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The Cullman Tribune

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OBITUARIES
Deborah Lititia Self, Bruce K. Whisenant, Betty Bishop, James Marshall Holmes
» PAGE 7

WEATHER
84 67
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
MOSTLY CLOUDY THEN CHANCE T-STORMS

Arrests and Incidents
» PAGE 2

Community Calendar
» PAGE 3



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

'Blessed is an understatement': Cold Springs wins back to back 2A State Championships; Local results from Cullman, Gulf Shores
» PAGE 4

7 93888 98541 4

Inaugural Alabama Strawberry Festival a sweet success

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — One quick zip through the center of Cullman over the weekend, and anyone should have been able to tell that something big was happening. Traffic was creeping down U.S. Highway 31 on Friday and Saturday, almost every car searching for a parking spot within walking distance of the Alabama Strawberry Festival. With over 40,000 visitors over the span of the weekend, the area was quite busy and congested with festivalgoers and strawberry lovers alike.

"With a record-crushing attendance of nearly 45,000 people, this year's Alabama Strawberry Festival has surpassed all expectations. The overwhelming turnout is a testament to the festival's growing popularity and the enthusiasm of our attendees," said Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism Executive Director Nathan Anderson. » PAGE 8



KATIE SPICER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Fresh, ripe strawberries from Sandlin Farm, a family owned farm in Holly Pond, were the focal point of the Alabama Strawberry Festival over the weekend. Pictured are Shelia Knight and Payton Sandlin.

Vivi B Bakes holds 1st public pop-up shop



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Vivian Brock, owner of Vivi B Bakes, held her first pop-up shop at If the Shoe Fits on Thursday, May 2, 2024.

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — If the Shoe Fits held so much more than adorable shoes, clothing and accessories on Thursday, May 2. Vivian Brock, a recent Holly Pond High School graduate, brought her talent to the storefront, in the form of her delectable baked goods from Vivi B Bakes.

Brock had her best friend, Kylee Miller, in tow at the sale, assisting with setting up the freshly made and packaged single cupcakes and assorted cupcake packs in flavors of chocolate, vanilla, strawberry and Brock's favorite, lemon blueberry, along with chocolate chip cookies and cake pops.

"I'm so excited to be here," Brock smiled as she sold cupcake after cupcake. "I just started in January and now I can't keep up sometimes!"

In January 2024, like most teens, Brock was giving her thumbs a workout by scrolling on TikTok and a recipe that was too good to resist came across her algorithm-chosen feed. Knowing her baking skills were limited, the teen threw caution to the wind and deciding to try her hand at baking the beautiful and tasty-looking lemon blueberry cake.

"I decided to give it a try since it would not matter if it was an epic fail," laughed Brock.

"I made this cake and it turned out to be one of the best cakes I have ever had!"

The next morning, a few members of Brock's family came over to her family's home to visit, eating some of the sweet confection. Family members shared their praise for Brock's confections and cakes with their friends, and soon more orders came flooding in for family birthday celebrations, graduation parties and baby showers.

After the name Vivi B Bakes was settled on, Brock wanted her cakes to not only look good, but also taste good. Brock dove head-first into research and experimenting with decorating and creating cakes, creating her own flavor recipes and cake and frosting combinations.

Her favorite creation to date is the cake that got her started, the lemon blueberry flavor of cakes and » PAGE 7

Crane Hill man's bond revoked on sodomy, rape charges » PAGE 3

Join the 2nd annual Picnic with Ponies May 18



A LEAP OF FAITH EQUESTRIAN CENTER LLC

Horses are prepped and ready for attendees to enjoy their scenic ride around the pond during last year's Picnic with Ponies. » PAGE 7

Stony Lonesome Sasquatch Mud Run 2024 coming this Saturday » PAGE 7

Make the most of summer: Area programs » PAGE 2

Lauren Agnello of Cullman receives UA Department of Art and Art History Outstanding Student Award



UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Lauren Agnello » PAGE 8

SOAK UP THE SAVINGS WITH BILL'S DEALS



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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported May 6

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported May 6, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

May 2
- domestic violence; CR 223
- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 437

May 3
- domestic violence; CR 944
- theft of property; CR 623
- reckless endangerment; CR 109
- criminal mischief; CR 601
- assault; Hwy. 157
- domestic violence; CR 1422
- theft of property; CR 1541
- burglary; arson; CR 941
- harassment; permitting dogs to run at large; CR 520
- domestic violence; High School Rd.

May 4
- harassment; CR 1700
- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 747
- attempt to elude law enforcement officer; Patton Dr.
- theft of property; CR 1747
- theft of property; CR 1805
- domestic violence; CR 62
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; CR 1856

May 5
- domestic violence; CR 503
- violation of protection order; US. 31
- domestic violence; CR 1725
- theft of property; CR 62
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; US. 231

ARRESTS

May 2 – May 5

Baker, Grayson J.; 20
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Cantrell, Julie F.; 51
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Coker, Michael J.; 49
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer

Edwards, Courtney S.; 37
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked, or cancelled

Foshee, Jennifer J.; 48
- FTA – possession of methamphetamine
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – resisting arrest

Fulmer, Angela F.; 51
- possession of dangerous drugs

Fulmer, Larry B.; 48
- possession of dangerous drugs

Harper III, James L.; 24
- assault-domestic violence – 3rd degree - harassing communications

Johnson, Brandi M.; 35
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – obstructing justice using a false identity

Martin, Terry D.; 53
- criminal mischief – damaged property

Mcbrayer, Kenneth C.; 55
- assault – harassment

Mosley, Charles A.; 42
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Myers, Kristy L.; 45
- assault-domestic-reckless endangerment

Myers, Roger J.; 49
- assault-domestic-reckless endangerment

Nave, Jennifer L.; 41
- possession of dangerous drugs – opium or derivative
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Pace, Hunter L.; 25
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – theft-shoplifting, less than $500

Padgett, Eric S.; 45
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- domestic violence – criminal trespass-3rd degree - third or subsequent conviction

Skinner, William C.; 37
- possession of dangerous drugs
- public intoxication

Smith, Daniel S.; 29
- PROBATION VIOLATION – possession of dangerous drugs (3 counts)
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Stevens, LC C.; 41
- violation of a domestic protection order

Taylor, Sarah A.; 25
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – theft-shoplifting

Van Keuren, Austin C.; 27
- sex offense – statutory rape
- sex offense – sodomy – with a woman strong arm
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- illegal possession/use of a credit/debit card
- receiving stolen property, $500-less than $1500
- theft-miscellaneous

Warren, Jeremy L.; 21
- driving under the influence (alcohol)

West, Nicholas W.; 35
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

West Jr., William E.; 52
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

White, James C.; 52
- theft-miscellaneous

Wilson, Garry M.; 39
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – criminal trespass
- FTA – attempting to elude a police officer

Young, Ashley N.; 41
- family offense-causing of delinquency, dependency or need of supervision of children

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

April 30
- harassing communications; person

May 3
- aggravated assault – attempted murder; person; 4th St. SW
- forgery-3rd degree; theft of property-1st degree; Eva Bank; cash

May 4
- criminal mischief-2nd degree; person; damage to '21 Chevrolet Equinox; $2,300; Lee Cir. SW
- theft of property-4th degree; Game Geeks; cards; $50; St. Joseph Dr. NW
- theft of property-4th degree; criminal trespass-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; battery charger; $289; Hwy. 157
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; 2nd Ave. NW
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Magnolia Ln. SE

ARRESTS

May 2 – May 5

Pace, Hunter L.; 25
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)
- FTA - criminal trespass-3rd degree

Coubert, Hunter E.; 22
- aggravated assault (attempted murder)

Gable, Tiffanie S.; 37
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Morrison, Ethan; 23
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Freeman, Joshua J.; 39
- domestic violence-assault
- interference with a domestic violence emergency call

Maze, Shannon D.; 49
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree

Wilson, Garry M.; 39
- FTA - public intoxication
- FTA - criminal trespass-3rd degree

Hollis, Robert L., Jr.; 46
- FTA - insurance violation
- FTA - driving without a license

Hernandez, Vicente A.; 32
- disorderly conduct
- resisting arrest

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Make the most of summer: Area programs

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Summertime is on the way, and the school year is coming to a close. For families with children, entertainment for those youngsters is oftentimes a needed summertime resource. Summer camps, clinics and programs are fantastic ways to get children (and adults) out of the house and into doing something fun, entertaining and often educational. Here are a few local summer camps and programs that will be offered.

Kayak Cullman – Basic Kayaking for Adults

The Cullman County Extension Office is hosting an adult kayaking course to introduce individuals to kayaking while building water safety and confidence through learned and practiced skills.

The three-session course includes a classroom-style session for knowledge and safety instruction, a flat water paddle session and a flowing water paddle session. The cost for all three session is $15, and all equipment is provided.

Cullman County Extension Office Coordinator Kira Sims said, "Spots are still available for Kayak Cullman. This three-session series will cover basics and safety and includes two paddle trips."

Sessions will take place May 13 (indoor session), May 20 (Flatwater paddle session) and June 3 (flowing water paddle session).

Register at www.aces.edu/go/kayak

Summer Reading Program

The Cullman County Public Library System (CCPLS) Summer Reading Program kicks off on June 5, from 10-11 a.m. at the library's main branch. Fro'z Shaved Ice will be on-site.

Children and adults will be able to pick up reading logs from the library, to document the various books read during the program. Each book gains the reader entries or chances at winning any number of prizes.

The CCPLS main branch is located at 200 Clark St. This is a free program.

Camp Cullman

Camp Cullman is a day camp program hosted by CPRST during the summer months. Broken into two sessions, the camp allows families to choose one or both sessions to fit their needs.

Campers enjoy field trips, crafts, sports, swimming and many other activities supervised by qualified CPRST staff in a safe, controlled environment.

The camp is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sessions are $650 each, with a one-time $20 discount for second children and a one-time $25 discount for third or additional children in the same household.

Session one takes place June 3-28, and session two is July 8-Aug. 2.

Register at www.cullmanrecreation.org/camp-cullman

Music Camp

Children aged 8-14 are able to enjoy and immerse themselves in a world of music. Instructor Case Graham will take students through rhythm skills, melodic resonation and the attributes and qualities of various instruments.

Music Camp will be held June 3-6 from 8 a.m.-noon. The cost is $100 per attendee.

Register at https://cullmanrecreation.recdesk.com/Community/Program

Theatre Camp

Staff members from the Cullman High School Theater and Fine Arts Department will lead this camp, ideal for budding actors seeking to refine their stage presence and performance skills.

Prospective thespians will delve into the intricacies of staging a major production, as well as have the opportunity to audition and showcase their talents in future productions alongside the Cullman Community Theatre group.

It's the perfect opportunity for young performers to hone their craft and learn how to shine on stage.

Theatre Camp will run from July 15-19, from 8 a.m.-noon. The cost is $100 per attendee.

Register at https://cullmanrecreation.recdesk.com/Community/Program

Cullman Touring Farms for Kids

Children aged 7-13 can plan on learning about agriculture and farming as they explore and tour farms in Cullman County. Food and transportation from the North Alabama Agriplex will be provided for registered guests; parents are welcome to attend with their children but may need to drive separately due to space constraints.

Cullman Touring Farms for Kids will take place June 20-21, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. The cost is $40 per person.

Register at https://cullmanrecreation.recdesk.com/Community/Program

Preschool and Elementary Garden Camps

The Preschool and Elementary Garden Camps at the North Alabama Agriplex are the perfect opportunity for children to get down in the dirt and learn about soil, root systems and gardening. Children aged 3-5 are welcome to attend with an adult chaperone, while attendees aged 6-12 can be dropped off and picked up. The groups will create crafts daily to take home.

Preschool and Elementary Garden Camps will take place June 10-14, from 9-11 a.m. A $50 registration fee will be required for each attendee (with the exception of adult chaperones for children aged 3-5 attending the Preschool Garden Camp).

Register at https://cullmanrecreation.recdesk.com/Community/Program

Nature Camp

The North Alabama Agriplex's Nature Camp is for children aged 10-14. The two-day day camp will give campers the chance to try their skills at archery, canoeing and hiking, with an emphasis on Native American heritage and culture throughout Cullman County and Alabama.

Nature Camp will be held July 15-16, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. The cost to attend is $50 per person.

Register at https://cullmanrecreation.recdesk.com/Community/Program

Art Camp

Art Camp will introduce kids to many fundamental skills. Additionally, each will be exposed to different styles and techniques. Daily projects will be completed implementing the skills they learn.

The camp will conclude with an art gallery where the budding artists' family and friends can come and see all the work they've created.

Art Camp will be held July 22-25. Artists aged 6-9 will meet from 8 a.m.-noon.

Artists aged 10-14 will meet from 1-5 p.m. The cost to attend is $100 per person.

Register at https://cullmanrecreation.recdesk.com/Community/Program

Sewing Camps

Sewing Camp 101 is an introductory sewing class for students aged 8, or upcoming second graders and up, teaching basic hand sewing skills.

Campers will complete daily projects using each newly taught skill.

The program will have one to three students per instructor, so each child will receive personal guidance. All materials will be provided.

Students should bring a water and a snack daily. Please note that students younger than 9 must have a parent or designated adult to attend and participate.

Sewing 101 will take place July 8-12, from 9- 11:30 a.m. The cost to participate is $50 per student.

Designed to build upon skills taught in 101, Sewing Camp 102 will introduce the sewing machine, and students will complete daily projects focusing on each new skill, while each child receives personal guidance.

Sewing Camp 102 students must have completed Sewing Camp 101. Each student must bring a working, adult-sized sewing machine with the manual and thread, along with a snack and water, daily.

All other materials will be provided. The cost to attend is $50 per student.

Register at https://cullmanrecreation.recdesk.com/Community/Program.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Public Notice: 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: Cullman Memory Gardens

Attention: Those of you with relatives or friends buried in Cullman Memory Gardens or those with lots for burial there. The committee (Amy Walker, Ron Foust, Neil Culpepper and Jerry Smith) have done an outstanding job of maintaining the cemetery this year. The cemetery is in the best condition it has been in years and we need your help to maintain it. As a reminder, May 12 is Mother's Day and we have designated this weekend as Memorial Day for the cemetery to collect donations to maintain and further enhance the cemetery. We will have people collecting at the cemetery Saturday, May 11, and Sunday, May 12, and if you are unable to come by with your donation you can mail it to Cullman Memory Gardens, PO Box 964, Cullman, AL 35056. All donations will be used for the care and upkeep of the cemetery. Thanks for all that you do to help us with the upkeep of the cemetery. God bless you!

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.

• Wednesday, May 8 - 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult worship, teaching testimonies in the sanctuary. Free pizza at 6:30. Van runs in the 5 Points Area at 6. Call Cedric Davidson at 256-339-5755 for pickup.

• Friday, May 10 - Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Bring a dish, dessert or drink for a potluck meal at 5:45 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.

• Sunday, May 12 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area. Call Cedric Davidson at 256-339-5755 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and Mother's Day message by Pam Dodd at 11.

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) Meetings

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

Cullman NAR-ANON Group Meetings

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

Cullman 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.

Heartland Quilt Guild Meeting

Thursday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m. at Christ Covenant 1310 St. Joseph St. Everyone welcome. Contact person: Porsia Anderson at 256-737-7557.

Holly Pond Lions Club Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, May 11, from 6:30-9:30 a.m. for our annual all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast with sausage and bacon. Donations only. Proceeds will go toward Holly Pond Cemetery Fund. The LifeSouth Bloodmobile will be on campus. Please consider helping out your community with a blood donation.

Cullman Chapter of The National Association of Retired and Active Federal Workers Meeting

Monday, May 13, at Golden Corral Buffet in Cullman. Guest speaker, State Federation official Julia Ellsbury, will cover the topic "what to do when a federal worker/retiree dies." Dutch lunch begins at 11 a.m. and meeting at noon. Members and nonmembers welcome. For more info, call 256-708-5326.

Cullman Educator Retirees Association Meeting

Thursday, May 16, at 11 a.m. at Stone Bridge Farms. We will have a member share session and suggest programs for future meetings, followed by lunch and fellowship for those who wish to stay. We welcome new members and visiting retirees.

Crane Hill man's bond revoked on sodomy, rape charges

Staff Reports
Contributor



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Austin Chase Ray Van Keuren

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Crane Hill man is behind bars following his arrest on May 5, 2024, on multiple bond revocation charges.

Austin Chase Ray Van Keuren, 27, was arrested by deputies for statutory rape, sodomy (with a woman, strong arm), unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana, illegal use or possession of a credit or debit card, receiving stolen property and theft.

In an email to The Tribune, the CCSO's Chad Whaley wrote, "Austin Chase Ray Van Keuren (27) of Crane Hill was arrested on 05/05/24 by Cullman County Sheriff's Office Deputies. All listed charges were Motion to Revoke Bond charges. The original charges stemmed from incidents occurring in 2022 and 2023. Van Keuren is currently being held at the Cullman County Detention Center with no bond."



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REHAU Automotive LLC, Cullman, AL. Coordinate transfers and maintenance of machines and equipment and tools; Meet environment, safety and health requirements. Risk management and decision making. Maintain phys. plant; Advise on safety specs and compliance for machines and equipment; Prevent/fix unsafe conditions; REQS: Bachelor's in manufacturing engineering or similar + 24 mos. experience as Logistics Analyst or similar role. 24 mos. Experience in/with: data analysis and troubleshooting; MS SQL Server, AS/400 or successor systems, MS Excel; electronic data interchange in auto industry; manufacturing logistics in the auto industry; manufacturing execution systems including RFID; and 24 months experience in role responsible for the communication of new processes to factory employees (experience may be gained concurrently). Alt req's: high school diploma/GED + 48 mos. exp. in/with all aforementioned areas/systems/roles. Mail resume to: Jana Schroeder, REHAU Automotive LLC. Include job title. 2424 Industrial Dr SW, Cullman, AL 35055

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MAY 7, 2024

STATE TRACK MEET

‘Blessed is an understatement’: Cold Springs wins back to back 2A State Championships; Local results from Cullman, Gulf Shores

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cold Springs Eagles outpaced Reeltown by 34 points to win their second straight 2A State Championship Saturday.

CULLMAN, Ala. – After a great showing on Friday, the Cold Springs Eagles continued their dominant run at this year’s AHSAA State Track Meet Saturday, pulling away to beat Reeltown by 34 points and claiming their second consecutive 2A State Championship. Eagles runner Ethan Edgeworth racked up four gold medals (1600-Meter, 3200-Meter, 800-Meter, 4x800 Meter Relay) and Eagles jumper Nic Fallin earned two more (Pole Vault, Long Jump) to help lead Cold Springs to the title. The Lady Eagles finished fourth in Class 2A, just four points Hatton. Cold Springs Head Coach Casey Howell was proud of his team for finishing the season strong and defending its title but he’s even more proud of the example they’ve set and the culture they’ve helped establish over their years in the program.

“I’m so proud of the family that we have created. Blessed is an understatement,” Howell said. “The culture and standards that the teams the last few years have set is something that only comes with putting God first and putting others before yourself. It is so special to see and feel the support from our administration, community and past runners. I’m not sure what all we have accomplished can be put into words, but I know we will remember it forever.”

The Holly Pond Broncos finished just two points behind Reeltown to earn third place in Class 2A. Emery Barnett captured gold in the 300-Meter Hurdles and Daniel Figueroa earned four first place finishes as well. (100-Meter, 200-Meter, Discus Throw, Javelin Throw Ambulatory events).

In Gulf Shores, Arab’s girls finished runner up in Class 5A thanks in part to a gold medal performance from Libby Chance (Pole Vault) and another first place finish from Bryant Beuoy (400-Meter) helped Arab’s boys earn third place. Cullman’s boys placed fourth in Class 6A after Patrick Adcock collected a pair of gold medals (Discus Throw, Shot Put) and Adam Byers earned another in the Javelin Throw.

LOCAL RESULTS

1A-3A State Meet (Cullman)

Cold Springs High School

- Ethan Edgeworth: 1st place 2A Boys 1600-Meter – 4:03.96 – 1st place 2A Boys 800-Meter – 1:53.31 – 1st place 2A Boys 3200-Meter – 9:20.08
- 1st place 2A Boys 4x800 Meter Relay Team – 8:28.77
- Nic Fallin: 1st place 2A Boys Long Jump – 21-04.75 – 1st place 2A Boys Pole Vault – 21-04.75 – 3rd place 2A Boys Triple Jump – 42-01.00 – 8th place 2A Boys High Jump – 5-10.00
- Ryleigh Wright: 3rd place 2A Girls pole Vault – 8-00.00
- Macie Huffstutler: 3rd place 2A Girls 3200-Meter – 12:49.01 - 4th place 2A Girls 1600-Meter – 5:46.57 - 8th place 2A Girls 400-Meter – 1:04.65
- Jayden Allred: 3rd place 2A Boys 3200-Meter – 9:54.38 - 5th place 2A Boys 1600-Meter – 4:35.79 – 12th place 2A Boys 800-Meter – 2:08.81
- Drew Dykes: 4th place 2A Boys 3200-Meter – 10:17.94
- Claire Huffstutler: 5th place 2A Girls Pole Vault – 7-06.00 – 23rd place 2A Girls 800-Meter – 2:53.95
- Noah Barger: 5th place 2A Boys Pole Vault – 11-00.00
- Blake Belcher: 6th place 2A Boys Pole Vault – 10-00.00
- Cheyenne Bishop: 6th place 2A Girls 100-Meter Hurdles – 18.87 – 21st place 2A Girls 300-Meter Hurdles – 56.63
- Sage Nelson: 6th place 2A Boys 1600-Meter – 4:38.91
- Cole Bales: 6th place 2A Boys High Jump – 6-00.00 - 16th place 2A Boys Long Jump – 17-10.00
- Ellanora Slusser: 6th place 2A Girls Shot Put – 31-07.50 – 8th place 2A Girls Discus Throw – 89-10
- 6th place 2A Girls 4x800 Meter Relay Team – 11:11.15
- 6th place 2A Girls 4x400 Meter Relay Team – 4:34.11
- Makenna Taylor: 9th place 2A Girls Discus Throw – 87-09
- Hollyn Bruer: 12th place 2A Girls Javelin Throw – 81-04
- Sophia Slusser: 15th place 2A Girls Discus Throw – 78-03
- Ally Mavers: 15th place 2A Girls 1600-Meter – 6:16.59
- Ethan Day: 17th place 2A Boys Javelin Throw – 127-08
- James Fausz: 20th place 2A Boys Javelin Throw – 122-09
- Landon Bishop: 20th place 2A Boys 300-Meter Hurdles – 47.74
- Aidan Freeman: 21st place 2A Girls Shot Put – 25-09.00
- Hayla Watson: 23rd place 2A Girls 300-Meter Hurdles – 57.32

Holly Pond High School

- Daniel Figueroa: 1st place 2A Boys 100-Meter Ambulatory – 14.96 – 1st place 2A Boys 200-Meter Ambulatory – 28.88 – 1st place 2A Boys Discus Throw Ambulatory – 65-07 – 1st place 2A Boys Javelin Throw Ambulatory – 89-06
- Emery Barnett: 1st place 2A Boys 300-Meter Hurdles – 39.41 – 4th place 2A Boys 110-Meter Hurdles – 15.55 - 5th place 2A Boys 400-Meter – 51.30 – 8th place 2A Boys 800-Meter – 2:06.78
- Travis Barnett: 2nd place 2A Boys 400-Meter – 50.76 – 4th place 2A Boys 800-Meter – 2:02.63 - 8th place 2A Boys 1600-Meter – 4:41.40 – 10th place 2A Boys 3200-Meter 10:55.66
- Diego Arreguin: 4th place 2A Boys Discus Throw – 126-01
- Ethan Fox Westall: 4th place 2A Boys 300-Meter Hurdles – 41.74 – 14th place 2A Boys Triple Jump – 38-00.75 – 20th place 2A Boys High Jump – 5-04.00
- Mila Edmondson: 5th place 2A Girls 1600-Meter – 5:46.63 – 5th place 2A Girls 3200-Meter – 13:03.39 – 7th place 2A Girls 800-Meter – 2:34.59
- Miguel Garcia: 5th place 2A Boys High Jump – 6-00.00
- 5th place 2A Girls 4x800 Meter Relay Team – 11:00.07
- Joshua Putman: 7th place 2A Boys 3200-Meter – 10:29.49 - 12th place 2A Boys 1600-Meter – 4:54.74
- Boston Gibbs: 6th place 2A Boys Javelin Throw – 152-11 – 8th place 2A Boys 300-Meter Hurdles - 13th place 2A Boys Long Jump – 18-04.25 – 21st place 2A Boys Triple Jump – 36-04.75
- Ava Thomas: 7th place 2A Girls Triple Jump – 32-03.00 – 7th place 2A Girls Long Jump – 14-06.50
- 8th place 2A Girls 4x400 Meter Relay Team – 4:36.62
- Emma Earl: 9th place 2A Girls Javelin Throw – 87-04
- Caroline Lamoureux: 9th place 2A Girls 3200-Meter – 13:33.10 - 16th place 2A Girls 1600-Meter – 6:17.98
- Asher Thrift: 9th place 2A Boys Javelin Throw – 139-07
- Kynleigh Wood: 10th place 2A Girls 1600-Meter – 6:11.02
- Ellie Burks: 13th place 2A Girls High Jump – 4-02.00 - 23rd place 2A Girls Triple Jump – 26-03.00
- Presli Carr: 14th place 2A Girls 400-Meter – 1:06.43 – 19th place 2A Girls 200-Meter – 29.44
- Matthew Putman: 17th place 2A Boys 3200-Meter – 11:29.21
- Cira Thrift: 17th place 2A Girls 300-Meter Hurdles – 55.33
- Caden Moody: 18th place 2A Boys High Jump – 5-06.00
- Aubrey Mayfield: 21st place 2A Girls Discus Throw – 68-09
- Kylie Twilley: 21st place 2A Girls 200-Meter – 29.56

Addison High School

- Ava Bartlett: 1st place 1A Girls High Jump – 5-00.00 – 5th place 1A Girls 300-Meter Hurdles – 53.43 – 16th place 1A Girls Long Jump – 13-01.75
- Bradley Willette: 2nd place 1A Boys Discus Throw – 150-00 – 18th place 1A Boys Shot Put – 36-01.00
- Brodie Willingham: 4th place 1A Boys Javelin Throw – 136-07
- Kendall Wyatt: 3rd place 1A Girls Shot Put – 29-06.50 – 9th place 1A Girls Javelin Throw – 89-08
- Hayden Holland: 3rd place 1A Boys 110-Meter Hurdles – 16.69
- 6th place 1A Girls 4x100 Meter Relay Team – 54.53
- Katie Barrett: 7th place 1A Girls Triple Jump – 29-10.50 – 17th place 1A Girls Long Jump – 12-11.25
- Jacob McLamb: 8th place 1A Boys 110-Meter Hurdles – 18.24 – 9th place 1A Boys 300-Meter Hurdles – 44.95
- Hadley Butler: 10th place 1A Girls Triple Jump – 27-10.75 - 14th place 1A Girls Long Jump – 13-03.75
- Major Snoddy: 11th place 1A Boys Javelin Throw – 117-10
- AnnaBeth Powell: 12th place 1A Girls Javelin Throw – 79-06
- Skylar Cleghorn: 12th place 1A Boys Triple Jump – 36-05.75
- Brooklyn McCurley: 16th place 1A Girls 400-Meter – 1:08.00 – 17th place 1A Girls 200-Meter – 29.23
- Bobby Williams: 20th place 1A Boys Discus Throw – 92-11
- Bryant Wood: 20th place 1A Boys 400-Meter – 1:00.11 – 21st place 1A Boys 200-Meter – 25.27

Meek High School

- Audrey Barnett: 4th place 1A Girls Pole Vault – 7-00.00
- Aiden Benson: 7th place 1A Boys Discus Throw – 114-05 – 20th place 1A Boys Shot Put – 35-00.00
- Jarrett Benson: 15th place 1A Boys Shot Put – 37-01.00

St. Bernard Prep

- Parker Guthery: 11th place 2A Boys 3200-Meter – 10:59.20

Vinemont High School

- Dawson Wilhite: 2nd place 3A Boys Pole Vault – 11-00.00 – 11th place 3A Boys Javelin Throw – 137-00
- Caroline Miller: 3rd place 3A Girls High Jump – 4-08.00 – 5th place 3A Girls Long Jump – 15-08.75 – 9th place 3A Girls Triple Jump – 31-04.00
- Brady Johnson: 3rd place 3A Boys 3200-Meter – 10:03.69 - 5th place 3A Boys 1600-Meter – 4:38.16 – 7th place 3A Boys 800-Meter – 2:08.65
- Tatum Brown: 8th place 3A Boys Discus Throw – 120-10
- Natalie Foell: 9th place 3A Girls 800-Meter – 2:34.69 - 16th place 3A Girls 400-Meter – 1:05.43
- Addison Holcomb: 10th place 3A Girls Javelin Throw – 91-01
- 10th place 3A Girls 4x400 Meter Relay Team – 4:36.35
- 11th place 3A Boys 4x800 Meter Relay Team – 9:19.17
- Reagan Robinson: 20th place 3A Girls Triple Jump – 28-00.50 - 22nd place 3A Girls High Jump – 4-02.00
- Samuel Pierce: 21st place 3A Boys High Jump – 5-04.00
- Andrew Landreth: 22nd place 3A Boys 3200-Meter – 12:10.29

4A-7A State Meet (Gulf Shores)

Cullman High School

- Patrick Adcock: 1st place 6A Boys Discus Throw – 161-11 – 1st place 6A Boys Shot Put – 56-03.50
- Adam Byers: 1st place 6A Boys Javelin Throw – 190-10
- Andrue Barnett: 4th place 6A Boys 3200-Meter – 9:37.86 – 18th place 6A Boys 1600-Meter – 4:32.08
- Mabry Free: 5th place 6A Girls 3200-Meter – 11:24.76 – 8th place 6A Girls 1600-Meter – 5:18.76
- Alexander Renteria: 5th place 6A Boys Pole Vault – 12-06.00
- 7th place 6A Girls 4x800 Meter Relay Team – 10:13.60
- Joshua Ellerbee: 12th place 6A Boys Javelin Throw – 145-06
- 13th place 6A Boys 4x800 Meter Relay Team – 8:40.58
- Khloe Nalley: 15th place 6A Girls 3200-Meter – 12:31.12 – 20th place 6A Girls 1600-Meter – 5:41.44
- Addison Vogelaar: 17th place 6A Girls 3200-Meter – 12:34.44
- Henry Crocker: 19th place 6A Boys 3200-Meter – 10:48.62

Arab High School

- Bryant Beuoy: 1st place 5A Boys 400-Meter – 49.69 – 3rd place 5A Boys 200-Meter – 21.83 – 6th place 5A Boys 100-Meter – 10.97
- Libby Chance: 1st place 5A Girls Pole Vault – 10-06.00 – 3rd place 5A Girls High Jump – 5-02.00 – 3rd place 5A Girls Triple Jump – 34-04.75 – 6th place 5A Girls Long Jump – 16-01.25
- Hannah Poston: 2nd place 5A Girls 300-Meter Hurdles – 47.49
- Aubrey Elrod: 2nd place 5A Girls Pole Vault – 10-00.00
- 2nd place 5A Boys 4x400 Meter Relay Team – 3:26.91
- 2nd place 5A Girls 4x400 Meter Relay Team – 4:07.64
- 3rd place 5A Girls 4x100 Meter Relay Team – 50.15
- Wyatt Glispie: 4th place 5A Boys Shot Put – 49-10.00 – 6th place 5A Boys Discus Throw – 132-07 – 13th place 5A Boys Javelin Throw – 149-09
- Niya Turner: 4th place 5A Girls Shot Put – 32-09.75
- Aubrey Hyche: 4th place 5A Girls Discus Throw – 107-02 - 16th place 5A Girls Shot Put – 29-11.00
- Ella Moore: 5th place 5A Girls 300-Meter Hurdles – 48.78 - 18th place 5A Girls 400-Meter – 1:03.22
- Caden Hilyer: 6th place 5A Boys Pole Vault – 12-00.00
- 6th place 5A Boys 4x800 Meter Relay Team – 8:29.66
- 6th place 5A Girls 4x800 Meter Relay Team – 10:40.07
- Madelynn King: 6th place 5A Girls Pole Vault 8-06.00 – 12th place 5A Girls Javelin Throw – 89-11
- Maximus Mariner: 7th place 5A Boys Discus Throw – 130-06 – 14th place 5A Boys Shot Put – 43-06.00
- Dylan Morrow: 8th place 5A Boys Pole Vault – 10-06.00
- Julie Stapler: 8th place 5A Girls 400-Meter – 1:01.85 – 10th place 5A Girls 300-Meter Hurdles – 49.47
- James Hyche: 10th place 5A Boys 400-Meter – 52.57
- Taylor Anderson: 13th place 5A Boys Long Jump – 19-04.50
- Cora Frankhauser: 13th place 5A Girls Javelin Throw – 88-09
- Brylee Hudgins: 13th place 5A Girls Triple Jump – 30-08.25
- Emma Martin: 17th place 5A Girls Triple Jump – 30-01.75
- Gabby Poston: 17th place 5A Girls 400-Meter – 1:03.02

West Point High School

- Rene Moreno-Tovar: 9th place 5A Boys 3200-Meter – 10:04.72 – 13th place 5A Boys 1600-Meter – 4:40.88
- 10th place 5A Boys 4x400 Meter Relay Team – 3:37.70
- 11th place 5A Boys 4x800 Meter Relay Team – 8:43.82
- Asa Sutter: 13th place 5A Boys 300-Meter Hurdles – 42.90
- Jacee Bartlett: 15th place 5A Girls High Jump – 4-06.00
- Hanna McKenney: 18th place 5A Girls Javelin Throw – 81-09
- Pressley Burtis: 19th place 5A Boys High Jump – 5-08.00

Fairview High School

- Kabri Redding: 2nd place 5A Girls Discus Throw – 130-03 - 8th place 5A Girls Shot Put – 31-01.50
- Laci Segrest: 3rd place 5A Girls Shot Put – 33-06.75 – 8th place 5A Girls Discus Throw – 96-02
- Allyson Hill: 5th place 5A Girls Triple Jump – 33-02.50 – 6th place 5A Girls 100-Meter Hurdles – 17.17 – 11th place 5A Girls 300-Meter Hurdles – 49.50 – 21st place 5A Girls Long Jump – 14-02.50
- Kailyn Redding: 5th place 5A Girls High Jump – 5-02.00
- Alex England: 7th place 5A Boys 1600-Meter – 4:31.15 – 10th place 5A Boys 800-Meter – 2:01.34 - 12th place 5A Boys 3200-Meter – 10:12.35
- Andrew Latham: 10th place 5A Boys Javelin Throw – 152-06
- Jake Harper: 19th place 5A Boys Javelin Throw – 144-11
- Jayden Pineda: 21st place 5A Boys Discus Throw – 109-06

Good Hope High School

- Drake Nichols: 6th place 4A Boys 800-Meter – 1:59.40 - 14th place 4A Boys 1600-Meter – 4:44.92
- Macey Denton: 6th place 4A Girls Javelin Throw – 106-10
- Hank Hudson: 8th place 4A Boys Pole Vault – 11-00.00
- Zoe Marks: 9th place 4A Girls Shot Put – 31-06.50
- 9th place 4A Boys 4x800 Meter Relay Team – 8:54.25
- Cadence Watson: 13th place 4A Girls Pole Vault – 7-06.00 – 19th place 4A Girls High Jump – 4-04.00 – 20th place 4A Girls 300-Meter Hurdles – 52.78
- Dawson Kicker: 18th place 4A Boys Javelin Throw – 138-06
- Makenzie Cruce: 18th place 4A Girls Shot Put – 29-09.50

Hanceville High School

- Connor Pitts: 6th place 4A Boys Discus Throw – 136-04
- LJ Smith: 9th place 4A Boys Discus Throw – 125-02
- Eli Akin: 12th place 4A Boys Discus Throw – 119-03
- Ashton Hurst: 19th place 4A Boys High Jump – 5-06.00
- Kerrigon Moore: 24th place 4A Girls Discus Throw – 61-03

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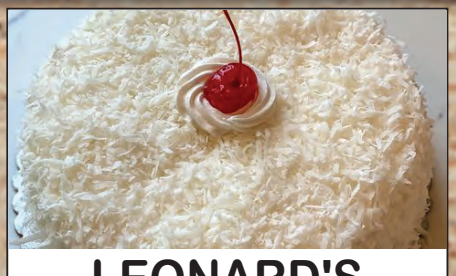
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Steady offense leads Alabama to 10-5 win over No. 16 Mississippi State

Alex Thompson
UA Athletics

STARKVILLE, Miss. — Alabama baseball earned a 10-5 victory over 16th-ranked Mississippi State on Sunday afternoon at Dudy Noble Field. Following the win on getaway day, the 17th-ranked Crimson Tide is now 29-18 overall and 10-14 in Southeastern Conference play.

Alabama plated four in the second before State answered with one in the home half of that inning. The Tide then widened the gap with three in the fifth and one in the sixth to make it 8-1 headed to the seventh. Following the stretch, Mississippi State was able to put up two in the seventh and a pair in the eighth but single tallies for Alabama in both the eighth and ninth ensured the 10-5 win.

The Crimson Tide bats recorded 12 hits on the day with eight of the nine starters registering at least one knock. Ian Petrutz led in hits with a 3-for-4 effort while Justin Lebron and Max Grant each recorded two-hit days. One of Grant's knocks was a three-run homer while Bryce Eblin also recorded a home run, his a solo shot.

Braylon Myers (2-1) picked up the win with 3.0 relief frames. He followed starter Ben Hess, who gave the Tide a solid outing. The junior allowed one run on four hits and one walk with four strikeouts in 4.0 innings before turning it over to his pen.

From Head Coach Rob Vaughn

"This was a really good team effort against a Mississippi State team that is playing some of the best baseball in the country right now. I am really proud of our kids for how they bounced back and were able to salvage this game.

"Obviously, we did not come here to take just one game, but with the circumstances and the hand in which we were dealt, I was pretty proud of the way that we competed out there."

How it happened

- T2 | The Tide loaded the bases to start the inning before a groundout to first from Bryce Eblin pushed across a run. With two still aboard, Max Grant homered to the corner in right. (4-0, Alabama)
- B2 | Logan Kohler hit a solo home run. (4-1, Alabama)
- T5 | The Tide loaded the bases to start the inning once again. Then, with one down, a hard-hit ball off the bat of TJ McCants resulted in an error at third, allowing two runs to score and putting men at first and second. William Hamiter followed with an RBI-single up the middle. (7-1, Alabama)
- T6 | Justin Lebron led off with a single and moved to third thanks to an Ian Petrutz single followed by a fielder's choice. The Tide leadoff man then came home on a single by Mac Guscette. (8-1, Alabama)
- B7 | Solo home runs from Connor Hujsak and Kohler added a pair for State. (8-3, Alabama)
- T8 | Lebron was hit by the pitch and moved first-to-third on a Petrutz single. Kade Snell followed with a sacrifice fly in the next at-bat to widen the gap. (9-3, Alabama)
- B8 | Three hits led to two runs for the Bulldogs before the weather delay. (9-5, Alabama)
- T9 | A solo home run from Eblin added an insurance run. (10-5, Alabama)

Postgame Notes

- Today's game was suspended for 40 minutes due to lightning.
- Alabama finished with 12 hits and has recorded double-digit hits in 31 contests this season, including 14 SEC pairings.
- Eight of Alabama's nine starters notched at least one hit in the game.
- UA has homered in 34 games this season and has hit two-or-more roundtrippers in 26 of those matchups.
- The Crimson Tide accumulated 10 runs and has scored double-digit runs 19 times.
- All nine starters contributed at least one run scored.
- Justin Lebron extended his hitting streak to 11 games. During that stretch, Lebron is batting .420 (21-50) with three doubles, six home runs, 14 RBI, 15 runs and three hit-by-pitch.
- Kade Snell has now recorded a hit in nine straight contests. Over the streak, the redshirt junior is batting .421 (16-38) with two doubles, one homer, nine RBI, eight runs scored, one walk and a hit-by-pitch.
- Snell has also reached base safely in each of his last 13 games.
- Ian Petrutz moved his hitting streak to six games. During that time, the junior has maintained a .476 (10-21) average with two doubles, three RBI, five runs, three walks and five-hit-by-pitch.

Alabama is scheduled to return to action on Tuesday, May 7, when the team heads to Troy for its final midweek of the 2024 season. The Crimson Tide and Trojans are set for a 6 p.m. first pitch at Riddle-Pace Field with the game airing on ESPN+.

PREP SPORTS

'I will cherish the memories and friends I made from these sports forever': Dakota Overton recaps Raider years

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — Good Hope senior Dakota Overton is preparing to graduate later this month and in this interview he discussed his stellar career on the basketball court and the baseball field during his years at Good Hope High School.

"One of my favorite memories was during my 11th grade year, when we went to the mountains for a Christmas tournament. We shot at a local gym for our team practice, and then, on the way back to our cabin, we were snowed in the car. After waiting for the roads to get better, we decided that we would all just walk to our cabins and leave the cars in a parking lot, which was fairly close. The snow was still falling, and everyone was laughing and goofing off, until we got back to the cabin, which was close to two miles away from the parking lot," Overton said. "Another great memory was from this year. Our game against West Point was delayed 30 minutes, and everyone ran to their cars in the rain. Once the game started, it just felt like all of us came together, and it was the most fun I've had since I was a kid."

Overton played with so many great guys and under some amazing coaches during his career.

"I feel like throughout my basketball career, I have gotten the opportunity to play with and practice against some of the best players that have come through Good Hope. This made being a point guard easier for me, because I knew that I could always depend on my guys to show up and play their heart out for me and my teammates. There was a lot of great players growing up while I played baseball, and just getting to know them at practice and realizing that I. too, would one day, have to step up and be a leader made me want to fill their shoes even more."

He added, "Coaching was great throughout both sports at Good Hope. The main point that they tried to prove to us was that we should be great young men and followers of Christ. Any time we would get ready for a game, we would pray. They wanted the best for us always and showed me they will be there for me throughout my whole life, and they are always one call away. My basketball coaches always let me know how much I mean to them and show me that they truly care about my future, and they want the best for me. My baseball coaches always tell me to keep being myself and let me know how much I mean to the teams I am on. They gave me so many life lessons and taught me how to be a better teammate and player, but the best thing was making sure I grew closer to God. I learned that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior, and that no one is perfect, but realizing Jesus is the only one who lived a perfect life and died a terrible death for our sins, is the only way that we can be saved."

Overton talked about his favorite basketball and baseball memory, and what he will remember and miss the most about playing sports.

"My favorite basketball memory that happened on the court was when we won the county championship this year. When the game was ending, we were just looking around, and we saw all the fans and everyone else cheering us on. My favorite baseball memory would have to be when our pitchers would be playing really good, and I would remember singing a song kind of quiet.

"My teammates would hear me and then, we would all be singing in the dugout while we were hitting," he said. "I will miss being with the underclassmen every day and just spending time with them and all of my close friends that I see every day at school. I will cherish the memories and friends I made from these sports forever."

He had so many great memories during his time in high school, but one really sticks out to him. Good Hope will always hold a special place in his heart.

"Every day there, there was something different, just because of all of the good people we have. The more I think about high school, the only things that feel so special are my senior memories. It is funny how all of the other years seem so distant now that I am a senior. My favorite memory would have to be when the senior team I was on won the volleyball tournament during homecoming week, and that whole week was just filled with fun. Everyone had so many smiles and wasn't worried about anything then," he said.

"Good Hope is so special, because no matter what you want to do or the struggles you have, no one will treat you differently.

"Everyone is so friendly and kind. The teachers always want what is best for the students and will try to work with you on the things you don't understand. Everyone in our community loves our sports teams, and it truly shows and brings our community together. That is what makes Good Hope so special to me."

He will deeply miss being a Raider next year and was a huge role model for a lot of the younger kids. He had a lot of role models during his high school career.

"I will remember all of the fun times I had with my friends and being able to create so many friendships over the years. I will miss seeing everyone on a daily basis and being around my friends all of the times," he said. "I try to treat everyone how I would like to be treated, no matter who it is. I feel like if I could just hold the door for even one person a day, or maybe even talk to someone about their day, or give them a smile, that I could make a difference in someone's day. I feel like it was very important to me to be that person and knowing that made me want to be an even better person and follower of Christ."

He added, "There are so many different people I could name, but a couple of guys I still keep in touch with are Charlie O'Neil and Colton Lindsey. Those guys were always such Godly men and would push me to better myself daily, and it really helped me get to where I am today. All of my coaches are role models to me alongside my mom, who works in the office as our secretary. She has helped me in so many ways, and I love her for everything she does and all the work she does for our school."

He gave some advice to those students that will be starting high school in August, and to those people that want to get to where he's at right now.

"Try to have as much fun as you can, and don't try to wish it away. While you are in the moment or in class that day, it may feel like you'll never reach the end goal of graduating, but it will sneak up on you and before you know it, you will be graduating and starting your own life outside of school," he said. "Just be yourself and not let anyone try and tell them they aren't able to do something. Try to always find the good in every situation and make the best of what you have."



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Good Hope's Dakota Overton

He was in a couple of clubs and learned so many things during that experience. He accepted a scholarship to go to Wallace State and was so happy when he got his first scholarship. He learned a lot about himself during his time as a Raider.

"It was a lot of fun being in the Pep Club, and I was able to get into every home game to the sports I did not play in. National Honors Society was also very fun, because I was able to meet new people around the county when we all met in Fairview for an event," he said. "I'll be attending Wallace State to get my two-year degree, and then, I'll go to a four-year college to get my Electrical Engineering Degree. I felt ecstatic when I got my first scholarship and even though it wasn't a lot of money, I felt good that I was able to get any kind of money just to help with college. I feel like I learned a lot about myself and what I wanted to do in the long run. I learned how to work with others, and try to not only make myself succeed, but help others succeed as well."





THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MAY 7, 2024

Gulf State Park Pier repairs reach milestone

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

The reconstruction of the Gulf State Park Pier reached a milestone recently when the walkway to the octagon on the end was partially completed.

Lamar Pendergrass, the South Region operations supervisor for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (ADCNR) State Parks Division, said missing pilings and decking components have been replaced all the way to the octagon, which will allow construction workers much easier access to the entire 1,544-foot pier.

"You can actually make it out to the octagon now," Pendergrass said. "I saw the barge parked at Alabama Point, which means the workers can get to the octagon without having to use the barge. That's really a plus for us right now. Some of the girders had to have repair work done with the grout material to give them strength and stability. Getting that decking back down will allow them to start working on the handrails and things of that nature. That will expedite the process."

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Commissioner Chris Blankenship is pleased with recent developments at Gulf State Park.

"There is a tremendous amount of work underway in our State Parks, especially at Gulf State Park," he said. "I am glad to see the pier repair progressing along. It was exciting to reopen the 20 Lakeside Cabins and expand the offerings at Romar Beach Access last week. All of us will be so glad to reopen the pier later this summer. It will be fabulous!"

Plumbers were assessing what work would need to be done to replace and update components from the middle section, called the T, to the octagon. Electricians were also on-site to determine the extent of the repairs needed.

"We hope the turtle-friendly lights are on order, because they are sometimes hard to get," Pendergrass said. "The plumbing and electrical work should begin soon because those components will all be under the deck panels."

The light poles for the turtle-friendly lights are about 10 feet tall. The lights will be LED lights that have six-inch shields to block portions of the light beam. A dimmer will be used during turtle nesting season so the light output can be lowered even more. There will still be enough light for people who fish. The turtle-friendly lighting will also be used in the parking lot.

To lay the groundwork for replacing the pilings, the initial work at the pier was removing the pilings from a 200-foot section that succumbed to the crashing waves of Hurricane Sally in 2020 and fell into the Gulf.

MD Thomas Construction, which had completed the $2.4 million renovation to the pier just prior to Sally's damage, was awarded the $13.6 million repair contract. Removing those downed pilings was not an easy task.

"For recovering the pilings, they had both a regular barge and a jack-up barge, which really made it a lot easier to get into position to do the work," Pendergrass said. "They actually had to go down and jet the sand away from the piles to provide a way to hook up straps and lift them onto the barge, carry them to the landing and carry them to their final destination. Once they had the old piles recovered, they started barging in the new piles. Those were jetted down to a certain depth and then hammered into the final position to get them all lined up. There were 18 misplaced, damaged or broken piles."

ADCNR applied to use the retrieved concrete pieces to build a reef in Alabama's unparalleled Artificial Reef Zones, but the request was denied by FEMA.

As usual, the weather played a role in the amount of work that could be done with barges, but Pendergrass said delays were pretty much minimal.

"There were several days where they might work half a day and then have to take the barge back to Perdido Pass and leave it there," he said. "That takes time and effort to move to one area and bring it back. And the jack-up barge had to go in for repairs and was out of commission for a little more than two weeks. But once that jack-up barge was back, they were able to put the remaining piles in place, and it was all finished by April 1."

Pendergrass said current plans are to restore the octagon, which was extremely popular with the diehard pier fishing community, to pre-Sally condition. That includes restoring the 50-foot by 24-foot observation deck at the octagon, which will allow visitors and sightseers to observe fishing activity as well as experience the educational component of the pier from a new vantage point.

An Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) certified lift will be on one side of the observation deck with stairs on the opposite side. Pendergrass said the ADA lift will be operated only by pier personnel.

"There will be at least one change," he said. "Previously we had a red line that went around the octagon that separated the fishermen from the sightseers. We think with the observation deck, it will provide a lot better place to view the fishing activity."

Pendergrass, who also oversaw the previous renovations, said new railings constructed of the durable ipe (pronounced eepay) wood will be replaced in the 200-foot section that collapsed as well as on the octagon.

"With the addition of the decking out to the octagon, they know what they're doing because they've done it twice now," he said. "Once everything underneath the decking is completed, I anticipate the work will pick up speed so we can get the pier opened as soon as possible.

"The target date for reopening the pier is late summer unless the weather turns really, really bad."

Commissioner Blankenship and Pendergrass were also recently on hand for the ribbon cutting for the cabins on Lake Shelby at Gulf State Park. Hurricane Sally destroyed 17 cabins on the lake. Those were rebuilt and three new cabins were added for a total of 20.

"Hurricane Sally literally picked up the roofs on some of the cabins and set them down on the ground," Pendergrass said. "The 10 Eagle Cottages on the lake sustained much less damage from the hurricane and, with minor repairs, remained open to rent."

The new cabins are top-notch with two bedrooms, two baths and a bunk room for children with a TV for entertainment. Also new is a laundry room with a washer and dryer underneath each cabin. The cabins can be booked online at www.eaglecottagesatgsp.com.

"We also renovated four woodside cabins nestled back in woods," Pendergrass said. "These are one-bedroom cabins. We spent a good bit of money renovating those."

Also, Gulf State Park's Hugh Branyon Backcountry Trail continues to reign as the top recreational trail in the country in the 2024 USA TODAY 10Best Readers' Choice Awards, the second year in a row the trail has received the recognition.

The Alabama Gulf Coast trail prevailed over nine other trails located throughout the United States, including the 78-mile Greenbrier River Trail in West Virginia, a former railroad now used for hiking, biking and horseback riding, and Missouri's 240-mile Katy Bike Trail, one of the longest Rails-to-Trails projects in the country.

Gulf State Park's Romar Beach Access area has reopened with a new bathhouse, 40 additional parking spots and a shower on the boardwalk out to the beach.

At Gulf State Park Pavilion, the facility is receiving a complete facelift, with makeovers for the restrooms and bridal room.

On the north end of Mobile Bay, Meaher State Park on Battleship Parkway (Causeway) is also in the middle of renovations, with $7.5 million allocated for campground expansion, new cabins and an administration building.

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LEGALS

Notice of Sale

Tuesday, May 21, 2024, Nunnelley's Storage, Highway 67 South, Somerville, Alabama 35670 will sell contents of the following units at 10:00 a.m.:

Unit #71 Jeffery J. Davey, 1367 Center Springs Road, Somerville, Alabama 35670.

Unit #93 Adrienne Cole, PO Box 232, Somerville, Alabama 35670.

Unit #70-117 John Commins, 1207 16 Avenue Southeast, Decatur, Alabama 35601.

Unit #50, James Pendergrass, 263A, Hobbs Road, Hartselle, Alabama 35640.

Legal Notice

Surplus property of Wallace State Community College (Hanceville Campus) will be offered for sale on the website www.govdeals.com Various sales will occur on this website, please check the www.govdeals.com website weekly to see any current sales. This is a government auction website and you MUST be registered on the website to bid on any items. You may view the surplus property to be sold without registration. The govdeals.com website will contain detailed information including descriptions and photos. Items may be inspected by APPOINTMENT ONLY: Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact Wesley Sams at inventory@wallacestate.edu to schedule any appointments. All items listed are to be sold "AS IS, WHERE IS". Wallace State Community College reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

PB ADT BK 68 PG 892 - 04/15/2024 08:21 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

In the Matter of the Adoption Petition *
of JONATHAN W. STEADMAN * Case Number: AD 2024 - 013

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: WALTER ALION WHATLEY, WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN

A PETITION FOR ADOPTION WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, BY JONATHAN W. STEADMAN, PETITIONER, FOR THE ADOPTION OF W.L.J.W., A MINOR. IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS ADOPTION, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONER, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS IS SHOWN BELOW AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, 500 2ND AVENUE SW, ROOM 101, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055.

DONE THIS THE 15th DAY OF April, 2024.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 7th Street SW
Cullman AL 35055
(256) 841-7800
Attorney for Petitioner

PB WIL BK 123 PG 409 - 05/03/2024 11:28 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
EUGENE FERRIEL LEIPERT, * **CASE NO.: PC2024-120**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to BEVERLY K. BARNETT and RANDY E. LEIPERT, as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of EUGENE FERRIEL LEIPERT, deceased, on the 3rd day of May, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

BEVERLY K. BARNETT and RANDY E. LEIPERT
Co-Personal Representatives

Beverly Paschal Poston
Attorney for the Estate of Eugene Ferriel Leipert, Deceased
201 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-739-3970

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

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

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

PB WIL BK 123 PG 420 - 05/03/2024 01:03 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
BETTY JEAN LEIPERT,
DECEASED. **CASE NO. PC 2024-121**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Co-Letters Testamentary having been granted to Beverly K. Barnett and Randy E. Leipert, as the Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Betty Jean Leipert, deceased, on the 3rd day of May, 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.

Beverly K. Barnett
Co-Personal Representative of the Estate of
Betty Jean Leipert, deceased

Randy E. Leipert
Co-Personal Representative of the Estate of
Betty Jean Leipert, deceased

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

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

Beverly Paschal Poston (PAS001)
Attorney for the Estate of
Betty Jean Leipert, deceased.
201 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama, 35055
bposton@beverlypaschalposton.com
(256)739-3970

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

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Separate sealed bids for the construction of **Town of Colony Road Resurfacing Project CDBG Project No. SM-CM-PF-22-017** will be received @ **65 Byars Road, Colony, Alabama until** 10:00 **o'clock A.M.**, **C.D.S.T. May 29, 2024**, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The Notice to Bidders, Form of Bid, Form of Contract, Plans, Specifications, and Forms of Bid Bond, Performance and Payment Bond, and other Contract Documents are open to public inspection at the office of SENTELL ENGINEERING, INC., 639 Black Bears Way, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Copies may be obtained by calling Tuscaloosa Blueprint at (205) 752-9825 and request the plans and upon a payment of **Fifty Dollars ($ 50.00)**. All checks shall be made payable to Tuscaloosa Blueprint. No refunds will be given for plans.

Each bidder must deposit with his bid, security in the amount, form, and subject to the conditions provided in the Notice to Bidders.

Pre-Bid Conference
A pre-bid conference for the project will be held on May 22, 2024 @ 10:00 o'clock A.M. located at **65 Byars Road, Colony, Alabama 35077**

The successful bidder will be required to furnish in satisfactory form, within ten (10) days of Notice of Award to Contract:

(a) A Performance Bond for one hundred percent (100%) of the total amount of the contract price.

(b) A Payment Bond for one hundred percent (100%) of the total amount of the contract price.

(c) Adequate Public Liability and Workmen's Compensation Insurance.

The attention of all bidders is called to the provisions of State Law governing "General Contractors" as set forth in Chapter Eight of Title Thirty Four of the 1975 code of Alabama as amended.

All BIDDERS must comply with the requirement of the Contractor's Licensing Law of the State of Alabama and be certified for the type of work for which a proposal is submitted. The submission of the BIDDER's current State of Alabama License number will be required before his/her BID will be received or considered and shall be written on the outside of the envelope in which Bid is submitted.

All Bids must be plainly marked on the outside of the envelope:
BID FOR: Town of Colony Resurfacing Project
Project No. SM-CM-PF-22-017
Opening at Town of Colony Town Hall

Attention to Bidders is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed and minimum wages to be paid under the contract, Section 3, Segregated Facility, Section 109 & E.O. 11246.

No Bidder may withdraw his bid within 60 days after the actual date of the opening thereof. The owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any and all bids.

Town of Colony, Alabama

Run (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. — The Stony Lonesome Sasquatch Mud Run will take place this Saturday, May 11, at 8 a.m. at Stony Lonesome OHV Park.

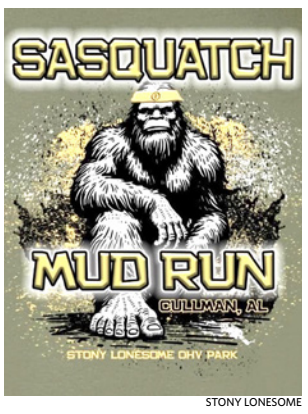
Cullman County Parks and Recreation Marketing Director Sara Morgan said the department has been hosting the mud run for nine years (it was formally the Mud Run). One thing that makes the race popular is that it is beginner friendly.

"We have a couple of obstacles, but you can always choose to bypass if you're not comfortable in doing them," Morgan said. "We also have a 1-mile fun run if you're not up to the 5K distance."

Some of the obstacles, according to Morgan, are rope climbs, mud crawls, big hills and some balancing challenges.

"This is the ONLY event of its kind locally – playing in the mud is always a fun time," Morgan said. "The rock garden is one of my favorites spots because it's so unique and fun to climb. Just when you think you can't climb higher you just keep going. The mud always makes it a bit more challenging, but everyone enjoys it more because it makes for a funny story. The mud crawl has been a new edition and we have gotten many laughs and compliments on that obstacle. As always, a crowd favorite is our finish line – the mud slide."

Morgan continued, "We will have mud run shirts available for purchase if you missed the T-shirt deadline. Registration will be open at



STONY LONESOME

6 a.m. the day of the race. We can't wait to see everyone there."

Register online at www.eventbrite.com/e/stony-lonesome-sasquatch-mud-run-5k-1-mile-fun-run-tickets-788228090437. You can also sign up at Stony Lonesome now or on the morning of the run.

Stony Lonesome is located at 10075 Alabama Highway 69 S, Bremen, AL 35033.

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Vivi B Bakes (from Front)

cupcakes.

"It's the first cake I made; it's a moist lemon cake with fresh blueberries mixed in and topped with a delicious lemon cream cheese icing," Brock said.

The novice baker is looking at every order as a means to improvement, knowing that each one sharpens her skills, taking them one step closer to perfection.

She smiled and says, "I'm really all about pushing myself and consistently getting better. "I don't know what the future holds, but for now, I'm just enjoying everything." Brock's cakes are available at her pop-up shops, or they can be found and ordered on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vivibbakes.

Ponies (from Front)

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. — A Leap of Faith Equestrian Center LLC in Vinemont invites the community to its second annual Picnic with Ponies event, set for May 18, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This family friendly event promises a day full of activities, music and food for all ages. Admission is $5 per car.

Owner and instructor Maneka Rocca shared, "Three things that I am passionate about in life are my faith, family and horses. I am so excited to host a family day at our farm for our community to enjoy horse rides, games, inflatables, good food from local food trucks and live music."

Picnic with Ponies will feature a variety of activities designed to engage attendees of all ages.

Horse rides around the scenic pond are available for $5 per rider, while attendees can also enjoy inflatables, volleyball, badminton, cornhole and other yard games.

Adding to the festivities, the Crooked Creek Band will perform live, bringing a playlist full of 90s country music to the farm.

A selection of food trucks will also be on-site, including Big Barts BBQ, Beto's Taco and More, Alabama Mud Coffee and Candy Ice. Vendors are welcome to join the event as well.

Reflecting on what makes the event special, Rocca explained, "Picnic with Ponies was originally inspired by our love of being on the farm with our family.

"We also believe everyone that joins us for riding lessons and trail rides becomes a part of our 'ALOF Family.'

"We wanted to give an opportunity to our community to enjoy a family fun day with us, too!"

Last year's inaugural event set a high standard, with many attendees eagerly anticipating this year's edition.

"Last year's event went really well to be our first event.

"We had several people asking at the beginning of the year if we would be putting it on again. We are hoping even more families join us this year," Rocca noted.

The event not only serves as a fun day out, but also aligns with the mission of A Leap of Faith Equestrian Center, which was founded in 2018 with a vision to provide a fun and safe environment for all ages to pursue their horsemanship goals.

"A Leap of Faith Equestrian Center was a God-given dream of mine and was established in 2018. We give lessons, trail rides, board horses and host horse shows and birthday parties.

"Our mission is to provide a fun and safe environment for all ages to pursue their horsemanship goals.

"Eventually, our dream is to also offer equine therapy for kids in the foster system and others struggling with trauma, PTSD, bereavement, grief, etc.," Rocca shared.

For those interested in more details about the event or looking to get involved, contact Rocca directly at 256-531-7543, via email at alofequestrian@gmail.com or through A Leap of Faith Equestrian Center's Facebook page.

Rocca concluded, "I always work the horse rides around the pond, and I absolutely love seeing everyone excited to ride. It melts my heart to watch new riders discover a love of horses and to hear previous riders reminisce on childhood memories."

Obituary Announcements: May 4-6

Deborah Lititia Self, 69
Memorial service for Deborah L. Self, age 69, of Cullman, is Friday, May 10, 2024, at 4 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home chapel. Full obituary for Deborah to follow. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign online guestbook.

Bruce K. Whisenant, 64
Memorial Service for Bruce Whisenant, age 64, will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at Ryan Baptist Church with Terry Hudson officiating. Visitation will be from noon - 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at Ryan Baptist Church. Mr. Whisenant passed away on Sunday, May 5, 2024, at his residence. He was born Saturday, Jan. 9, 1960, to Billy Gene Whisenant and Gisele Whisenant. He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Camilla Whisenant; daughter April (John) Amburgy; son, Alex Whisenant; stepson, Kevin Gean; grandchildren, William and Gisele Amburgy; brothers, Steve Whisenant, Phillip (Lisa) Whisenant and Patrick Whisenant and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. Mr. Whisenant was employed for 38 years by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and retired in 2020. He attended Ryan School and Brewer High School, Class of 1978. He received a Bachlor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Alabama, Huntsville in 1984. Bruce had a lifelong love of the outdoors. From a young age, he enjoyed spending time in the seat of a tractor. He loved spending time with his wife and children, riding four wheelers, boating on the river, going to thrift stores and antique shops and visiting with family and friends. Bruce remained faithful and courageous during his 2-year battle with cancer. He was loved dearly and will be missed. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Children's Hospital of Alabama at secure.childrensal.org Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Betty Bishop, 71
Mrs. Bishop age 71, passed away on Sunday, May 5, 2024, at her residence. She was born Thursday, June 12, 1952, to Hollis Henry and Ruth Henry. She was preceded in death by her, parents. Survivors include her sister, Ann Bolte. A private memorial service will be held at a later date for family.

James Marshall Holmes, 75
James Marshall Holmes, age 75, of Hanceville, Alabama passed away on Monday, May 6, 2024. James was born in Birmingham, Alabama on March 28, 1949, to Porter Clarence and Virginia Lucille Rascoe Holmes. He is preceded in death by his parents, brothers: Porter Lavone Holmes, Jerry Lamar Holmes, sisters-in-law: Sue Holmes and Jenny Holmes. Mr. Holmes worked for Nearen Construction for 30 plus years. Mr. Holmes was a decorated combat soldier who served in the United States Army in Vietnam in 1969. Mr. Holmes served in Short Range Reconnaissance (SURPS) attached to the Americal Division. Funeral services are Friday May 10, 2024, at Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel at 1 p.m. Interment will follow services in Cullman Memory Gardens. Survivors are: son: Mark (Katrina) Stephens, brothers: Larry Wayna (Donna) Holmes, Roger Dale (Terri) Holmes, grandchildren: John Mark Stephens, Annabelle Stephens, Elizabeth Standifer, a host if nieces and nephews, friend: Ashley Nerkry Mills. Visitation will be on Thursday May 9, 2024, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. Please share condolences and memories with the family at www.mossservicefh.com

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Lauren Agnello of Cullman receives UA Department of Art and Art History Outstanding Student Award

Stephanie Pettis
Contributor

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — The UA Department of Art and Art History is proud to announce the six recipients of our Outstanding Student Awards for academic year 2023-2024, awarded in recognition of their exemplary dedication and commitment to academic or artistic achievement, during Honors Day ceremonies on April 5, 2024. These awards are the department's most prestigious of the year, given only to a single graduate and undergraduate student in each of our degree programs in art history (BA, MA), graphic design (BFA), and studio art (BA, BFA, MFA).

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award in Art History: Daphne Shearer
Daphne Abbie Shearer is a graduating senior double major in art history and studio art from Memphis, Tennessee. Shearer is also in the accelerated master's program (AMP) in art history and is pursuing a graduate certificate in museum studies. She was awarded the Julie Peake Holaday Memorial Endowed Scholarship and the Carol B. Merkle Endowed Scholarship. After earning her MA in art history next year, Shearer hopes to begin an art museum career.

Outstanding Undergraduate BA Student Award in Studio Art: Lauren Agnello
Lauren Agnello, from Cullman, Alabama, will earn a Bachelor of Arts in studio art and foreign languages and literature with an art history minor. Agnello's awards include the National Italian American Foundation NIAF On Campus Fellowship 2023-2024. She has been named to the President's List every semester since her freshman year. Agnello was selected to illustrate a children's book about a tropical species of frog - the Pumpkin Toadlet - and the effects of habitat fragmentation in the rainforests of Brazil for a project funded through the National Science Foundation's RIBBiTR (Resilience Institute Bridging Biological Training and Research) grant. Her artwork was also juried into the inaugural Susan N. McCollough Fine Arts Initiative at The University of Alabama Gallery in Tuscaloosa. Agnello is treasurer of the UA Italian Club and active in the UA Italian Outreach Program. She is fluent in Italian and hopes to continue her Italian and art and art history studies after graduation.

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award in Graphic Design: Darrell Shelby
Darrell Shelby, a Tuscaloosa native, will earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts in graphic design in May. Shelby was named one of Graphic Design USA's "Students to Watch" in February 2024. He said he has "a passion for creating brand identities, user experience and user-oriented design" and currently holds a graphic design internship with Hand in Paw. Assistant Professor Jonathan Cumberland said, "Darrell is an exceptional designer who has been a model student in the program. His work ethic and keen sense of design will serve him well as he starts what I'm confident will be a successful career."

Outstanding Undergraduate BFA Student Award in Studio Art: Samantha Norris
Samantha (Sam) Norris, from Hoover, Alabama, will earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts in studio art with concentrations in ceramics and sculpture. Among her awards, Norris won the Farley Moody Galbraith Endowed Scholarship, Elizabeth B. Bashinsky Endowed Art Scholarship, Barbara Ann Taylor Guthans Endowed Scholarship, and Rising Tide award. Her research for her final BFA thesis exhibition, titled "Moth Holes," was supported by a UA ASSURE grant and Norris was accepted to present at the 2024 URCA Conference, where she won the 2024 Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (URCA) Conference Award for Excellence and Achievement. Norris has worked as a foundry specialist at the UA Foundry since 2022, designing and fabricating projects for clients including the City of Tuscaloosa and Nucor. Associate Professor Wade MacDonald said that having worked with Norris for almost three years, "(I) have witnessed a remarkable expansion of her artistic vision and skills in ceramics, woodworking, and metal fabrication - far surpassing expectations. Sam serves as an inspiration to both undergraduate and graduate students, consistently pushing the boundaries of her abilities as an artist and thinker while challenging her peers to do the same."

Outstanding Graduate Student Award in Art History: Ivy Borden
In May, after only two years, Ivy Borden will complete her Master of Arts degree in art history through the accelerated master's program; she also received her BA in art history and Southern studies in 2023. Borden, who is from Birmingham, wrote her master's thesis, "Entangled among Things: Kudzu as a Creative Medium in Contemporary Southern Art," to explore artists' consideration and use of the kudzu vine as a reflection on Southern identity and ecology. She presented her research paper, "Creative Care: Artistic Action in the Stop Cop City Movement" at Florida State University's 40th Annual Art History Graduate Student Symposium in March 2024, and was invited to submit it for publication in FSU's peer-reviewed graduate journal Athanor. Borden has worked as a gallery assistant at the Kentuck Art Center, the Paul R. Jones Museum, and as a docent at UA's Gorgas House giving guided tours. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in 2024 and served as vice president of The Guild: UA Society of Art History Students. After traveling internationally, Borden said she plans to pursue doctoral studies in the intersections of material culture and eco-humanities.

Outstanding Graduate Student Award in Studio Art: Nathan Childers
Nathan Childers will earn a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting in May. He focuses on place and queer identity in his work. Childers' recent awards are Best in Show in the Susan N. McCollough Fine Arts Initiative, The University of Alabama Gallery in Tuscaloosa; Best in Show in Queer Aesthetics, Mississippi University for Women; Second Place in Positive/Negative 38 National Juried Art Exhibition, Finalist for the AXA Art Prize-US Exhibition, New York Academy of Art; Semi-Finalist for the Fulbright Open Research/Study Award; an Individual Artist Small Grant from The Arts and Humanities Council of Tuscaloosa to support his thesis exhibition; and a Capstone International Scholarship for study in Spain in 2023. He also was awarded a UA Graduate Council Fellowship and an assistantship in his graduate work. Childers' artwork was also juried into the Georgia Watercolor Society 42nd National Exhibition in Carrollton, Georgia; Ink Only III National Juried Print Biennial; Art Fields; Mark Arts Oil Painting National Exhibition; and Kansas Watercolor Society National Exhibition.



UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
Lauren Agnello

Festival (from Front)

The two-day festival was held at Depot Park and spread throughout the Warehouse District, and even enveloped a portion of Second Avenue around Cullman City Hall.

Hordes of vendors flocked to the festival to sell and share their goods to the.

Farmers and growers from the region also jumped in to get a piece of the strawberry action.

Festhalle Farmers Market stayed open during the event, allowing tourists and residents alike to purchase fresh, locally grown produce. Strawberries were obviously the largest seller at the market, with the last bucket of berries going out the door at 3:12 p.m. Saturday, sold by Walnut Grove's Umphrey Farm, before multiple berry farmers called for reinforcements to help replenish the berry reserves.

Festhalle Farmers Market Manager Michael Graveman said, "We sold a record amount of strawberries, nearly 1,500 more gallons than any previous year.

"This demonstrates the dedication of our farmers and the increasing demand for fresh, quality strawberries.

"We are so thankful for all of our farmers and their commitment to meeting the growing demand of the festival."

Carnival rides allowed children of all ages (yes, even the grown-up ones) to swirl and shout at the tops of their lungs on the thrill rides. Depot Park was transformed into a sleek venue with furniture and seating to accommodate the massive stage that housed the weekend's big-name performers.

Day one of the festival was full of food, shopping and sunshine, with the festival opening at 9 a.m. and running until 11 p.m., providing a full day of fun and entertainment.

Day two of the festival saw attendees in the festival's competitions; this year, with the expanded timeframe and venue, the baking, eating and drinking competitions, as well as the Puppy Pawgeant, were all held at the Wallace State Community College sponsored Fresh Picks Stage near the Festhalle.

The beginning competitions were all food and beverage related; the strawberry baking contest was packed with delicious strawberry goods baked from scratch.

And adults and children both got the chance to compete in some fast fun – a berry drink (a nice, lukewarm strawberry Fanta) chuggin' contest, a fresh strawberry eating contest and a pie eating contest were all held in rapid succession to entertain the "berry" big crowd.

The Fresh Picks Stage also saw the furriest attendees in the Puppy Pawgeant, with three divisions based on size.

There were dogs as small as 3 pounds all the way up to Hector, a more than 120-pound Mastiff, who was celebrating his birthday and festively dressed as a sweet, swollen strawberry.

The late spring day was hot and sunny, lending the perfect blue sky as a backdrop for the daytime performers: Jesse Roper, Cousin Curtiss, Kasey Tyndall and Eric Hutchinson, and ensuring a cool, comfortable atmosphere for Easton Corbin and Eli Young Band, the acts that performed for the festival crowd on Saturday night.

"It goes without saying that the success of the Alabama Strawberry Festival is not just measured in numbers, but in the dedication and teamwork of each and every individual involved. From our hardworking team members to the collaboration with other City departments and the unwavering support of our vendors, this collaborative achievement is what makes Cullman such a special place," shared Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs.

Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism Events Coordinator Kelly Pulliam said, "We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors whose generous support has been instrumental in making this event possible, showcasing the spirit of unity and partnership that defines our festival."