an expected end.

"Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall call upon me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the Lord: and I will turn away your captivity and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, Saith the Lord; and I will bring you again into the place whence I called you to be carried away captive. Because ye have said, the Lord hath raised us up prophets in Babylon."

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IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
DEBORAH DIANE BAKER, * **CASE NO.: PC2024-029**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to EDITH BAKER, as Administrator of the Estate of DEBORAH DIANE BAKER, deceased, on the 5th day of April, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

EDITH BAKER
Personal Representative

Richard L. Collins
Attorney for Administrator of the
Estate of Deborah Diane Baker
Post Office Box 669
Cullman, Alabama 35056
256-739-1962

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

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

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

STATE OF ALABAMA)
)
COUNTY OF CULLMAN)

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Date & Time of Sale: Monday, April 15th 2024 at 11:00 a.m./p.m.
Sale Location: Cullman County Courthouse East Entrance
500 Second Avenue, S.W.
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Writ of Execution Parties: Redstone Federal Credit Union
vs.
Marcus B. Nix a/k/a Benton Nix
15510 U.S. Highway 278 W
Cullman, Alabama 35057-6114

By virtue of an Execution issued to me by Circuit Clerk Chris Priest, pursuant to the Code of Alabama, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Execution issued on a judgment, with interest and cost. Upon the expiration of proper notice and advertisement, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder at the date, time, and location listed above, all right, title, and interest of Marcus B. Nix a/k/a Benton Nix, property, described as follows:

A tract or parcel of land in the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 18, Township 10, Range 5 West being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Northeast corner of said forty thence West 103 yards to point of beginning of land herein conveyed, thence South 90 yards to Cullman-Double Springs Highway, thence in a Northeasterly direction along said highway 250 feet, thence in a Northwesterly direction along said highway 250 feet, thence in a Northwesterly direction to a point on the North forty line which is 200 feet East of the point of beginning, thence West 200 feet to a point of beginning.

The above described property being that same property conveyed from Austin Jarrett to Chrisiopher Benton Nix and wife, Chelsea Nichole Nix dated October 5, 2013 and filed for record in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama in Deed Book 623 at Page 939.

Source of title: Pursuant to the description provided in Plaintiff's Writ of Execution issued on or about 29 January 2024 in case CV-2019-900224 in the Circuit Court of Morgan County, Alabama.

THEREFORE, according to said command, I shall expose for sale at public auction, all the right, title, and interest of the above-named Marcus B. Nix a/k/a Benton Nix, in and to the above-described property on the date listed above, subject to all prior encumbrances of record.

Dated this the 19 day of March, 2024.

BY: Matt Gentry, Sheriff
Sheriff Matt Gentry

Divine Mercy Sunday



BARBARA RAGSDALE

Fr. Patrick Egan, O.S.B, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus church in Cullman, is shown offering Benediction rites during the annual Divine Mercy Sunday services. This religious event takes place each year on the Sunday after Easter and propagates the love and mercy that the Lord shows for everyone who turns to Him. This worldwide celebration was created after Jesus appeared to Saint Faustina, a Polish religious, who had many visits with the Lord. During these encounters He asked her to make everyone aware of His very special Divine Mercy. He also commissioned her to have a representative picture of Him, featuring His Sacred Heart with rays of color, the white, being the blessings of baptism, and the red being the blood, He shed for the world while dying on the Cross. Those who attend Divine Mercy services are given full remission of their sins as well as the punishment due for them if they take part in Holy Communion and Confession. For information on Divine Mercy and any other Sacred Heart of Jesus events, please contact the church office at 256-734-3730.

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Obituary Announcements: April 6-8

Kerry Lee Scott, 58
A celebration of Life gathering for Kerry L. Scott, 58, of Cordova, Alabama will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at Hanceville Funeral Home from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mr. Scott was born on March 26, 1966 in Chicago, Illinois and passed away on April 5, 2024 at his residence. Survivors include his daughter, Dara (Jacob) Madison; grandchildren, Parker, Hollyn, Hudson, Akelei and Ryker; and his aunt, Linda (Randy) Bensko. Mr. Scott was preceded in death by his father, Rufus Scott; and grandparents, Charlie and Jewel Scott. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Scott Family.

Charles Ray Johnson, 59
Charles Ray Johnson, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on April 6, 2024, at the age of 59. Mr. Johnson was born to Charles Edgar and Jettie Corbin Johnson on June 15, 1964, in Blount County, Alabama. Charles was employed by Golden Rod Broilers, Inc. where he served in general maintenance. Mr. Johnson is described as a workaholic by his family, and he enjoyed being busy. He also loved to mow and being outdoors brought him joy. Charles was loved greatly by his family and his memory will be cherished by those he loved. Mr. Johnson is preceded in death by his father, Charles Edgar Johnson; sister, Wanda Joyce Morton; and a nephew, Nathan Lee Morton. Those surviving Mr. Johnson includes his mother, Jettie Corbin Johnson; sister, Shirley Ann Selvage; nieces and nephews, Chris Bell (Nikki), Dale Ray Morton, Melissa Morton, Richard Lynn Clinton, Angela Hayes; a host of great nieces and nephews; and his dear friends, Pat Riley, and Bernie Smith. Holly Pond Funeral home is honored to serve the Johnson family and our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Martha Ann Smith, 77
Funeral Service for Martha Ann Smith, age 77, of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with burial at Emeus Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Smith passed away on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at Woodland Village Health Care. She was born Feb. 24, 1947, to Ronel Mewbourn and Emma Mewbourn. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, John Larry Smith; brother, Lendle Mewbourn; brother, Charles Mewbourn; sister,Wynette Scott; brother, Bobby Mewbourn; and grandchild, Matthew Loyd. Survivors include her children, Randy and Tina Murphree, Tammy and Scott Smothers, Katie and Allen Loyd, and Lisa and Joseph Timbs, host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, extended family and friends; and sister, Shelia and Lamar Quinn.

Shirley Dean Hooper, 83
Shirley D. Hooper, age 83, of Falkville, passed away on Sunday, April 7, 2024, at Woodland Village Health Care. She was born Thursday, April 3, 1941 to William Blake Moore and Viva Lou Moore. She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her children, Pamela Wingo, Tony Lynn Hooper, Teddy (Teresa) Doyle Hooper, William Shane Hooper; grandchildren, Bobby Joe Wingo, Gregory Dakota Wingo, Misty (Dustin) Dawn Hooper Johnson, Wesley (Katie) Adam Hooper, Brandy Janell Hooper; great grandchildren, Conner Lawrence, William Dietz, Jacob Deeds, Justice Deeds, Brittany Deeds, Buddy (Delores) Moore Services will be at a later date.

Mable C. Lolley, 84
Arrangements for Mable C. Lolley, age 84, of Decatur, are incomplete, at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mable was born July 3, 1939, to Emory W. Lane and Lena Pearl Coleman Lane. She passed from this life April 7, 2024, at River City Center in Decatur, Alabama.

James Martin Copeland, 82
James Martin Copeland, of Holly Pond, Alabama, entered into the presence of our Lord on Sunday, April 7, 2024, at the age of 82. Mr. Copeland was born in Sipsy, Alabama, on July 2, 1941, to the late Henry Pleasant and Mozelle Cook Copeland. James was a child of God and his love for his Savior led him to serve others. Mr. Copeland and his family lived in various places over his lifetime, but James was always active within the local church body. Mr. Copeland and his wife, Johnnie Kathryn, most recently attended worship at Redan Missionary Baptist Church. James was also a Mason, was a member of Civitan International, and was a member of the Elks Lodge in Branson, Missouri. Mr. Copeland also campaigned for President Ronald Reagan. James had the opportunity to meet the President, and he received a handshake of gratitude for his efforts to the campaign. A true patriot, James served his nation honorably in the United States Army National Guard as a helicopter crew chief. His love for flying led him to acquire his Instrument Flight License as well as his Commercial Pilot License. James also loved the water, and he could be found boating, skiing, or fishing any time he had the opportunity. Mr. Copeland was a talented writer and has published several books over the years. His poetry and writings often speak of his faith in his Lord and Savior. One such prayer inspired by his participation in the Emmaus Walk, intitled "Daily Prayer," includes the following:" Open wide the eyes of my soul that I may see Good in all things; Grant me this day some new vison of thy Truth, Inspire me with the spirit of joy and gladness." James provided for his family as a sales manager, and part of his job was to establish new sales routes for the company. Mr. Copeland was an extremely hard-working man, and his persistence and talents led him to be successful in the industry in which he worked. Mr. Copeland loved his family and they in turn loved him. James's children deem their father their personal hero, and his sacrifices over the years for those he loved has not gone unnoticed. A dedicated man of God, James's love for his Savior, family, and his country leaves behind a legacy of love, sacrifice, and servanthood. He will be missed greatly. Mr. Copeland is preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Mozelle Copeland. Those surviving Mr. Copeland includes his beloved wife, Johnnie Kathryn Copeland; children, James Timothy Copeland (Melanie), Stephanie Copeland Nelson (Tim); stepsons, Richard Lee Chambers, J. David Chambers (Sandy); grandchildren, Rebecca Laney (Aaron), Jason Cravens (Jacqueline), Jeremy Cravens (Stephanie), Jennifer Cravens, Chasity Ray (Austin); and great-grandchildren, Benjamin Laney, Charlotte Laney, Norah Laney, Brooklyn Ray, and Cody Ray. Funeral services for Mr. Copeland will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday, April 11, 2024, in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel, Pastor Mike King officiating. Friends are invited to join the family for a time of visitation prior to services, from 10 a.m., until services begin. Mr. Copeland will be buried in Mt. Vernon Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery immediately following funeral services where he will receive military honors. Tim Copeland, Tim Nelson, Richard Chambers, David Chambers, Austin Ray, and Phillip Patterson will serve as pallbearers for Mr. Copeland. Holly Pond Funeral Home is truly honored to serve the Copeland family and our thoughts and prayers are with them all.

Margaret Odine Laney, 97
Funeral service for Margaret Odine Laney, age 97, of Cullman, is Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home, with Rev. Steve Rodgers officiating. Mrs. Laney will lie in state Thursday from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Visitation will be held Wednesday, April 10, 2024 from 5:30- 8 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home and interment will be at Blair Methodist Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Margaret was born Sept. 22, 1926, to Lonnie Cone and Zora Moore Cone. She passed from this life on April 7, 2024, at her home. She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, James Leslie Laney; five brothers; three sisters; son-in-law, Ed Holcombe; daughter-in-law, Renee Laney; grandchildren, Brian Laney, Dustin Laney, and Tina Laney; great-grandchild, Noah Laney. She is survived by her sons, Gary Laney (Wanda), Bruce Laney (Joyce), Tim Laney (Donna), Chris Laney; daughters, Dianne Wilbanks (Charles), Connie Holcombe; grandchildren, Barry Laney (Mandy), Patrick Laney (Jenny), Jeremy Laney, Darlene Nuss (Jeff), Desti Neighbors (Duston), Talisha Dubberly (Jason), Kaitlyn Laney, Josh Wilbanks, Adam Wilbanks, Weston Laney; twenty-four great-grandchildren; sixteen great-great grandchildren; a host of nieces and nephews; family and friends. Margaret was very outgoing and social all her life. She loved being with her friends at the Jones Chapel Senior Center and having lunch with them. She also loved to garden and can and she loved Alabama football. Her other hobbies were watching her game shows and Andy Griffith. Her favorite thing was cooking Sunday dinner for her family and everyone coming over. She was a wonderful lady and will be missed so much by family and friends.

Edna Jane Hedges, 97
Edna Jane Hedges, age 97, of Haleyville, Alabama passed away on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. Edna was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee on June 22, 1926, to George D. and Maurine Deakins McIsaac. She is preceded in death by her husband: Robert H. Hedges. Mrs. Hedges was an avid reader. She loved her grandchildren and enjoyed her bridge club. A private family graveside service will be held on April 14, 2024, at Marshall Memorial Gardens in Albertville, Alabama. She is survived by her: son: George D. (Brenda) Hedges, grandchildren: Jonathan (Whitney) Hedges, Amy Hedges (Jay) Graham, Phillip (Julie) Montgomery, great grandchildren: Paton Graham, Amber Montgomery, Greg Montgomery and Lee Montgomery. Please share condolences and memories with the family at www.mossservicefh.com Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Iris Bernice Carter, 87
Funeral Service for Iris Bernice Carter, age 87 of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Rodney Thompson officiating; burial at New Hope #2. Visitation will be from 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Miss Carter passed away on Monday, April 8, 2024, at Woodland Village Health Care. She was born Wednesday, Feb. 3, 1937, to Eual Carter and Annie May Carter. She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her sister, Sue Carter. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Janice Carrine Gulledge, 89
Graveside service for Janice Carrine Gulledge, age 89, of Altoona, is Friday April 12, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. at Mt. Olive Cemetery in Simcoe. Bro. Chris Kitchens will be officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Janice was born February 8, 1935, to Marvin Stewart and Lizzie Brown Stewart. She passed from this life on April 7, 2024. She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Reece Gulledge; sons, Danny Wayne Daniel, Marion William Daniel, Jr., infant son; sister, Pauline Sims; grandchild, David Smith. She is survived by her daughters, Vicky Potridge (Thomas), Darlene Smith, Laura Gulledge; brother, Dennis Lee Stewart (Cindy); sister, Lorraine Whorton; grandchildren, Anna Fink (Paul), Dustin Smith, Thomas Gulledge (Hope), Kelly Smith (Charles), Bradley Gulledge; thirteen great-grandchildren; a host of nieces and nephews; family and friends. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Stephen Paul Barnett, 66
Funeral service for Stephen Paul Barnett, age 66, of Cullman, is Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 1 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home, with Rev. Steve Rodgers officiating. Visitation will be held Wednesday, April 10, 2024, from noon - 1 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home and interment will be at Cullman City Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Stephen Paul Barnett was born July 2, 1957, to William Jack and Theresa Arndt Barnett in Selma, Alabama. He passed away peacefully in his sleep on April 6, 2024. Stephen's family moved to Hollywood, Florida, many years ago. That's where Steve found his love for fishing and snorkeling, motorbikes, and later in life, he loved WWE and Judge Judy. After graduation, he worked for the Seminole Reservation, where he met the love of his life, Brenda Osceola. They were together for 15 years. Later, he worked for Grant printing for 10 years. He moved back to Cullman with his sister Janet, with whom he lived. Steve is preceded in death by his parents, brother, Joe, a sister, Patty, and fiancé, Brenda Osceola. He is survived by his sisters, Janet and Deborah, brother, Jack Barnett of North Jackson, Ohio, and sister Katherine of Boardman, Ohio, nine nieces and nephews, four great-nieces and nephews. Obituary written by family. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

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