

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

VOL. 151 • 50¢ PER COPY | SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 45



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Cullman ranks No. 3 on USA Today 10Best list for Best Small Town Cultural Scene

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The city of Cullman has been ranked No. 3 on USA Today's 10Best list of Best Small Town Cultural Scene for 2024. This is the first time Cullman has been recognized in a 10Best list by USA Today, marking the city's emergence as a cultural hub worth exploring.

Mayor Woody Jacobs expressed his delight at this significant achievement, stating, "Being ranked third by USA Today is a remarkable accomplishment for our city and a testament to the vibrant cultural scene that thrives within our community. Cullman has long been a hidden gem, and this recognition shines a spotlight on our rich heritage, diverse attractions and thriving cultural events."

Cullman's cultural scene is as diverse as it is dynamic, with a flourishing community, renowned festivals, and a deep appreciation for heritage and » PAGE 12



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Cullman Oktoberfest 2022 Senior Day was held at the Festhalle on Thursday, Sept. 29, with live music, dancing, bingo and lunch provided.

Holly Pond's Cora Hogeland earns state Farm-City award

Winners honored during Farm-City Awards, including state's 2024 Farm of Distinction



ALABAMA FARMERS FEDERATION

Cora Hogeland of Holly Pond Elementary School scored fourth place in the 2023 Alabama Farm-City Committee Poster Contest for Kindergarten through Third Grades. The theme was "Agritourism: Connecting Alabama Farms and Communities." Hogeland received $60 from Alabama Farmers Cooperative (AFC) during the Farm-City Awards Program April 11 in Auburn. She is pictured with Alabama Farm-City Committee Chair Jeff Helms of the Alabama Farmers Federation and AFC's Tiffany Lester.

Tanner Hood
Contributor

AUBURN, Ala. — Agritourism was on display during the annual Farm-City Awards Program April 11 in Auburn.

Detailed activity reports, bright posters, well-worded essays and vibrant videos showcased hours of hard work and dedication by students and Farm-City committees across the state.

Alabama Farm-City Committee Chair Jeff Helms said student contestants and county committees captured the idea of Farm-City in 2023.

"The goal of our theme last year was 'Connecting Farms and Communities.' This has been the mission of Farm-City Week since its inception in 1955," said Helms of the Alabama Farmers



ALABAMA FARMERS FEDERATION

Cora Hogeland's winning poster

Federation. "The work done last year by students, teachers and county volunteers strengthened bonds between farmers and the neighbors who buy their products and provide services needed to sustain Alabama's agricultural and forestry economies. We believe the seeds of understanding planted in 2023 will continue to bear fruit for years to come."

Over 350 students, county committees and families came together to celebrate year-long achievements and creative exhibits showcasing the 2023 theme, "Agritourism: Connecting » PAGE 4

'We need the support of our community'

Cullman County Animal Shelter encourages volunteers



CULLMAN TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

The Cullman County Animal Shelter and its animals depend on the love and generosity of volunteers. » PAGE 8

CPD to host community cookout April 20

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Vinemont Schools receive prestigious Purple Star School designation

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Wallace State Basketball Coach Allen Sharpe hired by UAH



WSCC

Coach Allen Sharpe » PAGE 2



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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported April 12

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported April 12, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNT SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

April 9

- domestic violence; CR 699
- criminal mischief; CR 843
- resisting arrest; CR 1699
- harassment; CR 843
- harassment; CR 1082
- harassment; CR 469
- theft of property; CR 437
- permitting dogs to run at large; CR 1250
- unlawful possession of drugs with intent to distribute; possession of dangerous drugs; CR 1693

April 10

- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 1082
- harassment; CR 518
- domestic violence; CR 1135
- burglary; CR 1511
- violation of protection order; CR 1513
- theft of property; CR 1816
- harassment; trespassing; Hwy. 91
- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 1816
- theft of property; CR 1282
- domestic violence; Woods St.
- domestic violence; CR 1082

ARRESTS

April 8- 10

Burton, Christopher T.; 45
- obstructing police – tampering with a witness

Clark, Andy G.; 50
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs (synthetic narcotic)

Clowers, Brianne H.; 32
- possession of methamphetamine
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Cox, William G.; 52
- FTA - assault-domestic-harassment-family
- resisting arrest
- FTA – disorderly conduct – crossing police lines
- FTA – theft – shoplifting, less than $500

Curvin, Meshach J.; 28
- FTA - driving under the influence (alcohol)

Duke Jr., Michael J.; 34
- burglary-non-residence-no force
- possessing stolen property, $1500 or more
- possession of burglary tools

Farley, Hannah A.; 27
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Figgs, Michael A.; 32
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Gamble, Oliver C.; 28
- FTA - driving under the influence (alcohol) – 3 or more prior convictions

Gatlin, Aaron S.; 30
- burglary-non-residence-force
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Keasler, Christopher D.; 51
- FTA - driving while suspended, revoked, or cancelled
- FTA - drivers license - not in possession

Kelley, Danny C.; 67
- assault-harassment
- menacing-aggravated assault

Kelley, Mary W.; 63
- assault-harassment

Knowles, Chandler R.; 31
- FTA – display of invalid insurance

Kuykendall, Brian M.; 35
- FTA - operating vehicle without insurance

Mcintosh, Renae W.; 46
- FTA - assault-domestic-harassment-family
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs (3 counts)
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (3 counts)
- FTA – resisting arrest
- FTA – obstruction-governmental operations
- FTA – failure/refusal to display insurance
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Mcleod, Natalie N.; 43
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Millican, Samantha N.; 33
- unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Millican, Wesley M.; 34
- unlawful possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Overton, Shayla D.; 28
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Panter, Ryan D.; 38
- FTA – expired tag
- FTA – driving while license suspended
- FTA – failure/refusal to display insurance
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)

Parsons, Tyler A.; 21
- sexual abuse in the first degree

Pendergraft, Unique N.; 31
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Ralph, Johnathan H.; 52
- assault-domestic-reckless endangerment

Ramsey, Byron C.; 42
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Raney, Maggie K.; 28
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Reed, Jacob D.; 30
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family
- criminal mischief – damaged property

Rodriguez, Francisco J. N.; 40
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Schofield, Alexis C.; 21
- FTA - possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA - promote prison contraband (drugs)

Sneed, Cody L.; 40
- possession of dangerous drugs

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

April 7
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; person

April 10
- burglary-3rd degree; theft of property-1st degree; LendNation; cash, damaged property; 2nd Ave. SW
- theft of property-1st degree; Lowe's; trailer, damaged property; $6,724; Cherokee Ave. SW
- retail theft of property-1st degree; ULTA Beauty; miscellaneous; Cullman Shopping Center
- retail theft of property-3rd degree; criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $7; Olive St. SW
- theft by fraudulent leasing; McCurry Van & Car Rental

April 11
- criminal trespass-2nd degree; Moss Service Funeral Home; 2nd Ave. NW
- leaving the scene; person; damage to '10 Mazda; Hwy. 157

ARRESTS

April 10-11

Cox, William G.; 52
- FTA - disorderly conduct
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree

McLeod, Natalie N.; 43
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia

Ramsey, Byron C.; 42
- FTA - reckless endangerment
- FTA - attempt to elude police officer
- FTA – DUI

Reed, Jacob D.; 30
- FTA - domestic violence-3rd degree
- FTA - carrying pistol without permit
- FTA - public intoxication
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree

Baker, Treasea A.; 23
- harassment

Smith, Timothy M.; 37
- retail theft of property-3rd degree

Steele, Tosha L.; 41
- FTA - public intoxication

Gamble, Oliver C.; 28
- FTA – DUI

Martinez, Bryann L.; 25
- retail theft of property-3rd degree
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Gamble, Matthew G.; 26
- FTA - fail to register vehicle
- FTA - failure to move over law
- FTA - driving while suspended

Gilley, Colton C.; 27
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – providing false information to law enforcement

Weldon, Tina D.; 50
- DUI

Wagnon, John A.; 33
- DUI

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

CCSO arrest roundup

Staff Reports
Contributor

Cullman County Sheriff's Office arrest roundup:

April 3

Deputies arrested William Bennett Clark, 67, of Hanceville, on multiple outstanding warrants stemming from multiple incidents that occurred over the past several years.

Clark is charged with second-degree stalking (warrant), public lewdness (warrant), trespassing (warrant) and trespassing (FTA).

April 4

Deputies attempted to conduct a traffic stop near the Alabama Highway 157 and U.S. Highway 31 intersection. The driver of the vehicle allegedly sped up and initially refused to stop.

During the pursuit, according to the CCSO, deputies witnessed items being thrown from the vehicle.

The vehicle did stop after a short pursuit, and the items allegedly thrown out of the vehicle were recovered and identified as narcotics and paraphernalia.

Brandon Christopher Laney, 28, of Logan, was identified as the driver. Alyssa Gayle Bryant, 28, of Vinemont, and Timothy Alan Bryant, 57, of Moulton, were identified as the passengers.

All three were placed under arrest and transported to the Cullman County Detention Center. Once there, more thorough searches were conducted, and Timothy Bryant was allegedly found to be in possession of additional narcotics.

Laney is charged with unlawful possession of methamphetamine, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, attempting to elude and tampering with physical evidence.

Alyssa Bryant is charged with unlawful possession of methamphetamine and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

Timothy Bryant is charged with unlawful possession of methamphetamine, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia and promoting prison contraband.

April 5

Deputies arrested Donald Gerome Nugent, 53, of Toney, Alabama, on multiple outstanding warrants.

Nugent is charged with failure to register as a sex offender (probation violation), indecent exposure (FTA) and trespassing (FTA).

Deputies responded to a residence in the Fairview area to follow up on reports of drug activity.

Michelle Self, 41, of Cullman, was located at the residence in question.

Paraphernalia and narcotics were allegedly located inside the residence.

Self is charged with unlawful possession of methamphetamine and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.



Top row, left to right, are William Bennett Clark, Brandon Christopher Laney and Alyssa Gayle Bryant; bottom row, left to right, are Timothy Alan Bryant, Donald Gerome Nugent and Michelle Self.

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry said, "Our deputies at the Cullman County Sheriff's Office have been extremely proactive in their work. Remaining diligent and getting these drugs off the street is a point of emphasis for the sheriff's office. I am proud of the hard work and dedication all of our deputies continue to show."

Sharpe (from Front)

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College announces that women's and men's head basketball coach Allen Sharpe has accepted a position as head coach of the University of Alabama at Huntsville women's basketball program.

Sharpe recently completed his ninth season in two stints as Wallace State men's basketball coach and his first as the women's basketball coach, taking on both teams for the 2023-2024 season.

"Wallace State congratulates Coach Sharpe on this recognition and wishes him well with the Chargers," said Wallace State President Vicki Karolewics. "We are thankful for the nine years that Sharpe led the Lions and are proud of all he has accomplished."

Coaching women's basketball presented a new challenge for Sharpe and one that he found he enjoyed at a time when fan support and enthusiasm for women's basketball is soaring.

In his debut season this year, Sharpe led the Wallace State women's team to a 25-6 record and ended with a runner up finish at the Alabama Community College Conference Championship Tournament at UAH. The team missed a trip to the NJCAA tournament by two points in a 60-58 loss to Shelton State Community College.

"I really enjoyed it and obviously we had a good year," Sharpe said. "The opportunity at Huntsville came about and it just all kind of fell into place. If you had asked me a year ago if I'd be coaching women's basketball, I'd say you were crazy, but I did it this year and really enjoyed it and had this opportunity, and I'm going to keep pushing forward with it."

Sharpe thanked Dr. Karolewics for the opportunity to coach at Wallace State twice in his career.

"You know it's not often that you get hired at the same place, twice. I told her the other day how much we appreciate her for giving us this opportunity again. It had such an impact on our family with our kids. Just in her hiring me so many pieces fell into place for our family. But I also told her it's her fault for letting me coach the women's team that I'm leaving."

He said he leaves Wallace State with the hope that he's made an impact on the programs.

"I think that when you take these jobs and then you leave, often you want to leave it better than how you found it. I'd like to think it's better," he said.

Sharpe was recently named the NJCAA South District Coach of the Year after leading the men's team to the 2024 National Junior College Athletic Association DI Basketball Championship, where the Lions reached the second round of play.

The men punched their ticket to the national tournament by defeating Bishop State 85-81 for the Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) title. The conference title was the team's fourth since 2010.

Freshman guard Jimmie Williams was named to the NJCAA DI All-America Teams as a Third-Team All American, becoming the fourth of Sharpe's players to earn the honor.

Cory Cooperwood, who currently serves as the Lions' assistant coach, was named a First-Team All American in 2007 and 2008 under Sharpe and L.A. Farmer was named a First-Team All American in 2010. Javaon Borum was named Honorable Mention in 2008.

Sharpe returned to Wallace State during the COVID-19- shortened 2020-2021 season.

He previously coached men's basketball at Wallace State from 2005-2010, compiling a 136-30 record with the Lions and leading the program to its first ever ACCC/Region 22 Tournament championship in 2010. Sharpe also led Wallace State to its only No. 1 national ranking in 2008, a campaign that began 30-0.

In nine seasons overall at Wallace State, Sharpe's record is 173-51 with the men's team.

Sharpe took over at University of Arkansas-Monticello after his first stint in Hanceville.

He coached the Boll Weevils for four seasons, becoming the only coach in program history to have four consecutive winning seasons, compiling a 70-42 record. Sharpe returned to the state in 2014 as the University of West Alabama's head coach. He spent six seasons with the Tigers, finishing his tenure there with a 108-71 record. He was named the 2019 Gulf South Conference Coach of the Year when the Tigers registered the program's first NCAA Division II tournament win since 1982.

Sharpe's head coaching career began at Truett-McConnell College in Georgia. Sharpe played collegiately at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., scoring 1,431 points under legendary coach Don Meyer. He earned a bachelor's degree from Lipscomb and a master's degree from Piedmont College. He and his wife, Susan, have three children, Garrison, Ally and Anderson. Garrison plays for UAH men's basketball team.

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 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 AlAnon Meetings
The AlAnon family groups are a fellowship of friends and family whose lives have been affected by alcoholism. 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 Courage to Change AlAnon family group meets on Thursdays at 6 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church at 305 Arnold St. NE in the Carriage House, located between the church and the Arnold House on the corner. For more information call 256-734-2231 or 256-531-4429.

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.

Multifamily Yard Sale
Saturday, April 13, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. 1510-1514 Third Ave. SE.

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.

Cullman Police Department Community Cookout
Saturday, April 20, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Cullman Housing Authority behind the maintenance building. Attendees can enjoy free hot dogs, chips and drinks. The Cullman Housing Authority is located at 408 Cleveland Ave. SW.

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.

Alabama Strawberry Festival
Friday and Saturday, May 3-4, at Depot Park and the Festhalle.

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HumbleRoots,LLC
Published daily Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055
POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: robin@cullmantribune.com

ANNUALLY BASED RATES

CULLMAN.....$125.00
OUTSIDE CULLMAN.....$250.00

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Dustin Isom - Associate Publisher
W.C. Mann - Reporter
Cheyenne Sharp - Reporter
Gauge Day - Reporter
Nick Griffin - Varsity Sports Editor
SammyConfer-Youth/JVSportsEditor
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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
APRIL 13, 2024

Industry meets education: CHS hosts school's first ever STEM Day

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman High School hosted its first STEM Day recently, a partnership with local industries and associations to showcase the many career and study opportunities available within the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields.

STEM Day at Cullman High School was essentially an in-school field trip where students rotated across nine different stations. The school system collaborated with Wallace State Community College, the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Drummond Coal, AMSTI, Alabama Technology in Motion and the cybersecurity and engineering Career Tech instructors at Cullman High. Almost 200 students participated in STEM Day.

Students engaged with hands-on stations focused on fields such as engineering, robotics, computer-aided drafting, nursing, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and more. Students had the opportunity to learn about the Career Technical Education (CTE) courses offered at CHS, experience new technologies, network with university professors and industry leaders and gain experience and information about career opportunities in the STEM fields.

"The goal is to grow this into a major event where local industry and Cullman City Schools come together for the good of our students. Our community asked for added STEM-related courses and exposure for students, and STEM is a growing phenomenon in industry," Cullman High School engineering teacher Mike Gay explained. "The students we are preparing today will be working in STEM-related careers that don't even exist today. Getting students on board the train and offering them more opportunities in STEM will give them the advantage of being better informed and prepared to make career-related decisions in the future."

Cullman City Schools CTE Coordinator Lindsay Brannon noted the event will expose students to opportunities and potential career pathways they might not have realized were possible within STEM fields.

"It connects students with professionals who can offer insights into the various career paths available in these fields. Through engaging activities, demonstrations and presentations, students can discover the exciting possibilities within STEM," she said. "It also offers hands-on learning opportunities, allowing students to actively engage with STEM concepts and develop important skills such as problem-solving and analytical thinking. These events bring together students, teachers, industry professionals and community members, creating opportunities for collaboration, networking and mentorship."



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Students at Cullman High School participate in STEM activities as part of STEM Day, which saw the district partner with local industries and groups to showcase jobs and opportunities within STEM fields.

Hogeland (from Front)

Alabama Farms and Communities."

Sirmons win Farm of Distinction

During the program, Sirmon Farms in Baldwin County was named the 2024 Farm of Distinction. Farm owners Joel and Patti Sirmon said they understand the hard work it takes to be successful in agriculture.

"I don't call it work," said Joel Sirmon, a fifth-generation farmer. "This is my way of living."

Sirmon Farms spans 4,500 acres in the Belforest community. The Sirmons grow cotton, corn, peanuts, and sweet potatoes and will represent Alabama during the Sunbelt Ag Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year contest this fall.

The family business includes Joel's mother, Shirley, and brother, James.

As the Farm of Distinction, the Sirmon family received an engraved farm sign from the Federation and Alfa Insurance; a John Deere Gator from SunSouth, TriGreen and John Deere; a $1,000 gift from AFC; and $1,000 from First South Farm Credit.

Exceptional counties highlighted

Local Farm-City committees and leaders were honored for efforts to connect rural communities and city neighbors through events, activities and other creative methods.

Alabama Farmers Agriculture Foundation sponsored cash prizes for top committees. Division winners received $300 while runners-up garnered $200. Category award winners received $100 per category award.

Division I represents larger populations, while Division II represents smaller counties.

Division I

- Lee County: Best Farm-City Committee; Best Civic Club Activities; Best Scrapbook
- Dale County: Runner-up Best Farm-City Committee; Best Dinner; Best Tour
- Walker County: Target Award
- St. Clair County: Innovative Idea Award
- Chilton County: Best Media Coverage & Proclamation
- Jefferson County: Best Special Activities

Division II

- Geneva County: Best Farm-City Committee; Best Scrapbook; Best Civic Club Activities
- Cherokee County: Runner-up Best Farm-City Committee and Innovative Idea Award
- Barbour County: Target Award and Best Tour
- Fayette County: Best Dinner
- Clay County: Best Media Coverage & Proclamation
- Pike County: Best Special Activities

Additionally, Chilton County Probate Judge Jason Calhoun was named Volunteer of the Year, and Houston County Career Tech Academy Director Chris Kennedy received the Farm-City Service Award.

Skilled students honored

Eighteen kindergarten through 12th grade students were honored for their displays of Alabama agritourism in poster, essay and video formats.

Winners and runners-up received trophies and cash awards from Alabama Farmers Cooperative (AFC), which also provided matching cash awards for schools of first- and second-place entries.

Entries were judged by state agriculture and business leaders chosen by the Alabama Farm-City Committee. Winning works were promoted during the awards program, and the Top 12 posters will be featured in the 2025 Alabama Farm-City Calendar.

Poster Contest, Kindergarten-Third Grade

- First and $200: Corbitt Dyess, Mulkey Elementary School, Geneva County
- Second and $100: Channing Boyd, Stephen Elementary School, Tallapoosa County
- Third and $75: Gianna Hines, Mount Olive Primary School, Russell County
- Fourth and $60: Cora Hogeland, Holly Pond Elementary School, Cullman County
- Fifth and $40: Jaxon Aday, Moulton Elementary School, Lawrence County
- Sixth and $25: Laila Pippin, Morris Slingluff Elementary School, Houston County

Poster Contest, Fourth-Sixth Grade

- First and $200: Micah Blankenship, Ariton Elementary School, Dale County
- Second and $100: Lilli Norris, Bagley Elementary School, Jefferson County
- Third and $75: Willoughby Dean, Prattville Intermediate School, Autauga County
- Fourth and $60: Pruitt Woods, Moulton Middle School, Lawrence County
- Fifth and $40: Addison Heath, Sulligent Elementary School, Lamar County
- Sixth and $25: Era Lee Bell, home-school, Clay County

See winning posters at www.flickr.com/photos/alabamafarmers/albums/72177720316165094.

Essay Contest, Seventh-Ninth Grade

- First and $300: Caleb Cook, Billingsley School, Autauga County
- Second and $200: Susan Atchison, Chilton Christian Academy, Chilton County

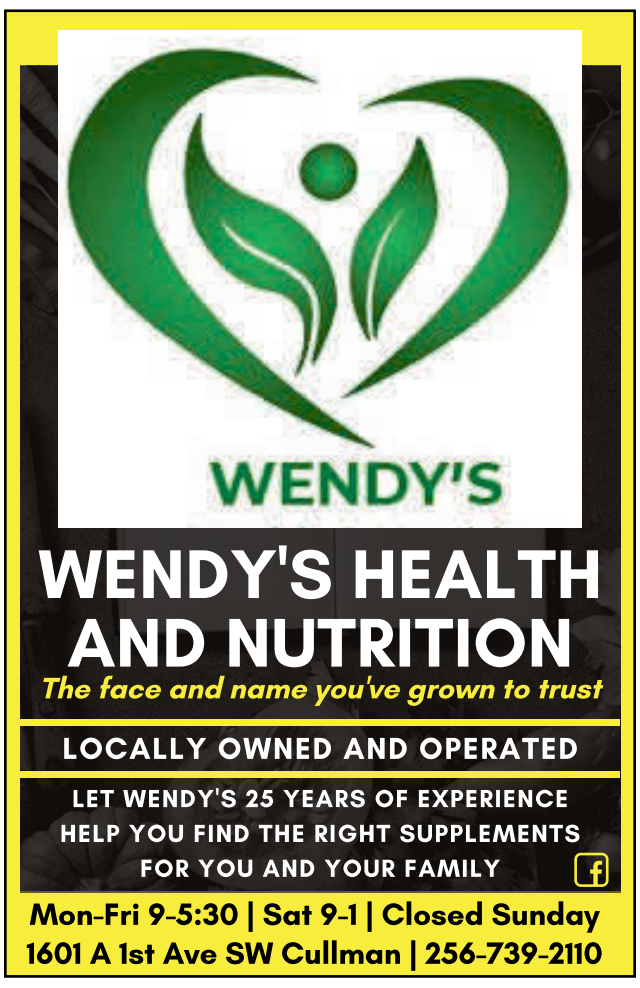
Essay Contest, 10th-12th Grade

- First and $300: Noah Price, Alabama School for the Blind, Talladega County
- Second and $200: Denver Guthery, Billingsley School, Autauga County

Video Contest

- First and $300: Emily McDaniel, Corner High School, Jefferson County
- Second and $200: Kayden Bland, Billingsley School, Autauga County

See the winning video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-3N7ZMORJu4.







Cullman Caring for Kids plant sale raises over $1K

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman Caring For Kids hosted a fundraising plant sale that was planned for Friday and Saturday, but sold out early Friday afternoon, raising just over $1,000.

Senior Director Javon Daniel said the nonprofit received a donation of around 100 plants from a generous local woman (who wanted to remain unnamed) in hopes of assisting in fundraising. All donations received from the plant sale were given to Cullman Caring for Kids.

"We really appreciate everyone from the community coming out and supporting this plant sale," Daniel said.

"The woman who donated there asked to not give her name because she didn't want any recognition.

"She is 87 years old and brought all the plants here – tons of different types. She is a precious soul.

"We are so thankful for her donation and fundraising effort with the plants."

Cullman Caring for Kids Executive Director Steven Sutter said Friday was just an example of how anyone can help give to and assist with their organization.

"This lady used her ability to grow plants to help us to be able to raise funds at Cullman Caring for Kids to go towards everything that we do here to help families. Fundraisers like this are important to us because it takes everything we get to keep the operation going," he said.

"People don't realize the cost of keeping the food bank going, from the truck running properly to paying employees to purchasing food. Everything works together to make the operation run and stay successful."

Some of the plants included scented geraniums, succulents, bedding plants and many others.

"The plant sale was slated to start at 8:30 a.m., but we had people here as early as 7 a.m.," Daniel said.

"We have raised about $700 as of 11 a.m. and sold out just before 2 p.m. We ended up getting just over $1,000 in donations."

Cullman Caring for Kids is a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. It is located at 402 Arnold St. NE in Cullman. For more information or to donate, visit cullmancaringforkids.com.

Cullman Caring for Kids' dream/mission:
Is that no child will ever be abused, no child will go to bed hungry, no infants will ever be shaken in anger and the cycle of abuse will be stopped.

Is to see the next generation loved, encouraged, physically and emotionally prepared to face life, and that they feel wanted and needed in their world.

To accomplish our dream we must stop the cycle of abuse and neglect, by putting love in their hearts, food in their stomach, and smiles on their faces.



LAUREN ESTES/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman Caring for Kids Senior Director Javon Daniel is all smiles at the nonprofit's plant sale on Friday, April 12, 2024.

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WSCC GOLF

Lions battle back to take 2nd place in ACCC Region 22 Tournament

Special to the Tribune
WSCC

ONEONTA, Ala. — Wallace State Community College men's golf pushed through the final round of play at the Alabama Community College Conference Region 22 championship to take second place in the tournament.

The Lions entered the day in sixth place when they hit the links at Limestone Springs Golf Course.

"The team fought hard through the rain to come back and finish runner-up in the conference after being in sixth place heading into the day," said Wallace State men's golf coach Sylas Elliot. "I'm proud of what they accomplished."

Sophomore Joseph Vinyard of Gardendale finished sixth on the individual leaderboard and earned All-Tournament honors. Vinyard turned in rounds of 72-73-75.

Liam Meaden moved up five places to finish in 12th place for the tournament. The sophomore from Noddingham, England turned in scores of 74-75-74.

Dillan Wade (75-77-73), a freshman from Vestavia Hills, moved up eight places to finish 15th, tying with sophomore Keith Hunter of Ontario, Canada, who moved up 16 places, with a final round of 69 after two rounds of 77 and 79.

The team will next compete at the Southeast District Championship April 22-23 in Union Grove for a chance to compete at the NJCAA National Championship in Hobbs, NM next month.

The team is currently ranked No. 2 in the region and 17th nationally.



WSCC

Wallace State's Men's Golf Team placed second at this year's ACCC Region 22 Tournament.

WSCC BASKETBALL

Williams earns NJCAA third team All-American honors

Special to the Tribune
WSCC

HANCEVILLE, Ala. -- Jimmie Williams, the freshman guard for the Wallace State Community College men's basketball team, has been named to the National Junior College Athletic Association's (NJCAA) Division I All-America Teams, earning a place as a Third-Team All-American.

"Jimmie had one of the best seasons for a Wallace State basketball player in recent memory," said head coach Allen Sharpe. "He was one of the leaders in all the NJCAA in points scored and led our team to a conference tournament championship and a sweet 16 appearance at the NJCAA national tournament. Jimmie not only is an outstanding individual player, but he is also and great teammate and an outstanding young man."

The Cleveland, Ohio native becomes the sixth Wallace State athlete to make the NJCAA All-America Teams lists for basketball. Current assistant coach Cory Cooperwood was the first WSCC baller to earn first-team honors in 2007 and netted a repeat award in 2008. Demarkus Lampley and L.A. Farmer received first-team All-America honors in 2019 and 2010, respectively. Jeremey McKay earned Third-Team All American in 2012. Javaon Borum (2008) and Ronald Jackson (1975) were named to Honorable Mention teams.

Williams ended the season with 786 points, placing him third in the nation for overall points in the division. He also finished third in the nation for field goal percentage (288-537).

He finished 13th in the nation for points per game, with 22.5; 17th in assists (174), 21st in free throws (145-195), and 23rd in the nation for total rebounds (291).

Williams earned a placed on the NJCAA Division I All-Tournament Team at the NJCAA DI Men's Basketball Championships in Hutchinson, Kan., where the Lions (26-9) ended their season in the second round. He scored 24 points in two games, pulled down 18 rebounds and had 12 assists.

Those games followed the Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) championship, where Williams scored 101 points in three games – 48 in the tournament opener - to lead the Lions to the ACCC title and the team's first trip to the national tournament in 10 years. He was named tournament MVP, while fellow teammates PJ Eason of Dadeville, Arthur Johnson of Carrolton, Ga., and Kelvin Turner of Cincinnati, Ohio, earned All-Tournament awards.

Another Wallace State basketball player appearing on the national leaderboards is Eason, a sophomore center, who is ranked 16th in the nation for blocks (70), 17th for total rebounds (306), 36th for field goal percentage (60.9), and 40th for rebounds per game (8.7). Kendarius Anderson, a freshman guard from Tuscumbia, is ranked 43rd in three-point percentage (42.7).



WSCC

Wallace State Guard Jimmie Williams earned NJCAA Third-Team All-American Honors this season.

AHSAA Executive Director Alvin Briggs announces plans to retire

Ron Ingram
AHSAA

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama High School Athletic Association Executive Director Alvin Briggs informed the AHSAA Central Board of Control his plan to retire from his current position effective September 2. He made the announcement at the CBOC's April meeting Wednesday at the AHSAA office in Montgomery.

That was the biggest news coming out of a very busy Central Board meeting. Mr. Briggs, the first minority to serve in the role of Executive Director in AHSAA history, has been with the AHSAA since 2011 serving in a variety of roles including Director of the Alabama High School Athletic Directors & Coaches Association (AHSADCA) and Associate Executive Director prior to becoming executive director when Steve Savarese stepped down in 2021. Briggs moved into the executive director role in July of 2021. Briggs, who has spent 35 years in education, was also the first person selected for executive director who was already working on the AHSAA executive staff.

"My time with the AHSAA has been memorable. I am humbled and thankful for having the opportunity to serve our member schools and Central Board as their executive director.I am grateful to the AHSAA staff for their commitment to serving our member schools. I will miss this extended family.

"I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish and am confident the AHSAA will continue to move forward facing and overcoming the many challenges that the future might bring. Now, after much prayer, it is time for me to retire."

Central Board president Mike Welsh thanked Briggs for his service.

"We want to congratulate you on your retirement, and we thank you for your service," he told Briggs following the announcement.

Briggs, the fifth executive director in AHSAA history, guided the AHSAA through some difficult times, taking over at the tail end of the Covid pandemic. He was instrumental in starting Girls' Flag Football, secured the current site (Oxford's Choccolocco Park and Jacksonville State University) for the state baseball and softball championships, saw a tremendous growth in participation in the non-revenue sports as well as guiding the AHSAA to record years in the revenue sharing paid back to member schools – especially coming out of the Covid pandemic, Attendance to all championship events thriving ever since.

The CBOC approved several sports committee recommendations made through the Board's Championship Committee and presented by Assistant Director Jeff Segars including:

Football: Approved the starting date for middle school football contests to be aligned with junior varsity starting dates which are the first Monday after varsity teams are allowed to play.

Cross Country: Insured the sport's season gets its 10 weeks and also waived the ban on runners using GPS watches.

Volleyball: Approved the use of 1 official in a sub-varsity contest only when the officials association informs the school it is unable to assign the required minimum of two.

Basketball: Approved giving schools the option of using a shot clock for regular-season non-area games – only if both schools agree. The CBOC also approved allowing the AHSAA to use a shot clock in its summer classics and the North-South All-Star Games as a means to gather data and help train the personnel needed to operate the shot clock. Class 7A schools were also approved to extend their regular season one week since those schools do not compete in the sub-regional round of the playoffs.

Flag Football: Approved 15 dates for varsity/junior varsity and 10 dates for middle schools. Also approved developing a regular season and playoff format that corresponds with padded football, but also approved allowing flag teams to play multiple playoff games at one site on the same date to reduce travel.

Swimming: Approved eliminating section meets and using regular-season times to determine qualifiers for the state meet – similar to the current indoor track format.

Bowling: Approved changing the playoff format currently used in section and state meets to follow the regular-season format. Also approved was making the championship round a double-elimination round and extended the playing dates from 20 to 22.

Wrestling: Approved adjusting the section and state wrestling schedules to accommodate girls' wrestling. Also, in the sport of wrestling, approved insuring that the wrestling placement in section tournaments receive higher consideration in the final seeding for the state meet and determined if a wrestler is disqualified in the section meet, that place in the state meet would result in a forfeit. For the wrestling duals, the CBOC approved allowing cross-bracketing in playoff format.

The Central Board also elected officers for the 2024-25 school year with District 1 member Terry Curtis being elected president, and Pelham's Kim Kiel from District 5 was elected vice president. They take office on July 1.

The AHSAA Legislative Council will meet Wednesday afternoon to vote on a number of proposals submitted by the member schools.



AHSAA

AHSAA Executive Director Alvin Briggs informed the AHSAA Central Board of Control of his plan to retire from his current position effective September 2.

Other Central Board action included:

- Approved the 2023 Super 7 and Football State Playoff financial report.
- Approved 2024 financial reports for Regional and State Bowling, Duals, Section and State Wrestling, Indoor Track, and 2024 Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Basketball.
- Heard a report from Associate Executive Director Kim Vickers concerning the Classification Task Force and approved their recommendations.
- Approved the 2024-25 Required Forms release date and any form changes.
- Approved the Strategic Process and Budget for 2024-2009.
- Approved Wilson's official volleyball for 2025-26 season.

Heard a report from AHSADCA Director Brandon Dean concerning the 2024 Summer Conference and All-Star Sports Week.

- Approved expenses for the 2024 NFHS Summer Meeting to be held in Boston (MA).
- Approved the 2024-25 Calendar of Events, the 2024-25 Sports Calendar and the AHSAA Five-Year Calendar (2024-2029).
- Discussed the current proposals to be addressed by the Legislative Council.





McCaleb crowned Grand Champion at Governor's One-Shot Turkey Hunt

David Rainer
Ala. Dept. of Conservation and Nat. Resources

Despite some challenging weather conditions, the Alabama Governor's One-Shot Turkey Hunt last week was another resounding success with numerous hunters from across the nation bagging an Alabama bird.

"We had hot and humid weather to start and then a line of thunderstorms came through," said Chris Blankenship, commissioner of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) at Wednesday's (April 10) awards luncheon. "But more than a third of people hunting ended up with a turkey.

"It has been a great success. We had more sponsors than we've ever had. We had more hunters (62) than we've ever had. We raised more money than we ever have for scholarships for our universities, our Hunters Helping the Hungry program, youth dove and duck hunting, Becoming An Outdoors-Woman, our mentored hunting programs and all the things we do to promote hunting and fishing and getting people outdoors in the state."

Not only does the One-Shot Turkey Hunt showcase Alabama's outdoors, but it also puts a spotlight on the many other amenities associated with doing business and living in the state.

"To be able to show how the outdoors we all enjoy here contributes to the quality of life in Alabama but also to use it as an economic development tool," Blankenship said. "We want people to bring their businesses here, expand their businesses here and get to meet our people and see what a beautiful place we live in. It's been a hugely successful event, not only for the hunters but we're also thankful for the landowners who gave up their turkeys for somebody else to shoot one of their birds."

Blankenship said although Paul McCaleb was crowned Grand Champion of the 2024 Alabama Governor's One-Shot Turkey Hunt, he considers Governor Kay Ivey as the Grand Champion of promoting and supporting outdoors initiatives in Alabama.

"When we kicked things off, I said Alabama was blessed with our great outdoors," Governor Ivey said before handing out the awards. "I hope you all got a good glimpse of Alabama. It's not just the best place to visit; it's the best place to work, build and raise a family, and to also play."

McCaleb hunted with landowner Russ Newman near Union Springs when they managed to bag the winning gobbler, which weighed 22.3 pounds with a 10.375-inch beard and spurs that measured 1.3 and 1.1 inches for a total score of 67.375 points under the National Wild Turkey Federation scoring system.

"It was tough that morning," Newman said. "The turkey we had been seeing was not cooperative, gobbled very little. When he hit the ground, that was it. We had a long day. We got stuck, and I had to walk back about a mile to the camp to get a tractor." After lunch the hunters went to an area where some birds had been showing up in a field and started to call. Lanier Burton and Joby Newman, Russ's son, also served as guides on the hunt.

"I bet we didn't call five times, and I looked up and said, 'Mr. Paul, there's a turkey to your left. He's coming straight in.' He was at 48 steps, and Mr. Paul hammered him; made a heck of a shot."

McCaleb is a lifelong turkey hunter, bagging his first bird in 1972. He hunts turkeys with his son and grandson on a regular basis on their land in Walker County that is managed for deer and turkeys.

"It was pretty evident that the first turkey we fooled with was an old bird that was used to sitting up in the tree until his hens came up under him before he would pitch down," McCaleb said. "He stayed in the tree for over an hour. He pitched down and went the other way."

After getting the truck stuck and eating lunch, the host team took McCaleb to the spot where the turkeys were known to hang out. "I couldn't have asked for a better group of guys to hunt with," he said. "We came in on the creek side so we wouldn't make much noise. We got set up, and the guys started calling. Within 10 minutes, Russ said, 'Mr. Paul, don't move.' I had a tree blocking my vision on what he could see. I stayed frozen, and the turkey came out in an old logging road. I had picked out a tree he had to come by for him to be close enough for me to shoot. Luckily, that tree was about four feet wide. When he went behind that tree, I was able to get my knee up and my gun on my knee. He came from behind the tree, took three more steps and ran his head up. That's when I shot him. It was 1:22 (p.m.).

"It was a quick hunt, but we were whooping and hollering like kids on Christmas morning. It was a very exciting hunt."

First runner-up Daniel Moultrie bagged a bird in Chambers County with his dad, Dan. The turkey weighed 19.5 pounds with an 11-inch beard and 1-inch spurs for a total of 61.5 points.

"We heard them pitch down from the roost, and we started talking to them," Daniel said. "We started walking down a road and then got set up real quick on a tree. There were two turkeys together. One was standing in the road and the other was walking into the woods. The one I ended up harvesting was the one walking in the woods. Once he got between two trees, I squeezed off on him."

Dan, who recently acquired the property in Chambers County, said they started out on a hilltop to listen for birds because they weren't as familiar with the topography. Meanwhile, on another section of the Moultrie property, ADCNR's Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Director, Chuck Sykes, and his hunter, Jon Zinnel from Federal Ammunition, were able to harvest a bird that didn't quite make the leaderboard.

"We went to a high spot and started listening," Dan said. "We heard them gobbling. The old rule is you never call to them in the tree. As soon as we heard them fly down. I yelped to them one time to see if they would respond. Then they came right back, double-gobbling. One thing Daniel understated about finding a tree to get set up on was I was saying, 'Sit down. Sit down. Quick, quick, quick. They're coming. They're coming.' I told him to shoot the one in the road, but the turkey in the woods was coming straight to us and would have busted us and putted if Daniel hadn't shot him.

"For the last 12 years, we've always hunted on Easter weekend and gotten him a turkey. This was our Easter hunt." The second runner-up was another Bullock County turkey taken by Jeff Rabren, who hunted with Foster Pugh at Sanctuary Timber and Wildlife. Rabren's bird weighed 22.3 pounds with a 9.5-inch beard and spurs of .9375 and 1 inch for a total of 60.625 points.

"It was beautiful. On the drive in, we saw about 10 deer and a rabbit jump in front of us," Rabren said. "Our guide, Foster, is a master. We spent the next two-and-a-half hours following birds around. They were gobbling from daybreak until the second before the shot. The shot was thrilling, but the time following Foster around the property with him calling and talking back and forth was as thrilling as the shot itself."

Pugh said it was a classic Alabama turkey hunt with a lot of gobbling on the roost and then a period of inactivity as the gobblers joined the hens. "About 9:30, they started gobbling again," Pugh said. "We got set up and started calling. Within a couple of minutes, they were on top of us. That's the way you want it to happen."

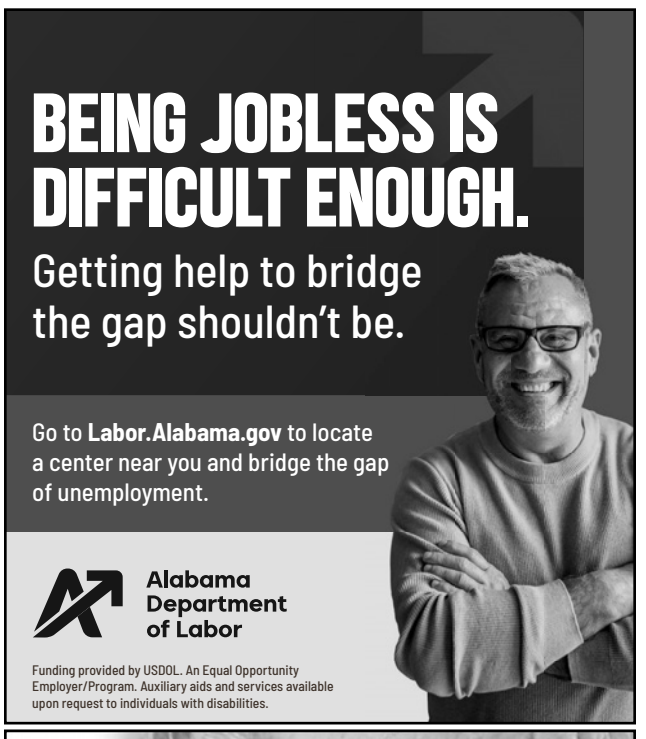
Third runner-up John Bricken is another diehard turkey hunter who had been in the turkey woods almost every day since the season started. He hunted with landowner Hunter Smith at High Ridge Plantation outside Union Springs. Bricken's bird weighed 18.6 pounds with a 10.75-inch beard and spurs just under an inch for a total of 58.8 points.

"We got on some turkeys early that didn't cooperate," Bricken said. "We got on this one about 8 o'clock. He was by himself in a pine stand that had been burned about a month ago. He had to come over a little ridge to check us out, and that's when we got him."

Commissioner Blankenship said the Alabama Governor's One-Shot Turkey Hunt, which is held every two years, attracts an interesting mix of people. "You've got some landowners and hunters who are diehard turkey hunters, and they want that biggest bird," Commissioner Blankenship said. "They've been thinking about it, keeping an eye on the big birds so they can win this. Then you've got other people who have never hunted, and they are excited just to hear a bird or see a bird. To see those smiles on their faces when they shoot their first turkey, that is really priceless. The thing that is most exciting to me is we're blessed with so many hunting opportunities here. Alabama is such a beautiful place. It is awesome for us to be able to showcase that to these executives looking to do business or expand business here. I love using outdoor recreation to help grow the economy in Alabama. I think that is exciting.

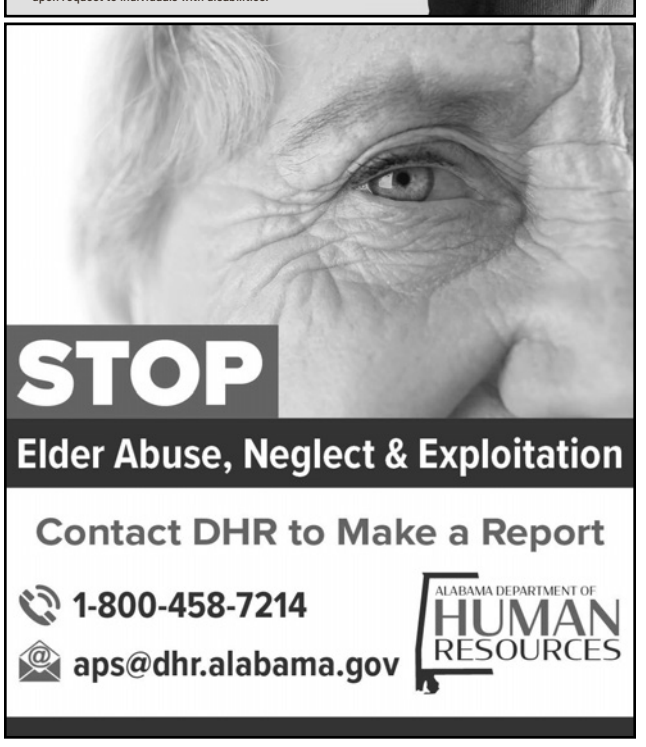
"Governor Ivey has been so supportive because she knows what the great outdoors means to the people who live here but also to get people to move here, work and raise a family. She wants to grow our state."

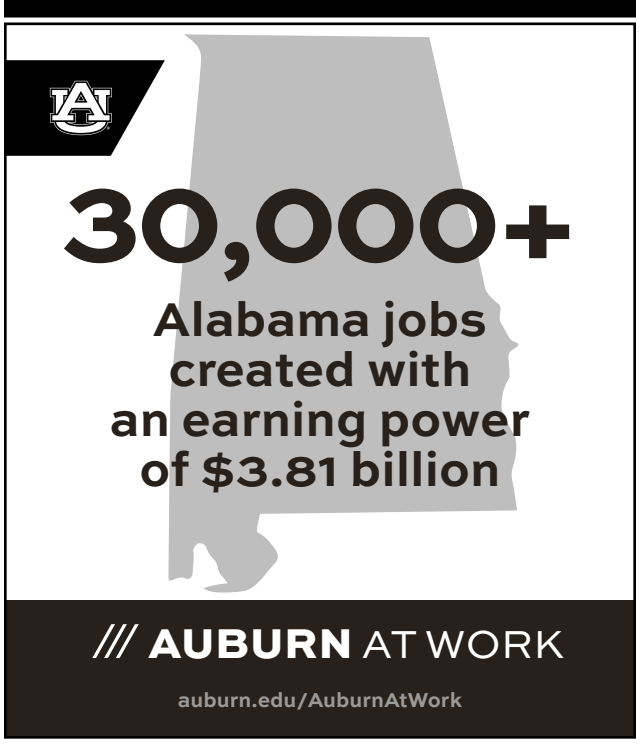












Cullman High School Performing Arts to present 'Grease' April 18-20

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman High School Performing Arts is set to stage its production of "Grease: School Version" based on the beloved musical that has captivated audiences for decades. Performances are scheduled for Thursday and Friday, April 18-19, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 20, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the Cullman High School auditorium.

"Grease: School Version" is a full-length musical comedy by Warren Casey and Jim Jacobs. Good girl Sandy and greaser Danny fall for each other during a carefree summer fling. But when the school year begins, Danny is torn between his feelings for good-girl Sandy and his image with the Burger Palace Boys and the Pink Ladies. Will they be able to rekindle their romance, or is the pressure of one's peers going to get the better of them?

"Grease" first hit Broadway in 1972, quickly soaring to fame and subsequently becoming a hit film classic starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. This production closely mirrors the original Broadway musical but also includes all the hit songs from the movie, transporting audience members back to the 1950s in a full-scale musical celebration.

Featured songs include classics like "Summer Nights," "Freddy, My Love," "Greased Lightning," "Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee," and "Beauty School Dropout," along with movie hits such as "Sandy," "Hopelessly Devoted" and "You're the One I Want." With its massive dance numbers and iconic musical moments, this event promises to be an exhilarating experience for all attendees.

The production is designed to be family friendly, making it a perfect outing for viewers of all ages.

"This production is for all ages. The school version makes it friendly to family attendance. We believe the parents and grandparents who loved 'Grease' will now share it with their children," said CHS Theatre Director Wayne Cook.

Tickets for the show are priced at $12 for general admission and $5 for students. Proceeds from ticket sales not only help fund this production, but also support Cullman High's theater program. This effort is further boosted by the generous contributions from local businesses and community sponsors.

"We are excited about presenting 'Grease' as this is a show that people have been asking us to do for years. We are finally able to make that happen.

"We all remember the movie. Many do not realize that it all actually started with Broadway stage production. We know people love Grease and we know they are going to love this production," said Cook.

Cook's excitement went beyond the musical nostalgia, highlighting the talent of the students and the vast number of hours and preparation put into this show, "People should come to see 'Grease' because these kids playing these parts are amazing. They can dance, sing and act. We have also spent a lot of time designing sets, designing lights, planning costumes and props. We have done this in such a way to bring you the best possible production. I think those who attend will be amazed and blown away. We hope everyone will come out and bring a friend along. I am excited to present a production that is iconic Broadway. Come see 'Grease.'"

Tickets are currently available on Booktix at https://cullmanhs.booktix.net.

Cookout (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Police Department is bringing back its community cookout for the first time since 2020.

The event will take place Saturday, April 20, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Cullman Housing Authority.

CPD Public Relations Officer Adam Clark said the event started at Nesmith Park around 2015 and was moved to the Festhalle.

In 2020, the event was paused, and this is the first time the department has hosted it since.

"We are hosting the cookout this year at the Housing Authority behind the maintenance building," Clark said.

"We will have police vehicles on-site, motorcycles and hopefully a helicopter if weather permits. We would love to have everyone to come out and grab some lunch and visit with the department."

Attendees can enjoy free hot dogs, chips and drinks. The Cullman Housing Authority is located at 408 Cleveland Ave. SW.

For more information, visit the Cullman Police Department's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cullmanpd.

Volunteers (from Front)

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Animals have been shown in popular culture as loving and loyal companions. As it turns out, science supports that characterization. In addition to the countless ways a pet can enrich a home and life, The National Institutes of Health says people can reap countless mental and physical benefits from spending time with animals, including lowering pain, anxiety and stress levels.

The staff and volunteers at the Cullman County Animal Shelter are well aware of the benefits of an animal's love and affection, and that animals can benefit from visitors and volunteers willing to walk, feed, bathe and play with them on a regular basis.

"We love our volunteers and it can come in many forms. Typically that consists of spending time grooming, walking and just loving on our cats and dogs," said Cullman County Animal Shelter Manager Andrea Hudson. "We enjoy company and so do our animals."

A volunteer application is readily available at the shelter for any big-hearted animal lovers who wish to volunteer regularly; however, volunteering sporadically on a "drop-in" basis is encouraged as well. Whether 20 minutes or all day, any visit is equally beneficial to the animals and volunteers alike.

Said Hudson, "We have people who have had a stressful day at work or just in general that come in for 15 -20 minutes of animal therapy. Another way to volunteer if you can't actually come in is to support us on Facebook. Each share, like and comment helps us tremendously in getting our babies adopted or claimed. We need the support of our community."

The Cullman County Animal Shelter is located at 935 Convent Road NE and can be reached by phone at 256-734-5448. Its hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Get more info at www.facebook.com/cullmancountyanimalshelter.

LEGALS

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.

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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 *
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 *
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

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

Annual WSCC Big Band Dance set for April 19

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Wallace State Jazz Band will present its annual Big Band Dance on Friday, April 19.

"The Big Band Dance has become a tradition for some over the years," said Ricky Burks, chair of the Wallace Fine and Performing Arts program and director of the Jazz Band.

"We welcome everyone to attend and enjoy classic big band dance tunes made famous by Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Ray Anthony and more. Don't worry if you don't dance, you can come and just enjoy the music."

The Big Band Dance will be held at 7 p.m. in the atrium of the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts. Suggested admission to the event is a $10 donation.

Other upcoming Fine and Performing Arts for the spring semester include:

• Solo Recital, Tuesday, Aug. 23, at 7 p.m., Burrow Center Recital Hall

• Spring Under the Stars, Thursday April 25, at 6:30 p.m., the Burrow Center

The Jazz Band is one of several ensembles in the Fine and Performing Arts program. Instrumental ensembles also include the Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, Saxophone Quartet and Brass Ensemble.

Vocal ensembles include the Concert Choir, Wallace State Singers and Vocal Jazz Ensemble.

Other offerings include Wallace State Dance's Allegro Dance Theatre, Pride Line dance team and Wallace State Theatre.



WALLACE STATE

Dancers hit the floor at the 2023 Big Band Dance hosted by the Wallace State Jazz Band at the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts. The 2024 Big Band Dance will be held Friday, April 19, at 7 p.m.

Brandon Smith teaches math in same department he learned the ropes

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Brandon Smith's story is more than an academic journey from student to esteemed math instructor. His story is a testament to the transformative power of Wallace State Community College. From being a peer tutor in the Tutorial Lab as a student to chairperson of the Wallace State Math department years later, Smith's narrative weaves together his dedication for educating others and an unwavering passion for his alma mater.

Smith has been the Math Department Chair since 2021 and an instructor at Wallace State Community College since 2004, but his history with the school runs deeper. Smith is a Wallace State alumnus and graduated from the college in 1994. Smith grew up in Eva and was the second person in his family to ever attend college. He said at the time, he didn't know much about Wallace State except that it was close to home, which was important to him as he wanted to stay local and keep working in his family's restaurant.

"I didn't want to leave home because my family owned a restaurant and I worked there. My dad paid me pretty well, so I didn't want to leave that," said Smith. "I had people that tried to encourage me to get out of town and go somewhere else, but I wanted to live close to home, and Wallace State was a great place to go."

With a dream of becoming a math teacher, Smith enrolled at Wallace State and began taking general studies courses in 1992. Being from a small town, he said his favorite part about coming to Wallace State as a student was getting to meet new people.

"When I first enrolled, I was able to go to class two days or four days a week, and then have weekends off to devote to working at the restaurant," said Smith. "I loved meeting people that I had never met before. I grew up in Eva and in Brewer, so I did meet new people from the area when I came here, but I met all kinds of new people that I never expected before. I mean, I met people from all different places, beliefs and backgrounds, and I absolutely loved it."

After graduating from WSCC, Smith enrolled at Athens State University in the fall of 1994 and graduated in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in secondary education. After leaving Athens State, Smith got a job teaching at Good Hope Middle School in 1997.

While he was working at Good Hope Middle School, Smith enrolled in graduate school at the University of Alabama in 1998 and earned a master's degree in 2000. In 2001, Smith began working as an adjunct instructor at Wallace State teaching night classes before he became a full-time instructor at the college in 2004.

Smith said the instruction and experience he obtained while he was a student at Wallace State Community College prepared him for his future career as an instructor.

"When I was a student, Wallace State became my home away from home. I really felt comfortable here, so it was different having to attend other colleges. To me, they didn't have the same 'at home' feeling or appeal," said Smith. "However, I was very prepared for transfer, and I did well both at Athens State and the University of Alabama. I then went on to become a math teacher in the area K-12 system and then an instructor back here at Wallace State College, so you might say that my training was perfect for my chosen career."

Smith said he is grateful to be an employee at Wallace State Community College and that he loves getting to represent his alma mater.

"I love saying that I am an employee and an alumnus of Wallace State Community College. I feel like I am a member of an elite group," said Smith. "We are a small-town, close-knit school, but we pack a big punch. Wallace State has impacted the world in many ways, and being affiliated with this school gives me a great source of pride."

Smith said one of his favorite parts about being an instructor at Wallace State is getting the opportunity to chat with students and colleagues about their passion for mathematics and research topics that they find interesting.

"There are some sharp folks that come through Wallace State. I have met some very, very smart people, including students of mine who are now things like teachers and engineers," said Smith.

"I am a math nerd to the 100th degree, so I like meeting people who are interested, that want to know more, that like to think critically and that like to get involved in it. I love diving into math topics, and I may not get to do that a lot, but here at Wallace State I do," said Smith.

Smith is the advisor of Wallace State's Alpha Chi Tau chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) and has been since 2005. PTK is an International Honor Society with membership being extended by invitation only. PTK members engage in mentoring at local high schools, tutoring Wallace State students and community service throughout Cullman County and nearby areas. While enrolled at Wallace State, Smith was in the second group of students to be inducted into the chapter in 1993.

"Being a member of Phi Theta Kappa was a huge honor for me. On top of being a Phi Theta Kappa member and officer while I was a student at Wallace State, I have been our chapter's advisor here since April of 2005. We have been a five-star chapter for many of those years," said Smith. "I think Phi Theta Kappa is important because there is a lot of scholarship money attached to being a member if a student is interested in pursuing that. On top of providing students with a chance to hone their mathematics skills, the organization is very prestigious and is internationally recognized, as countries all over have PTK chapters."

While he was a student at Wallace State, Smith also worked in the Tutorial Lab helping students better understand complex math topics. He said this experience gave him the chance to meet even more new people and played a major role in helping develop his instructional skills.

"When I got to Wallace State, I met Renee Quick and Tomesa Smith, who both took me under their wings and were very, very strong mentors for me. They were the first two people I met at Wallace State. They both worked as supervisors in the Tutorial Lab and suggested I apply to work there," said Smith.

"I got involved quickly working in the lab, right around the end of my first year as a student. I was a peer math tutor, and I got to work with some fantastic people like John Richter, who is well known in the community, and Mary Hovater, who is a very smart Wallace State alumna. It was wonderful practice, because I got the chance to work with all different levels of students. It was a great learning experience because I got to work with students who didn't know the fundamentals of math to those who were studying calculus."

From teaching him as a first-year student in calculus to attending his wedding years later, Smith said Quick has played an immeasurable role in his life, serving not only as a mentor but also as a friend.

"I think Renee Quick is the best math teacher in the world. She taught all my calculus courses, and while I may have had a special gifting in math, I don't think I would be nearly as strong in my skills if not for her," said Smith. "She is by far the most influential Wallace State faculty member in my life, and I have been very fortunate to be able to still work with her in the Math department here at Wallace State," said Smith.

Quick has been a Math instructor at Wallace State for over 35 years. A WSCC alumna, Quick has also devoted her life to educating students at her alma mater. Quick said from the first time she met him back in 1992, she knew Smith cared about excelling in his studies and helping people better understand things.

"When he first graduated high school and started taking classes here at Wallace State, I was his calculus teacher. We were on the quarter system then, so we had four courses of calculus and I had him for all four. I knew when I first met him that he would be good at anything he did, and when he went into teaching, I was thrilled for him and thrilled for his students," said Quick. "Brandon is one of those people that when you first meet him, you can't help but be friends with him. He is extremely likable, but as far as his job is concerned, he is very thorough and very serious about teaching. He can crack a joke with the best of us, and he's fun to be around, but when it comes to his subject, he really wants the students to learn. He does a great job, and the students appreciate that."

Smith said Wallace State not only shaped his academic and professional life but also his personal life, as it is the place he and his wife Sonjah first met.

"The most important person that I met at Wallace was my wife. I met my wife in a class here at Wallace State. In 1994, we met in a voice class in the Music department when Karen Comer was the teacher, and that obviously went well because we have been married for almost 30 years now," said Smith.

In 1995, the couple married and welcomed their first child Chrissi in 2001. In 2006, their son Zeb was born. In April of 2023, the Smith Family welcomed their first grandchild. Smith said his new granddaughter is a blessing in his life, but one that keeps him busy.

"I'm 'Popsy' now and I absolutely love it. I have a grandbaby, who is about one year old, and she is what I enjoy most. I love to spend time with my grandbaby and my kids," said Smith. "It has been a wild ride. I have spent nearly 30 years of my life being a part of Wallace State Community College, and it feels like home to me. I'm not trying to sound cliche or anything, but this school really has been a very important part of my life. I have spent a lot of time here; I have been on campus a whole lot and some really great things have come out of it."

Smith said he encourages anyone that may be interested in Wallace State to come take a tour and see what makes the campus he has called home for three decades now so special.

"Overall, my favorite part of Wallace State is the distinct 'home' feeling it has. When they are here, students don't feel like they are just a number. At Wallace State, teachers try to encourage students to do well, and we try to find resources that they can use. Whatever we can do to help them be successful and reach their goals, we try to do it, because the whole point of everything we do here is to try to help students succeed," said Smith.

"I would say Wallace State goes out of our way to help a student be successful and I think that's across the board. I don't think that's just a few teachers here and there. I think most people here truly try to help students be successful. If you come to campus, you are going to fall in love with Wallace State, and you are going to be so sad when you have to leave."

This is one in a series of stories celebrating Community College Month.



WALLACE STATE

Brandon Smith reflects on his history with Wallace State Community College, from a student in 1992 to leading the Math Department today.

Wallace State Community College-Hanceville has the following open positions:

Director of Aviation
Men's Head Basketball Coach
Women's Head Basketball Coach
Healthcare Workforce Training & Retirement Specialist

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Department at 256-352-8029.
Wallace State Community College is an equal opportunity employer. EOE

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COLUMN

MiMi and the scooter of death

Joe Hobby
Contributor

I should've known. I mean, I know a bad omen when I see one. Why didn't I pay attention? On a recent trip to Disney World, the people at our hotel rented my wife Carol an electric scooter with the number three on the back. I should have immediately made the connection between her and Dale Earnhardt, aka the Intimidator. Earnhardt, who drove the number three car, was a legendary NASCAR driver who loved the bumps, scrapes and spin-outs of stock car racing. Some people accused him of racing dirty, a claim he actually embraced. Clearly, the scooter number was no coincidence because when my wife got behind the wheel of her electric scooter at a theme park, she drove just like ol' Dale.

The list of her park mishaps was quite extensive. On the first day, she ran over my foot, my son's foot (twice) and nearly backed into a whole group of people.

I still have a tire mark on my sneakers. For good measure, she misjudged her stopping distance and bumped into an unsuspecting man waiting in line for a ride. But the highlight of the day, and perhaps the whole trip, was when she took a turnstile too fast and caught a big chain on her arm rest, nearly jerking the chair off the frame of the scooter.

It took two Disney employees to get her untangled. I almost hyperventilated from laughing so hard. If I had been lucky enough to video the whole encounter, I have no doubt it would've gone viral.

And I had the perfect title: MiMi's Theme Park Scooter Fails. My son, seizing a potential opportunity to birth an internet sensation, began recording her every time she got on a ride. The Intimidator would be proud.

One night, she drank a pina colada at dinner, and I feared that it might further impair her lousy scooter driving abilities. I can't 100% say that it did, but she did bang into a trash can while trying to leave the restaurant. You be the judge.

I'm not surprised that Carol can't drive a scooter because she can't even operate a car very well.

Our friends have known this for a while. For example, if we are ever taking anyone anywhere, most of them beg me to get behind the wheel.

One of my buddies told me that being in the back seat when Carol is driving is like being in the hull of an old wooden sailing ship. People get motion sickness when she starts drifting back and forth across the road. How could someone like that handle an electric three-wheeler?

On subsequent days at the park she had a few more close calls, including scaring a group of European tourists half to death and narrowly missing a kid who ran in front of her.

When we finally checked out of the hotel, Carol returned the scooter, and I said a prayer of thanks. Disney World was safe once again, and we avoided an international incident.

Plus, by the time we left, I had learned how to apologize in five different languages.

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

Designation (from Front)

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. — Vinemont Elementary and Vinemont High School recently received the Purple Star School designation from the Alabama Purple Star Schools Program. This accolade recognizes the efforts of K-12 across the state that are committed and supportive of military students and their families as they transition to their new homes and schools.

The Purple Star School designation is not easily earned; schools must meet specific requirements that underscore their dedication to the needs of military-connected students. At Vinemont, this includes appointing a dedicated staff member as a liaison for military families, maintaining a Purple Star Schools Program page filled with resources on the school's website and establishing a student-led transition program to assist peers who are new to the school or undergoing transitions.

Vinemont High School Assistant Principal Todd Johnson spearheaded the initiative to achieve this recognition at his school. "The Purple Star School was mentioned in a principal meeting during the first semester. So, I researched it and thought that VHS would be a great candidate for the Purple Star School," Johnson explained.

His motivation was fueled by the significant number of VHS students, faculty and staff with military ties, "Once I started talking about and talking to students, I realized we almost have 20% of the student body that have direct ties to the military.

"We have numerous faculty members with ties to the military. So, with that much of a connection, I really wanted VHS to become a Purple (Star) School."

To meet the necessary criteria, VHS underwent several enhancements, including the development of a comprehensive support structure for military families.

Specific roles had to be created, such as a military liaison who ensures that military-connected students are identified and faculty is made aware of any special considerations that they may need. Johnson currently serves as the military liaison while the military welcoming team is made up entirely of students.

Those students are Jana Wood, Sam Pierce, Kane Twilley and Trinity Sartin.

Johnson thanked those who played pivotal roles in ensuring those enhancements happened, saying, "I would like to thank Connie Hilton for adding to our great VHS homepage and also to Mandy Redding for helping me find resources that assisted me in fulfilling requirements so VHS could indeed become a Purple Star School. One more thank you to SGT Jake Hyde, our Marine recruiter here at VHS, who also found some valuable resources for our students that we put on our website."

This recognition not only honors the hard work of the VHS faculty, staff and community, but also solidifies the school's role as a welcoming and supportive environment for military families. "We want to make VHS welcoming to all students but especially want new families that serve in the military to have the resources and support they need," Johnson emphasized.

With the Purple Star School designation, Vinemont Elementary School and Vinemont High School join 250 other schools in Alabama that have achieved the honor of being recognized as a Purple Star School since 2021.

The schools were the only two in Cullman County to receive the designation this year.

Obituary Announcements: April 11-12

David T. Cole, 81
David T. Cole, age 81, of Cullman passed away on April 9, 2024. He was preceded in death by his wife, Reba White Cole, parents, Taft and Addie Lee Cole, brother and sister-in-law, Steve Cole (Clara), and sister, Etta Cole Paul (Eddie). Survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Johnnie Cole (Barbara), sister and brother-in-law, Linda Cole LaQuaglia (Peter), many nieces and nephews, and beloved friends. As a lifelong resident of Cullman, he was an employee with the State of Alabama and City of Cullman, from which he retired. David loved to spend his free time outdoors; he enjoyed fishing, sitting in his rocking chair on the porch, and going for walks. When he was not outside, you could find him sitting in his favorite blue recliner, watching old westerns, and eating his favorite foods from Golden Corral. No matter where he was, or what he was doing, you would always find David wearing one of his many Alabama hats. He loved to watch Alabama play football– Roll Tide! Mr. Cole will be laid to rest at Mount Zion Methodist Church Cemetery, located at 17488 U.S. Highway 31 on April 16, at 1 p.m. during a graveside-only service. Family and friends are invited to join in celebrating the life of David T. Cole, who will be missed dearly. Moss Service Funeral Home Directing.

Barbara Vassilee Nelson, 82
Barbara Vassilee Nelson (Lee) passed away peacefully at her residence on Wednesday April 10, 2024, with her daughters at her side. She was born Jan. 8, 1942. She is preceded in death by her parents Ben Thomas Rodgers and Mary Pauline Burney Rodgers. She loved playing guitar and singing. She is survived by her husband Donald Nelson. Daughters- Sherry (Vicente) Rodriguez and Kathy Campbell. Her sisters- Sonja (Jerry) Day , Alice (David) Stroud , Judy (Donnie) Nope, Benora (Charles) Johnson. Grandchildren- Brittney(Marissa) Burney, Shayla(Omar) Blas, Raven(Chase) Butler, Steven (Raven) Richards, Kylan Richards, Nick Richards, Brandon(Jesse) Knutson, Brian(Rheagan) Knutson, Great Grand-Children- Piper Knutson, Maisey Knutson, Declan Rodriguez , Ezekiel Richards, Kolson Butler, Easton Butler, Emeriey Butler, Anaya Blas, Issac Ramirez, Aliyah Rodriguez, Chloe Burney, Aidean Burney, Adelina Burney, Bella Sole, Ayana Sole, and a host of nieces, nephews and friends. A memorial will be held at a later date.

Timothy Gene Ray, 71
Tim was born in Alabama on May, 13, 1952, to Eugene F. Ray and Willodean Oden Ray. He is preceded in death by his parents and wife: Terri Ray. He is survived by his daughter: Brandi (Tommy) Brown, grandchildren: Peyton Brown and Allison Brown, sister: Debbie DeMonia, niece: Stephanie DeMonia (Keith Russell), great niece: Jillian Russell, siblings: Nicole, Bryan, and Kevin, special friends: cousin, Butch (Anita) Smith, Steve (Kathy) Pesnell, John (Carol) Simpson, and brother-in-law, Joe Geison. A celebration of life memorial service will be on Monday, April 15, at Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel at 11 a.m. Please share condolences and memories with the family at www.mossservicefh.com

Melissa Kay Bowers, 42
Funeral services for Melissa Kay Bowers, age 42, of Cullman, are incomplete at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Melissa was born March 31,1982, to David Morton and Debra Thornton Morton. She passed from this life too soon on April 11, 2024. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Thomas Allan Morton, Luvada Morton, and James Thornton. She is survived by her parents, David and Debra Morton; son, Caleb Bowers; daughters, Sheridan Bowers (Michael Chambers), Brooke Bowers; one grandchild, Tatum Bowers; a host of family and friends. Melissa was a selfless daughter, mother, and friend. She was always putting others first. She loved her kids and her grandbaby so much. When her kids were in school, she loved watching them play sports and went to all their games. She was a beautiful soul and she will be missed. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com tosigntheonlineguestbook.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

A wonderful weekend spent in a purple mansion

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Last weekend was a colorful one for Jean and me. We spent two nights in a purple mansion in Laurel, Mississippi, and rode in a pink stretch limo as we toured the "Home Town" of HGTV's Ben and Erin Napier. We had not been anywhere since my surgery back in December, so I've been itching to get out of the house. I didn't want to travel too far, so Laurel fit the Bill (King). We have passed through Laurel many times through the years, especially during my years of studying at New Orleans Baptist Seminary. Honestly, we had never given a second thought to spending any time there until the Napiers put the small city on the map with their television show.

Wisteria Bed and Breakfast, our abode for the weekend, is located on Fifth Avenue, in the historic district of Laurel. The beautiful old mansion is easy to spot. It is the only one on the street, or probably in the town, for that matter, that is purple. Okay, not that kind of purple. It does not look like an LSU frat house, but its color is more of a lavender or pinkish-purple, but still, you can't miss it...and you will not want to. The house was built in 1901 by a timber baron named Silas B. Gardiner. Gardiner moved to the area from Clinton, Iowa.

He was one of the owners of Eastman Gardiner Company, which became Laurel's largest and most successful lumber company. The original house was white with a wraparound porch. Both the white paint and the porch are gone now, but the house is still beautiful.

The house was purchased by the Schneider family in 1972. They transformed it into a Bed and Breakfast in 2004.

We were greeted first by the beautiful cats on the lawn and porch. I have seen the feral chickens of Hawaii, the wild mustangs of Wyoming, and now the feral cats of Laurel. We have feral armadillos and possums in Alabama! The welcome by the cats was not quite as warm as the one by Mr. Earl, our host. I almost shared a front-porch swing with one cat, but as I sat down, he voted against me!

Mr. Earl is a most gracious host and a wealth of information about his house, the city, and Ben and Erin, who were once his neighbors. Coffee is served each morning at 6:30, followed by a hot breakfast at 8:30. Mr. Earl is also the chef. He cooks a scrumptious breakfast and sets a beautiful table. We had great fellowship around the table with guests from Texas, DeSota County Mississippi, and Vernon, Alabama.

Mr. Earl didn't eat with us, but visited while we ate and tended to our every need.

Jean and I tried to get him to go home with us, but he decided to stay there!

We toured the city in a pink stretch Hummer limo. Our chauffeur was also our narrator. He pointed out every house that Home Town has restored there and told us who lived there. I think he also knew everybody in town, except a few tourists!

Ben and Erin were out of town, but their life size cutouts greeted us inside Mississippi's oldest art museum. We did see Ben's woodshop and their gift shops.

Well, yeah, we bought something. Even though I've built umpteen-hundred cutting boards, I didn't have one with Ben's Scotsman trademark stamped on it, but I do now!

It sure felt good to be "On the road again!" If you haven't been to Laurel, it's worth the drive, but my white car sure looked bland there!

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

HISTORY

Files from yesteryear: 1918, 1938

From the files of 1918

Mrs. John Lewis and children, of Birmingham, are the guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Linton.

Colonel and Mrs. A.A. Griffith and son, Kenneth, have returned home from a two-week visit to Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee.

Miss Lily Clapp, of Oneonta, spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Clapp.

Doctor C.H. Herrin spent the first of the week in Town Creek with his daughter, who is suffering from an attack of influenza.

From the files of 1938

Winfred Walker, 16-year-old son of O.I. Walker, of the Berlin community, was seriously injured when his motorcycle collided with a truck driven by M.C. Lovorn, well-known Cullman man, on a downtown street, on Monday afternoon. Young Walker was carried to the City Infirmary in Drinkard's ambulance, where his condition was considered serious, but not critical. He received a broken right arm, a fractured leg and severe cuts about the face. No arrests were made by investigating officers.

Marriage Licenses

April 20th

Grady Livingston, 24, to Tommie Lee Reagan, 19 and Troy Hudson, 20, to Mary Rodgers, 21.

April 21st

Linard B. Taylor, 27, to Ina Lee Couch, 22.

April 22nd

Hubert F. Burgess, 24, to Alline Gober, 22 and William V. Wilson, 34, to Margie J. Armstrong, 21.

April 23rd

Joe Parr, 35, to Edith Hogans, 18, Claud Thomas Peek, 24, to Pauline Alvis, 24, Finis Pruett, 22, to Ruth N. Brown, 20 and Clyde Williams, 21, to Gladys Wood, 20.

Mr. and Mrs. O.B. Hodges were hosts, honoring the members of the West Point faculty and a few friends at their home on Wednesday evening. The event was in the form of a buffet supper.

Early spring flowers were arranged in the living room where the guests were received. A delicious plate was served to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pruitt, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Jordan, Mrs. Ted Boho, Mrs. Emmett Bradford, Mrs. Amon Courington, Mrs. Thomas Hendrix, Misses Nell Teem, Lida Mae Wilkinson, Lula Mae Taylor, Mary Keaton, Marion Speegle, Challie Hughes and Lois King.

Decoration Day will be held at Hopewell Baptist Church, on May 15th, 1938. The program is as follows:

- 10:30 a.m., Songs by choir.
- Mrs. C.H. Voight, pianist and Mr. Lemar Harris, Chorister.
- Prayer, Mr. D.B. Bradford.
- Welcome address, Mr. Forrest Patrick.
- Quartet, White Brothers.
- Song by Choir.
- Solo, Milledean Voight.
- Sermon, Reverend Jack Akin.
- Decorating Committee: Mary Hamrick, Bonnie Jean Beilhart, Charlotte Brooks, Melba Quattlebaum, Doris Grey, Gladys Hamrick, Virgie Patrick, Judy Keller, Ludelle Graves, Virginia Greer, Edith Ryan and Nina Mae Turner.

POET'S CORNER

An Evening Ride | By: Randy C. Hale

He pulled up slow and said so coy,
"I'm not a bad bad boy."
His t-shirt white, his eyes so bright
in his bright rolling toy.

Come ride with me and feel the breeze.
Let your hair blow beneath
the sun.
So, you climb in and there begins
a romance with this one.

And by the time of days gone by,
you learned that he had lied.
You learned too late, in many dates,
he was the bad boy kind.

But loved him still, and walked
the isle with hopes and dreams
h'ed change.
Yet, years so proved, your hopes turned blue
the good boy never came.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

APRIL 13

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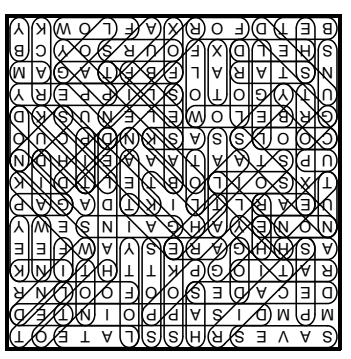
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

APRIL 13

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ANSWERS:



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

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

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!

Scene (from Front)

tradition. From world-class festivals to culinary delights to historical tours, Cullman offers something for every cultural enthusiast.

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

Jacobs continued, "This recognition is not just about our past achievements; it's about the promising future that lies ahead. Cullman's cultural scene is continuously evolving, thanks to the passion and creativity of our residents and the unwavering support of our community. We are committed to building upon this success and ensuring that Cullman remains a cultural destination for years to come."

The City of Cullman extends its gratitude to USA Today for this prestigious acknowledgment and to all those who have contributed to shaping Cullman's vibrant cultural landscape.

For more information about Cullman and its thriving cultural scene, go to www.visitcullman.com.




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