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NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Cullman, Meek eliminated at North Regional

» PAGE 4

Going to work: 100-plus apply for positions at Topre

'It is a terrible disservice to our community, the State of Alabama and Topre America for a social media blog to disseminate unsubstantiated claims that spark controversy'

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Despite online rumors perpetuated by a local blog on Wednesday, May 8, a group of Haitians was not bused into Cullman, though they are finishing paperwork for new jobs.

"Applicants here appear to be coming to the Cullman Career Center from other north Alabama communities to apply through » PAGE 5



FILE PHOTO

Cullman Career Center

'It's going to make a huge difference'

Hanceville Softball celebrates new additions to Rayford Talley Athletic Training Center



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Members of the Hanceville High School Softball team are joined by Hanceville City Councilor Jimmie Nuss (left) and Jerry Talley (right) at the Rayford Talley Athletic Training Facility Wednesday.

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Hanceville High School Softball hosted an open house to celebrate and show off its new additions to the Rayford Talley Athletic Training Facility Wednesday afternoon. Two indoor nets, a new pitching machine and additions to the field turf have been installed at the indoor training facility and the Bulldogs are excited to get to work with the new upgrades. Assistant coach Roxi Lee is excited to take advantage of the new facility, especially during the rainy spring season. It's location just behind the Hanceville Civic Center will also allow the Bulldogs to include it in gameday preparations as well.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

New additions to the Rayford Talley Athletic Training Facility include more field turf, two hitting nets and a new pitching machine.

"This facility offers us the ability to practice inside if it's raining or if the weather isn't cooperating in the springtime and still have a good, functional practice," Lee said. "Not only that, but we're also able to come over here before ballgames and get a round of hitting in and our pitchers are able to warm up inside. We're going to be able to use this facility as an » PAGE 8

Ivey signs 'most significant amendment to Alabama's public records law in over 50 years' » PAGE 5

Aspen Institute names Wallace State semifinalist for prestigious 2025 Aspen Prize » PAGE 4

Baileyton Town Council names Jennifer Harlow Volunteer of the Year



KATIE SPICER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Mayor Windell Calloway presents a plaque to Baileyton Volunteer of the Year Jennifer Harlow. » PAGE 4

Fairview Town Council approves funds for VFD » PAGE 8

PET OF THE WEEK

Toby, the gentle giant



DONNA RUTTKAY

Toby, The Cullman Tribune's Pet of the Week, is a mixed fellow looking for his forever home. » PAGE 4

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported May 8

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported May 7, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

No arrests or incidents reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

May 2

- retail theft of property-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $95; Olive St. SW

May 5

- Harassment; person
- Theft of property-4th degree; Gamer Geeks; cards; $50; St. Joseph Dr. NW

May 6

- Theft of property-1st degree; AK Rentals; equipment; $41,905
- retail theft of property-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $49; Olive St. SW
- theft of property-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $813; Olive St. SW

May 7

- unlawful breaking and entering of motor vehicle; person; miscellaneous; Hwy. 157
- harassing communications; person
- theft of property-2nd degree; person; cash; $1,702
- harassing communications; person

ARRESTS

May 6-7

Boyd, Lacie M.; 27

- FTA - insurance violation
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA - disorderly conduct

Jacobs, Jenny M.; 51

- FTA - driving under the influence (2 counts)
- FTA - insurance violation
- FTA - driving on the wrong side of the road

Kratz, Jesse P.; 43

- FTA - theft of property-4th degree

Smith, Daniel S.; 29

- FTA - theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)
- FTA - insurance violation

Hall, David R.; 68

- public intoxication

Willoughby, Ethan C.; 20

- unlawful possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Mannery, Joshua I.; 45

- theft of property
- FTA - unauthorized use of a vehicle
- FTA - driving while license suspended

Young, Alayah L.; 21

- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Morton, Trent J.; 27

- FTA - driving while license suspended

McCay, Hannah M.; 24

- unlawful breaking and entering a motor vehicle
- receiving stolen property

Garrison, James S.; 40

- domestic violence-3rd degree harassment

Armstrong, Tabatha L.; 38

- FTA - theft of property-4th degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

A private individual seeks for a caregiver, detail-oriented House Manager to assist a Senior Female. Schedule is 4 days a week and 5 hours per day. Salary is $35/hr. Send email to Mark (sdedgmart@gmail.com) for more details.

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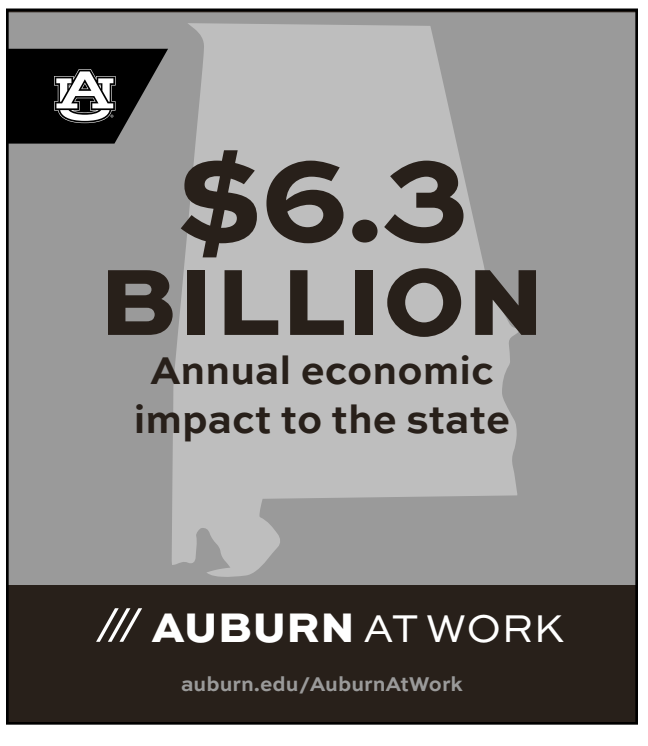
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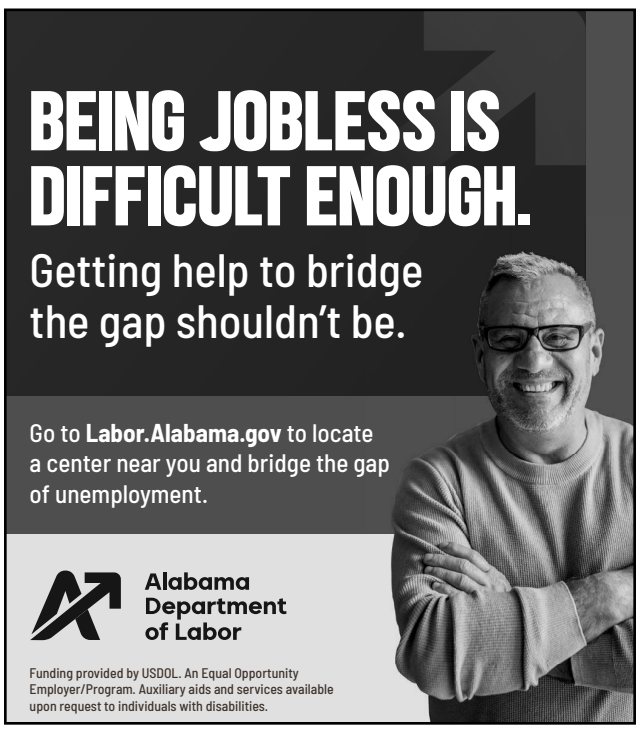












COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

Public Notice: 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.
• Friday, May 10 - Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hangups 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.

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Yard Sale

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PREP SOFTBALL

Cullman, Meek eliminated at North Regional

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

FLORENCE, Ala. — This year's North Regional Softball Tournament got off to a slow start due to wet conditions at Coffee O'Neal Park in Florence Monday morning but after some time spent preparing the fields, the Cullman Bearcats were back in action for a pair of 6A Regional matchups.

The 'Cats got started with a game against Hazel Green and Cullman led 6-5 after the fifth but the Trojans were able to score a pair of runs in the bottom of the seventh to hand the Bearcats a heartbreaking, 7-6 loss in their first matchup of the day. Cullman bounced back in its elimination game against Fort Payne, plating 16 runs on 15 hits to defeat the Wildcats 16-8 and advance to day two.

The Bearcats returned to Florence Tuesday morning for an elimination game against Buckhorn. The 'Cats jumped out to an early 3-0 lead, but the Bucks plated six unanswered runs to come from behind and defeat Cullman 6-3, knocking the Bearcats out of the postseason.

The Meek Tigers also got their North Regional underway Tuesday, splitting their first two games with Belgreen and Marion County. The Tigers returned to the field Wednesday morning for an elimination game against Cherokee, but they couldn't keep pace with the Indians and the Tigers were knocked out of the postseason with a loss.

Hazel Green 7 – Cullman 6 (Game One)
A pair of singles allowed Hazel Green to take a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first and the Trojans tacked on another run in the second to make it 2-0 but the Bearcats responded with a big third inning. With two outs on the board, Taylor Au drew a walk and Reese Hopper was hit by a pitch to give the Bearcats a pair of runners. Au scored on a wild pitch later in the inning to trim the lead to 2-1 and an error allowed Hopper to score just a few pitches later and tie the game at 2. Brooklyn Morton then came to the plate and punched a 2-run single over the first baseman's head to give Cullman a 4-2 lead going into the bottom of the third.

Hazel Green answered with a pair of runs in the bottom half of the inning, tying the score at 4, but the Bearcats took the lead right back when Brie Voss led off the top of the fourth with a solo home run out of center field. The Trojans continued to battle back, stringing some hits together in the bottom of the fourth to tie things back up at 5.

Kynlei Storey drew a walk, Hattie Graham was hit by a pitch and Morton drew a walk to load the bases for Cullman in the top of the fifth and later in the inning, Voss was hit by a pitch to put the Bearcats back in front 6-5 going into the bottom half of the fifth. After a scoreless sixth inning, Cullman went into the final frame holding onto a 1-run lead, but Hazel Green was able to tie the game at 6 on a fielder's choice and eventually defeated the Bearcats 7-6 on a walk-off single.

Morton and Voss each posted a hit and two RBIs in the loss and Dracen Bates, Au and Graham each added a hit as well.

Cullman 16 – Fort Payne 8 (Game Two)
A pair of home runs gave Fort Payne a 3-0 lead in the top of the first, but Cullman was able to cut the lead to 3-2 in the bottom half of the inning with a 2-run double off the bat of Hattie Graham. The Wildcats put another run on the board in the top of the second to make it 4-2 and extended their lead to 5-2 in the top of the third but the Bearcats responded when they returned to the plate in the bottom half of the inning.

Reese Hopper and Kynlei Storey led off with back to back singles and Graham shot a double into center field to plate Hopper and make it a 5-3 game. Four pitches later, Brooklyn Morton drove a double into deep center to score two more runs and tie things up at 5. The big inning continued with back to back RBI singles from Kylie Stracener and Abby Maples, putting Cullman in front 7-5. Stracener scored a few pitches later on a fielder's choice, Story scored on an error and Graham barreled up another 2-run double to stretch the Bearcat lead to 11-5 going into the fourth inning.

Fort Payne cut the lead to four in the top of the fourth, but Cullman answered with three more runs in the home half to maintain a 14-7 advantage. After a scoreless fifth inning, the Wildcats pushed one run across in the sixth to make it a 14-8 game. The Bearcats were still finding barrels in their half of the sixth. Leighton McGriff led off with a single, Taylor Au followed with a double and after McGriff scored on a fielder's choice, Brie Voss drove in Au with a sacrifice fly to give Cullman a 16-8 lead heading into the seventh. The 'Cats collected the final three outs in the next frame and kept their postseason hopes alive with a 16-8 win.

Five Cullman players posted multiple hits in the win, led by Graham with three hits and a team-high five RBIs, and Maples with three hits and two RBIs. Storey (two RBIs), Au (one RBI) and Stracener (one RBI) each finished with a pair of hits and Morton (two RBIs), Hopper and McGriff each added hits as well.

Buckhorn 6 – Cullman 3 (Game Three)
Cullman's bats came out hot and took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first. Abby Maples led off the inning with a single, Taylor Au followed with a double to put a pair of runners in scoring position and Brooklyn Morton drove them both in to score, putting the Bearcats on top 2-0 after the first. After a scoreless second inning, Cullman added to its lead in the third when Hattie Graham drove in Au with a sacrifice fly to make it a 3-0 game. Buckhorn responded in the top half of the fourth, plating four runs on five hits to take a 4-3 lead into the fifth.

The Bucks tacked on runs in the sixth and seventh to extend their lead to 6-3 and the Bearcats were unable to tie things up in the final frame, bringing Cullman's season to an end at 23-18-1.

Au and Maples led the Bearcats at the plate with two hits each and Morton (one hit) posted a pair of RBIs. Brie Voss, Kynlei Storey and Reese Hopper each added a hit as well.

Belgreen 12 - Meek 0 (Game One)
Belgreen struck first in their opening at-bats against Meek. An error and a ground ball helped them take a 2-0 lead. The score remained the same until the top of the third inning, as an RBI single and a three-run home run by the Lady Bulldogs quickly pushed their lead to 6-0. Belgreen continued to add onto their lead in the fifth, as they put up six more runs to take a 12-0 lead. The Lady Tigers went down in order in their half to end the game, as they were held to just four hits in their 12-0 loss to the Lady Bulldogs.

Marlee Mosley collected a pair of hits for Meek, while Carmyn Daugherty and Peyton Johnson each posted a hit in the loss.

Meek 7 - Marion County 1 (Game Two)
Meek quickly got things going in the bottom of the first against Marion County. A pair of walks and a single loaded the bases with one out for Mosley, who hit an RBI single to left field to give them the early lead. Kadence Cox drove in a run on a ground ball to make it 2-0. The Lady Tigers added to their lead in their next at-bats. An error, a walk, and a sacrifice put runners on second and third with two outs. Another error allowed Molli Sandlin and Addisyn Williams to score to give them a 4-0 lead. Later that inning, Daugherty stole home to stretch their lead to 5-0.

A pair of RBI singles by Johnson and Sandlin in the third gave Meek a 7-0 lead. Marion County hit an RBI single of their own in the top of the fourth to cut it to 7-1, but Mosley allowed just two base runners after that, and the Lady Tigers kept their season alive with a 7-1 win over the Lady Raiders.

Mosley (two hits), Cox (one hit), Johnson (one hit), and Sandlin (one hit) each drove in a run for Meek. Mosley went the distance for the Lady Tigers in the circle, allowing just five hits, one earned run, walking three and striking out three.

Sammy Confer contributed to this article.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman's season ended with a 6-3 loss to Buckhorn at the North Regional in Florence Tuesday morning.

Baileyton (from Front)

Katie Spicer
katie@cullmantribune.com

BAILEYTON, Ala. — At its monthly meeting on Monday, May 6, the Baileyton Town Council presented the Volunteer of the Year award to Jennifer Harlow.

Councilman Dewayne Sumner shared, "A volunteer is a person who steps up and does things for the betterment of others without ever really caring if they get anything in return. The person we selected really does epitomize what a volunteer is." Surrounded by family and community, Harlow humbly accepted the award. Harlow is on the advisory council at Parkside School and serves as director of the Parkside Outreach Program.

When asked about her areas of volunteer service, she smiled, "You name it, and I'll do it."

In other business, the council:

- Removed previous town clerk from accounts and added new town clerk
- Approved the purchase of a plaque for the upcoming Citizen of the Year award
- Discussed bids on new building
- Approved AirMed renewal

The next Baileyton Town Council meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on June 3, 2024, at Baileyton Town Hall, located at 95 Fire Station Road.

Toby (from Front)

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Pets are great additions to any family or household, often ending up loving, cherished members of the family. Prospective pet parents often look for a fluffy pal that can play around in the yard but also alert when danger lurks. Lucky for them, loyal and protective are two things that Toby, The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week, totally embodies.

Toby is an approximately 3-year old mixed breed male with large stature; his mix is unknown, but the staff at the Cullman County Animal Shelter is convinced he is made up of everything lovable and good. His sweet demeanor, large stature and black and brown points on his ears, left eye and tail, lend a certain similarity to The Little Rascal's pal, Petey.

This gentle giant's medium-high energy level ensures a fetch playmate or a walking and hiking buddy for years to come.

His eyes never stray far from his person when outside.

Shooting to your side when called, Toby is well on his way to becoming a well-educated pup, learning more hand signals and manners each day.

Are you ready to meet Toby? Head over to Cullman County Animal Shelter at 935 Convent Road NE, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for a meet and greet. His adoption fee of $130 includes neuter, DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet and microchip.

Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448or cullmananimalshelter@co.cullman.al.us.

Prize (from Front)

Special to The Cullman Tribune

WASHINGTON D.C. — On May 7, the Aspen Institute named Wallace State Community College as a semifinalist for the 2025 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The $1 million award is the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among community colleges. The institutions selected for this honor stand out among more than 1,000 community colleges nationwide as having high and improving levels of student success, as well as equitable outcomes for Black and Hispanic students and those from lower-income backgrounds.

"We are honored to be recognized as a semifinalist for the 2025 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and to be considered as one of best 20 community colleges in the United States by such a prestigious organization," said Wallace State President Vicki Karolewics. "Wallace State has been recognized among the top 150 colleges four times by The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program and has been intentionally focused on student success for more than a decade. To be considered as a semifinalist is a credit to our faculty and staff and their efforts to improve student outcomes."

Awarded every two years, the Aspen Prize honors colleges with outstanding performance in six critical areas: teaching and learning, certificate and degree completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment, workforce success, broad access to the college and its offerings, and equitable outcomes for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds. The winner will be announced in the spring of 2025.

Joshua Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program, congratulated the semifinalists. "Each of these colleges has demonstrated a sustained commitment to moving beyond enrollment and retention as the markers of student success to defining their success by whether the education they provide changes lives," Wyner said. "These colleges understand that enrollment and graduation matter most when tied tightly to post-graduation success in transferring for a bachelor's degree and in securing fulfilling, good-paying jobs and careers."

The semifinalists are:

- Broward College
- Georgia Highlands College
- Kingsborough Community College
- MiraCosta College
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
- Moorpark College
- North Iowa Area Community College
- Northeast Wisconsin Technical College
- Northwest Iowa Community College
- Northwest Vista College
- San Jacinto College
- Seminole State College of Florida
- South Puget Sound Community College
- Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
- State Technical College of Missouri
- Trinidad State College
- Union College of Union County, NJ
- Wallace State Community College-Hanceville
- Western Technical College
- William Rainey Harper College

The Aspen Prize selection process began in October 2023, when Aspen invited 150 community colleges to apply, based on data showing strong, improving, and equitable student outcomes in key areas such as retention, completion, and transfer.

One hundred and eighteen colleges applied, and their applications went to a diverse selection committee of 18 higher education experts who assessed each application based on extensive data and narrative answers to questions.

Following interviews with leadership teams from applicants receiving top scores, 20 semifinalists were selected.

In the coming weeks, the committee will continue its review and narrow the field to 10 finalists, which will be announced in June.

After the 10 finalists are announced, next steps in the process include:

- Fall 2024: Multiday in-person site visits to each of the 10 finalists, during which the Aspen Institute and partners will collect additional information and data, including extensive employment and earnings data on graduates from the finalist colleges.
- Winter 2025: A distinguished, independent Aspen Prize jury will review data and qualitative summaries that synthesize each part of the 14-month analyses, then meet for a full day to select the winner and others for additional recognition.
- Spring 2025: Announcement of the Aspen Prize winner and celebration of the 10 finalists in Washington DC.

To read more on the selection process, visit https://highered.aspeninstitute.org/aspen-prize.





CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Students from East and West Elementary Schools compete in a robotics showcase hosted at West Elementary School, as part of the district's creative efforts to expand STEM education.

Robots take over Cullman City Schools for showcase

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Robots staged a mini-takeover at West Elementary School this week, but don't worry, they were thankfully all under student control as part of an ambitious robotics club showcase competition.

West and East Elementary Schools had a chance to showcase the Robotics Clubs with a competition night to highlight work with VexIQ Robots. Teams competed in an interview, notebooking, skills challenge and team challenges to demonstrate collaboration, problem-solving and critical thinking skills at West Elementary School on Monday, May 6, 2024.

"Two years ago, West Elementary School initiated an after school Robotics Club to help support the vision of the CCS STEM initiative through a CMS grant utilizing VexGo Robotics," West Elementary School third-grade teacher Kristina Kallhoff explained. "West Elementary began with 30 Robotics Club members who excitedly mastered VexGo and were ready for the challenge of learning the foundations of VexIQ Robotics used at CMS. "East Elementary began an after school Robotics Club this year using VexGo and VexIQ Robotics. We are excited to bring both schools together to demonstrate what we have learned." The showcase competition was a chance for students to see what it's like to compete in actual robotics competitions, something they haven't had a chance to do quite yet since the robotics clubs have been after-school activities up to this point.

"Holding this event was a chance for our students to get a preview of what to expect at a competition," Kallhoff said. "Students gained team-building skills, became familiar with the competition and transitioned STEM exploratory ideas into the application of STEM competency."

Kallhoff noted the ability to host an event like this is a credit to the Cullman City Schools Board for establishing a K-12 comprehensive STEM vision and education, as well as the leaders at both East and West Elementary Schools for investing time and resources in STEM education. The showcase was sponsored by Branham Tire and Accessories and the West Elementary PTA. "It is an exciting time in our young students' lives to be able to foster foundational STEM skills while creating fun memories!" Kallhoff added.

Ivey signs 'most significant amendment to Alabama's public records law in over 50 years'

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Governor Kay Ivey on Wednesday, May 8, signed Senate Bill 270, a bill to set specific timelines that public entities in Alabama must follow when responding to public records requests. Sponsored by Sen. Arthur Orr and Rep. Cynthia Almond, Senate Bill 270 is the most significant amendment to Alabama's public records law in over 50 years.

Last year, upon beginning her second term as governor, Governor Ivey issued Executive Order 734, "Promoting Transparency in State Government Through Enhanced Accessibility to Public Records," to deliver on her commitment to strengthen public confidence in state government. This bill largely codifies the Governor's executive order and comes as a direct result of the governor's leadership.

By signing SB270 into law, Governor Ivey marked another step forward in improving transparency and accessibility in government – her 2023 inaugural commitment to ensure state government works with greater efficiency for all Alabamians.

"Today, we build on the foundation laid by Executive Order 734 to ensure the principle of transparency endures beyond the Ivey Administration. Transparency isn't just a buzzword – it's a commitment to letting the sunlight in and ensuring our citizens can hold their government accountable," said Ivey.

"Like EO 734, this law protects government against overly burdensome requests while meaningfully improving fairness, access and the people's right to timely insight into how their government works."

After signing SB270, the Alabama Press Association and Alabama Broadcasters Association expressed their praise for Governor Ivey's strong voice and accompanying actions in fostering an open and transparent government.

"The Alabama Press Association would like to thank Governor Ivey and her staff for working with us over the past several months on SB270, a bill that creates timelines in our Open Records Act," said Felicia Mason, Alabama Press Association executive director.

"Any citizen has the right to receive an acknowledgement and a timely response when making a request for a public record. The Governor's Office played an integral role in getting a good compromise between interested parties. We appreciate Governor Ivey's continued dedication to transparency in government."

"The Alabama Broadcasters Association (ABA) is very appreciative of the time and effort Governor Ivey and her staff committed to working on SB270 with stakeholders over many months in an effort to create timelines in the state's Open Records Act," said Alabama Broadcasters Association President Sharon Tinsley.

"In 2023, the ABA recognized Governor Ivey with an award for her Executive Order addressing public records. Now, with her signature, the governor is assuring Alabamians the right to a timely response when making a request. We applaud her continued efforts to see improvements in our open records law in Alabama."



OFFICE OF GOV. KAY IVEY

Vintage Magnolias hosting Mother's Day tea and book signing with local author Beverly Davis May 11

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Vintage Magnolias in Hanceville is set to host a Mother's Day tea and book signing event on Saturday, May 11, featuring local author Beverly Davis. The event promises a charming afternoon of tea, shopping and fellowship, starting at noon, with the author arriving around 11:45 a.m. for early attendees.

Maggie Sotelo, owner of Vintage Magnolias, described the event as a special celebration of motherhood. "We want to honor all moms with a special time of food, fellowship and the opportunity to meet a young woman of God," she explained.

Guests will have the unique opportunity to meet Davis and purchase her new book, "A Cup of Tea and Devotions," which includes a personal gift from the author. The book, a 40-day women's devotional, shares Davis' personal experiences alongside Bible verses for encouragement, paired with tea recipes that offer health and calming benefits. It aims to inspire and uplift its readers, making it a perfect gift for Mother's Day.

Sotelo, inspired to support new talent like Davis, especially women in the arts, said she sees the event as an ideal blend of community support and celebration.

"As a minority, woman-owned business, I am all about supporting young and upcoming women in the arts," Sotelo said. "We support local vendors and artists. This event celebrates moms from all walks of life! Many of our vendors are talented mothers who also love to share their craft and fellowship with other artists." In addition to the book signing, the event will feature drawings for special Mother's Day giveaways, including a gift basket with handpicked items and a mystery gift from the owner herself. Attendees can also enjoy sales throughout the store, which supports local vendors and artists, many of whom are talented mothers.

"Why Vintage Magnolias? We want to offer more than a shopping experience. It's all about the details and creating a welcoming environment, making ladies feel special so they want to keep coming back!" Sotelo added.

For further details or inquiries about the event, guests are encouraged to contact Maggie Sotelo directly at Vintage Magnolias by calling 256-385-0652 or visiting the store's Facebook page.

Topre (from Front)

a staffing agency for advertised open positions at the Topre America manufacturing plant in Cullman," said Dale Greer, director of the Cullman Economic Development Agency.

"These are legal residents, most of whom are already working in neighboring communities, who are applying for jobs in Cullman that offer a better wage and benefit package," he said.

Cullman County Commission Chairman Jeff Clemons said, "I don't think it's anything for anyone to be concerned about. These people are just trying to get jobs like everyone else. They're coming to the career center from other agencies across Alabama, to be hired at Topre and maybe some jobs at REHAU."

Topre America Corporation is headquartered in Cullman, with other facilities in Mississippi, Tennessee and Ohio. Reports from the last unemployment report from the Alabama Department of Labor (ADOL) show Cullman had the second lowest unemployment rate in Alabama at 2.5% in March with many local businesses and industries have unfilled jobs.

According to Tara Hutchinson, communications director for ADOL, the statement made in the online blog post were completely false. "At no time were there any buses or vans," she said.

Greer reiterated by saying, "We have spoken with Topre, the Cullman Career Center and the communications director for the Alabama Department of Labor to verify this information.

"I can dispel the rumor that this is a government program, that illegals are being brought here in busses or that this is in some way connected to a border crossing project."

Greer went on to say, "It is a terrible disservice to our community, the State of Alabama and Topre America for a social media blog to disseminate unsubstantiated claims that spark controversy."

Said Hutchinson, "This is a normal business day for the Cullman Career Center, which, along with the other 56 Career Centers located across Alabama, works to match suitable employees with available jobs."

Hutchinson told The Tribune the applicants had nothing do with a federal program, but staffing for a local manufacturer.

"A staffing agency representing Torpe America has been interviewing potential candidates at the Cullman Career Center for the past several days," said Hutchinson.

"They are looking to fill manufacturing and production positions. More than 100 people have visited the Career Center to be considered for these positions."

Greer concluded saying, "Topre has worked with the State of Alabama on several expansions and has never failed to meet all state hiring requirements."

Clemons echoed Greer's sentiment by saying, "They're not here illegally, and if they're going to apply for the job and work, I don't see anything wrong with it. Everybody needs workers, and everybody has a job to do. Cullman County is blessed; we have more industrials here than we have people to fill these jobs."

Anyone interested in these jobs or other Career Center services should visit www.labor.alabama.gov.

Publisher's note: While at the Career Center no buses or vans were observed, only cars and SUVs driven by those seeking work.

LEGALS

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicle, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned motor vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80:

2001 GMC Sierra, gold, VIN#1GTEC191T1Z163310

If not claimed, this vehicle will be sold for towing, repair and work done. Sale date is Saturday, June 8, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. Call Vance Johnson at 256-339-5752.

NOTICE OF COMPLETION (3,000,000 Gallon Water Storage Tank on Woodland Tank Painting and Repair)

In accordance with Section 39-1-1, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, notice is hereby given that G & L Tank Sandblasting and Coatings LLC has completed the Contract for 3,000,000 Gallon Water Storage Tank on Woodland Tank Painting and Repair for City of Cullman, Cullman, Alabama, and has made request for final settlement as provided by the Contract. All persons having any claims for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify City of Cullman, 204 2nd Ave NE, Cullman, AL 35055. G & L Tank Sandblasting and Coatings LLC, 2101 Hwy 64 West, Shelbyville, TN 37160.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE *
*
MARGARET ANN MILLIS, * CASE NO. PC-2024-039
*
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: Christal Cookenmaster
4702 County Road 40
Arley, AL 35541

You will please take notice that the 13 day of June, 2024, at 11:30 o'clock A m. has been appointed the day and time for hearing the *Petition For Letters of Administration With The Will Annexed* filed by Michael J. Baggett, Attorney for Petitioner, Lageita Carol Watkins Harris at which time you can appear and contest the same, if you see proper.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Court this 6 day of May, 2024.

Lageita Carol Watkins Harris
Petitioner

Attorney for Petitioner:
Michael J. Baggett
Baggett & Wilson, L.C.C.
206 Ninth Street Southwest, Suite 102
Cullman, AL 35055
256-737-0740

TO: Publisher
The Cullman Tribune

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
MARRION KEY, * **CASE NO.: PC2023-333**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to RHONDA KEY, as Personal Representative of the Estate of MARRION KEY, deceased, on the 30th 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 be barred.

RHONDA KEY
Personal Representative

Pamela E. Nail
Attorney for Personal Representative
200 Second Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Telephone: (256) 734-3342

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
THOMAS FRANKLIN GOLDEN, * **CASE NO.: PC2024-142**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to STACY GOLDEN ETHEREDGE, as Personal Representative of the Estate of THOMAS FRANKLIN GOLDEN, deceased, on the 23rd day of April, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

STACY GOLDEN ETHEREDGE
Personal Representative

Maurine C. Evans
The Evans Law Firm, P.C.
1736 Oxmoor Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35209
205-870-1970

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF:
THE ESTATE OF TERRY LYNN HATLEY, DECEASED

CASE NO.: PC2024-108

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration have been granted BARBARA AKINS as Personal Representative of the Estate of TERRY LYNN HATLEY, deceased, on the 23rd day of April, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

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

s/ BARBARA AKINS
Personal Representative

Zachary Starnes
Attorney for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 2688
Decatur, Alabama 35602-2688

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF)
DEBORAH BETTY SEAGROVES,) CASE NO PC 2023-172
Deceased.)

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR DECLARATION OF INSOLVENCY AND FINAL DISCHARGE

TO: HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY OF CULLMAN COUNTY
CULLMAN EMERGENCY MEDICAL
FRANKLIN SERVICE, INC FOR DECATUR MORGAN HOSPITAL
FRANKLIN SERVICE, INC FOR THE HEART CENTER
PHILLIPS & COHEN ASSOCIATES, LTD ON BEHALF OF JEFFERSON CAPITAL SYSTEMS, LLC
PHILLIPS & COHEN ASSOCIATES, LTD ON BEHALF OF CF MEDICAL, LLC
ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN OR INTEREST PARTIES

Please take notice that a *Petition of Personal Representative for Declaration of Insolvency and Final Discharge*, was filed on the 19th day of April, 2024, made court record the 26th day of April, 2024, by Shay Persall, Personal Representative, by and through Attorney, Steven C. Smith. A hearing on said Petition has been **Set for the 17th day of June, 2024, at 11:30 A.M.**, Cullman County Courthouse, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman, AL 35055.

DONE this 30th day of April, 2024.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for Personal Representative
PO Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
LINDA M. BOYD, * **CASE NO PC 2023-262**
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

TO: TYLER EPHESIANS BOYD, CAMERON BRYANT DUVALL and ANNA CHRISTINE DUVALL, AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES

Petition for Final Settlement filed the 22nd day of March, 2024, made court record the 28th day of March, 2024, by Enika Shalon Duvall, by and through her attorney of record, Michael R. Burleson, has been scheduled for the **25th day of June, 2024, at 11:30 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 30th day of April, 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.

Michael R. Burleson
Attorney for Petitioner
200 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256) 620-0007

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
SYBLE F. OSMER, * CASE NO. PC2023-265
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: JAMES ROBERT WEBB, JR., MICHAEL KEVIN SCHAFER, JR., MAGEN LASHAY SCHAFER, ANITA FAY DAVENPORT, LORETTA LYNN SCHAFER AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES.

Petition for Probate of Will for the Estate of Syble F. Osmer, Deceased, was filed the 10th day of August, 2023, made court record the 11th day of August, 2023, by William Osmer, Petitioner, through Attorney Pamela E. Nail. A hearing on this matter has been rescheduled for the **20th day of May, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County Courthouse, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman, 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 23rd day of April, 2024.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
LEWIS NATE TERRY, * CASE NO. PC2022-053
Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: CHARLCIE HENSLEY, LAURIE POUNDERS, JOSEPH TERRY, J.H. TERRY, DEBBIE SHEPARD, BEVERLY BELL, AND ELVIE PROCTOR, AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES.

Petition for Probate of Will, Amended Petition for Probate of Will and Amended Petition for Probate of Will for the Estate of Lewis Nate Terry, Deceased, filed by Alvin Terry, Petitioner, through Attorney Melvin Hasting. A hearing on this matter has been rescheduled for the **20th day of May, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County Courthouse, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman, 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 23rd day of April, 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.

Melvin Hasting
Attorney for Petitioner
P.O. Box 517
Cullman, AL 35056

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
ELDRIGE RAY FULENWIDER, * CASE NO. PC 2024 - 135
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE: Letters Testamentary having been granted to Gayla Denene Pierce as Personal Representative of the Estate of Eldrige Ray Fulenwider, deceased, on the 23rd day April, 2024, all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Gayla Denene Pierce
Gayla Denene Pierce
Personal Representative

Shay Persall

Attorney for Personal Representative

SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 Seventh Street, SW
Cullman, AL 35055
Telephone: (256) 841-7800

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
WILLIAM EDWARD CHECKON, * CASE NO. PC2023-282
An alleged incapacitated person. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF CONSERVATORSHIP AND GUARDIANSHIP

TO: MICHAEL CHECKON, MARYANN CHECKON, HELEN VOLOCH AND ANY AND ALL KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES.

Petition for Letters of Conservatorship and Guardianship was filed the 28th day of August, 2023, made court record the 29thday of August, 2023, by Carol E. Hulgan, Petitioner. Attorney for Petitioner, Richard L. Collins. A hearing on this matter has been rescheduled for the **20th day of May, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County Courthouse, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman, 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 23rd day of April, 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.

Richard L. Collins
Attorney for Petitioner
PO Box 669
Cullman, AL 35056

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Eddie M Forster And Spouse Glenda A Forster to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for AHL Mortgage, Inc., its successors and assigns dated August 14, 2007; said mortgage being recorded on September 7, 2007, in Book 1536, Page 419 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust by assignment recorded in Deed Book 377, Page 290 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, ALABAMA.

The undersigned, US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on the 30th day of May, 2024 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

A part of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 23,Township 10 South, Range 1 West, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a found 1-1/2 inch pipe marking the Northeast Corner of said Section 23; thence South 0 degrees 32 minutes 11 seconds West a distance of 2014.18 feet to a found iron at the Southeast Corner of Lot 9 of Richmond Estates Subdivision (Plat Book B, Page 323 A); thence South 1 degree 37 minutes 21 seconds West along the accepted east line of said forty a distance of 347.32 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron and the true point of beginning of the property herein described; thence from said true point of beginning, continue South 1 degree 37 minutes 21 seconds West along said accepted east line a distance of 313.01 feet to a found 5/8 inch rebar iron marking the accepted Southeast Corner of the above described forty; thence North 89 degrees 29 minutes 36 seconds West the accepted south line of said forty a distance of 153.55 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron; thence North 1 degree 37 minutes 10 seconds East a distance of 313.95 feet to a set 5/8 inch rebar iron; thence South 89 degrees 08 minutes 34 seconds East a distance of 153.55 feet to the true point of beginning.

Said property is commonly known as 741 County Road 695, Holly Pond, AL 35083.

Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal description will control.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage.

US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC
Two North Twentieth
2 20th Street North, Suite 1000
Birmingham, AL 35203
(205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 23-04683AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Cullman Tribune
05/02/2024,05/09/2024,05/16/2024

LEGALS

Legal Notice
Staci Bryan is not reliable for any and all debts, Cullman and Cullman County. 925 County Road 792, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

Staci Bryan
staciphillips356@gmail.com
256-470-4875

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *

PEGGY JO MANN-GRACE, * CASE NO. PC 2024 - 169

Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration have been granted to Steven Matthew Putnam, as Administrator of the Estate of Peggy Jo Mann-Grace, deceased, on the 8th day of May, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, and that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Steven Matthew Putnam

Shay Persall
SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 Seventh Street, SW
Cullman AL 35055
(256) 841-7800

Attorney for Administrator

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of publication.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

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Cattle Sale – Tuesday - 8:30 a.m.

Obituary Announcements: May 7-8

George Marion Teague, 62
George Marion Teague of Vinemont, Alabama passed away May 7, 2024. George graduated Vinemont High School in 1981 and went on to serve our country in the US Air Force for two years. Following his return from service, George received his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Athens State College in April of 2016. George worked with The Lighthouse of Cullman (a non-profit rehabilitation center) for some time before pursuing a career in industrial maintenance for West Rock Packaging. George was an outdoorsman as some of his favorite past times included gardening, fishing, and grilling. He was also very handy. George could be counted on to fix almost anything and build things from the ground up. George was someone who believed in giving as many chances as someone needed, no matter the circumstances, to help them overcome the obstacles they faced. He was notably proficient in mathematics and regarded as a kind and patient teacher to anyone who asked about the subject. George is preceded in death by his wife Billie Jean Teague, father William D. Teague, brothers William D. and Wilford D. Teague, paternal grandparents Louise E. Webb & William A Teague, and maternal grandparents Annie & Leo J. Friedrich. George is survived by his mother Dolores Teague, sisters Fharis (Ted) Richter and Jacqueline (Jeff) Hill, niece Morganne Richter, and nephew Quintin Richter. George will be remembered for his unwavering patriotism, extreme dedication to Alabama football, curious interest in Native American culture, and his overall kindness and generosity. Visitation will start Friday, May 10, at 8:30 a.m., with a rosary service at 9:15 a.m., and a funeral mass to follow at 10 a.m., at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 217 2nd St SE, Cullman, AL 35055. Internment to follow at Cullman Memory Gardens 1516 Bolte Rd SE, Cullman, AL 35055.

Christopher Glenn Rhodes, 62
Funeral services for Christopher Glenn Rhodes, originally of Good Hope, will be 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at Mt. Joy Baptist Church. Burial will follow the service in the adjoining cemetery. Visitation will be prior to the service from noon until 2 p.m. at Mt. Joy Baptist Church. Mr. Rhodes was born May 2, 1962, in Birmingham, Alabama and passed away May 6, 2024, at Grandview Medical Center. Mr. Rhodes, a God-fearing man whose devotion to his faith was surpassed only by his love for his family. He was a beloved father and grandfather, whose kindness and compassion touched the lives of all who knew him. Christopher found solace and inspiration within the pages of his bible, drawing strength from its teachings throughout his life's journey. Additionally, he had a passion for working-out and enjoyed strumming the strings of his guitar, sharing his love of music with those around him. Though he may have left this earthly realm, his legacy of faith, love, and devotion will continue to inspire and uplift all who were fortunate enough to know him. Mr. Rhodes is survived by his children, Mary Sturgeon (Johnny), Christian Madison and Gloria Tucker; grandchildren, J. R. Sturgeon, Riley Sturgeon, Silas Sturgeon, Evelynn "Rosie" Sturgeon, Caleb Tucker, Gabriel Tucker, and Elisha Madison; mother, Patricia Tubbs-Rhodes; father, Jimmy Rhodes; siblings, Barry Rhodes (Denise), Laurie Holcombe (Paul); nieces and nephews, Matthew Rhodes, Ryan Rhodes, Timothy Holcombe, Sarah Holcombe.

Pascal Eugene Nelson, 'Billy', 82
Services will be held at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home on Wednesday May 8, 2024, at 2 p.m. with Rev. Delbert Freeman and Wade Warren officiating. Visitation will be from noon to 2 p.m. on May 8, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. The burial for Mr. Nelson will be at Union Grove Cemetery in Holly Pond, Alabama. Pascal Eugene Nelson, "Billy", 82 of Cullman, passed away peacefully in his home on Monday, May 6, 2024, surrounded by family. Billy was born on Feb. 15, 1942, to Gurley and Birdie Weaver Nelson. Billy loved the Lord and was a member of Cullman First Congregational Methodist Church. He also loved all Alabama sports, but especially football. His family believes Billy was ready to return to the Lord, so he didn't have to experience a season of Alabama Football without Saban as coach. Billy was a huge Braves fan and loved to watch wrestling. Besides sports and family, Billy loved to play bingo and attended as many senior events as he could around town with his sister, Judy. He was the best Santa for his family and loved ones (even if he was a little too skinny for the role). He would sing loud and proud each Sunday at church and had great pride in all that he did. However, his absolute greatest pride was his family. His home was always filled on holidays with family and food, the sound of laughter carrying through the front door and out the back. It was hard to not smile around him because he would always give the best hugs and his grin lit up the room. Billy will be greatly missed by his sisters, Janette Owens, Judy Nelson, and Kathy (Delone) Dunn, and a brother, Ronnie (Kaythy) Nelson. He loved his nieces and nephews like his own children, and they will forever hold him in their hearts: Gyzelle (Wade) Warren, Donna Whittle, Steve (Tammy) Knight, John Knight, Jen (Nikie) Hunter, Michael Logan, Katrina Bice, and Jocelyn Logan. He is also survived by a host of great nieces and nephews, and even a couple of great-great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Euel Audrey Nelson, and his twin sister, Patsy Jean Knight. Services will be held at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Rita Ann Sparman, 78
Rita Ann Sparman, known to most as Maw-Maw, 78 years of age, of Empire, Alabama went to be with her Heavenly Father on Friday May 3, 2024. She was born in Birmingham, Alabama on April 2, 1946. Preceded in death by her husband Fred Rutkowski who passed away in June 2023; her first husband James Donald Sparman (known to most as JD or Mickey), they had 4 wonderful, adventurous daughters together, he passed away February 2005. Her Father Henry Fortenberry, Mother Lettie Jarvis, brothers Jack Fortenberry and Tommy Fortenberry, sister Sherron Minton, grandson Kevin Comer Jr (known as KC), and two granddaughters Rachel Lake and Wanda Comer. She will be extremely missed by her brother Don (Carol) Fortenbury, sister Ruby Gentry, half-brother Gary White; four Daughters Charlotte Sparman, Connie Sparman, Donna (Keith) Wilson, and Mary Sparman; six Grandchildren Amanda Sparman, Joseph (Krystal) Stasko, Christina (David) Lowe, Crystal (David) Willingham, Nicole Comer, and James (Haley) Wilson; 15 Great Grandchildren Michael Sparman, Tommy Lee Franklin, Devon Smith, Garrett Lybrand, Landon Williams, Katie Stasko, Dustin (Michelle) Willingham, Trinity Willingham, Matthew Tyler Willingham, Chloe Willingham, Kinsley Wilson, Paislee Wilson, Weston Wilson, Briana Hopkins, Angel (Dustin) Love, DJ Lowe, and Anastasia Lowe; four Great Great Grandchildren Ameliah Dinatale, Able Willingham, Atticus Willingham, and David Kane Willingham; along with tons of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. She worked at Golden Flake for 15 – 20 years; while there she was able to meet and have pictures taken with several famous people, including Paul 'Bear' Bryant, Gene Stallings, Pat Dye, Mike DuBose, and many more. She enjoyed spending time with her family and being around those that love her. The family will receive friends at Moss Service Funeral Home on Tuesday May 7, 2024, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The Funeral Services will be held on the same day at 1 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home with Bro. Harold Donald officiating. Interment will follow services in Flint Creek Cemetery in Vinemont.

Brenda Bailey, 81
Funeral service for Brenda Kay Bailey, age 81, of Hanceville, is Friday, May 10, 2024, at 12:30 p.m., at Shelton Grove Baptist Church in Cold Springs. Mrs. Bailey will lie in state from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the church. Interment will be held immediately after, at New Salem Baptist Cemetery located at 590 Center Grove Rd. Somerville, AL 35670. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Bailey was born Dec. 12, 1942, to Woodrow Wilson Ryan, Sr. and Joyce E. Burleson Ryan in Jasper, Alabama. She passed from this life on May 7, 2024. She is preceded in death by her parents; brother, Jimmy Dale Ryan; sister, Nina Jean Maples. She is survived by her loving husband of 60 years, Lacy Richard Bailey; two sons, Harold Bailey, and Travis Bailey; one daughter, Regina Dale White (Byron); sisters, Ramonia Joyce Kimble (Dale), Connie Ann Smith; grandchildren, Seth Harrison Bailey (Jackie), Kelsi Briana White, Austin Tyler Bailey (Jessica), Parker Evan Bailey (Becky), Blair Trenton Bailey (Tiara); great-grandchildren, Gavin Bailey, Krew Bailey, Elena Bailey, Tripp Bailey, and Noah Bailey; a host of family and friends. Brenda loved farm life, especially canning vegetables from her garden, planting beautiful flowers, and feeding and admiring birds. She is also remembered by family as a fierce protector of her husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She loved nothing more than being with them to laugh and enjoy each other's company. She loved to read, and she truly enjoyed life to the fullest. She was a member of Macedonia Baptist Church when she was able to attend. Brenda will be very missed by the ones she loved and who love her. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Brandi Herron Elrod, 47
Brandi Herron Elrod, age 47, passed from this life on Tuesday May 7, 2024, at her home in New Port Richey, Florida. Brandi was born Feb. 10, 1977, in Pikeville, Kentucky. She was the oldest daughter of Curtis Harold Herron. Brandi loved Jesus first and foremost. She was passionate about making others laugh. Brandi loved her family and friends, but most of all she adored her daughter, Lindsee. She loved all things Jeep, the water, turtles, butterflies, her music, UK Wildcats, and the Kansas City Chiefs. She will be greatly missed by all that knew and loved her. Brandi was preceded in death by her grandparents, Curt Herron and Kathleen Herron of Manchester, Kentucky. Brandi leaves behind to cherish her memory, her husband, Roger Elrod of New Port Richey, Florida; her daughters, Lindsee Leeann of New Port Richey, Florida, and Ashley Layne (Cody) of Cullman Alabama; her grandchildren Levi, Maddie, Chandler, Briar, and Branch of Cullman, Alabama; her father, Curtis Herron of Pikeville, Kentucky; her two sisters, Cassandra Herron of London, Kentucky; Bethani Morgan (Josh) of Somerset, Kentucky; her nephew and niece Brantley Bruner and Oaklee Morgan of Somerset, Kentucky; her grandma Renee Cross, of New Port Richey, Florida; along with a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. There will be a celebration of life held on Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 1-3 p.m. at Manchester Gospel Mission in Manchester, Kentucky with Pastor Tess Lipps officiating.

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THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!

The Link community education courses beginning May 13

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Link of Cullman County is knee-deep in preparations for its community education classes that are set to begin on May 13.

"The Link is driven to empower individuals and families to build sustainable paths toward self-sufficiency and resilience. We not only want to provide services that meet vital, immediate needs but also to foster long-term connections and opportunities for life-enhancing growth," said Director of Programs Julie Hall. "We can only do this through collaboration and partnerships with organizations, volunteers and community members."

The free classes begin Monday, May 13, at The Link. Topics ranging from active parenting and cooperative co-parenting strategies and a 12-step program are included. One of the offered courses, "Understanding Dad" delves deeper into the importance of a father figure in children's lives; communication strategies and tips will be shared to assist in strengthening parenting partnerships for the benefit of the child involved, ultimately leaving mothers and caregivers with valuable knowledge and the ability to ease the burden of a tumultuous parenting relationship.

Another class, "Anger Management arms," will arm attendees with tactics to control their anger and impulses in situations that may be less than ideal.

This course will assist in identifying some of the underlying causes of anger and external outbursts and expressions of anger, encouraging the participants to move toward internal management.

"I was having a particularly heated argument with my wife. As tensions escalated and emotions ran high, I felt myself on the verge of erupting in anger. However, instead of reacting impulsively, I remembered to apply mindfulness techniques. I took a deep breath, centered myself and reminded myself to respond with clarity and composure," shared a recent course graduate.

"By remaining calm and collected, I was able to express myself effectively, articulate my concerns and listened attentively to my wife's perspective. We were able to communicate more openly, address underlying issues and work towards finding mutually acceptable solutions."

Monday, May 13, kicks off the courses with Understanding Dad at 10:30 a.m., followed by Anger Management at 3 p.m. and Parenting Birth to 5 Years, which outlines various styles of parenting along with stages of child development and bond building that often go hand-in-hand at 4 p.m.

Tuesday, May 14, at 4 p.m. sees Active Parenting, a comprehensive and in-depth parenting program aimed at helping parents of children ages 5 to 12 raise responsible, cooperative children who can resist negative peer pressure and thrive.

Thursday, May 16, at 3:30 p.m. will be the Cooperative Co-Parenting course. This program helps separated parents with shared custody shield their children from ongoing and potentially damaging parental conflict. Parents learn to navigate through the process of recovery with their children while establishing a cooperative long-term relationship.

Each Tuesday and Thursday, year-round, The Link hosts a Biblically-based 12-step program at noon.

While the classes are free to attend, interested attendees must register by scanning the provided QR code, by contacting The Link at 256-775-0028 or by emailing Julie Hall at juliehall@linkingcullman.org.

The Link of Cullman County is located at 708 Ninth St. SE in Cullman.

Holly Pond increases budgets for infrastructure, prepares to update scrapyard ordinance

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. — The Holly Pond Town Council on Monday passed amendments to add funds to two infrastructure budgets, pointing to the cost of recently completed and planned projects. The amendments add a total of $35,000 to the Street and Park Lighting budgets for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Mayor Carla Hart said the Town had repaired a sinkhole in front of Holly Pond High School at a cost of $28,300, depleting the Street budget. For other planned projects, the council approved a $20,000 increase to the budget.

A proposed upgrade to lighting at Governors Park was estimated to cost $8,050, covering a new pole and lights for the parking area, along with lights for the back of the walking track and repairs to the existing lighting system. The council approved the $8,050 expenditure, then voted to add $15,000 to the Park Lighting budget. Hart also brought up the possibility of adding restrooms for the park behind town hall, for future planning.

Scrapyard ordinance update proposed

The council held a first reading for an updated scrapyard ordinance in response to a request from Jared Ibrahim, owner of BNF Metals, to modify the Town ordinance that governs activities at his scrapyard on the east side of Holly Pond on U.S. Highway 278.

Holly Pond's scrapyard ordinance was written last year specifically in response to Ibrahim's plan to locate his facility inside town limits. The current ordinance prohibits burning of any materials at the facility and, in making the request, Ibrahim noted that residential neighbors around him routinely burn garbage and yard debris, and he asked to be allowed to do the same.

According to Hart, Ibrahim agreed to burn no hazardous materials.

Holly Pond currently has no ordinance governing the burning of garbage, except the clause in the scrapyard ordinance.

The proposed update removed the prohibition against any burning, and replaced it with the clause "Any burning on the premises shall comply with State law."

The council can vote on the ordinance at its next meeting.

Policies and fees for records requests set

The council approved a resolution that establishes procedures and creates forms for public records requests, and sets fees.

According to the resolution, requests for records must be made in writing by a person who can show that "he or she has a direct, legitimate interest in the documents sought."

Records approved for viewing will be shown in town hall, and cannot be removed from the building.

The resolution sets the following fee schedule for copies of records:

- $1 per page if transmitted by electronic means
- $1 per page for black and white copies
- $2 per page for color copies
- Public Records Requests entailing research shall assess a $30 per hour fee or a $7.50 per quarter hour incremental fee. All fees must be paid in advance.
- An additional fee of 50 cents per page will apply if the applicant requests the records be mailed or faxed.
- Cost for requests that require minimal time and resources may be waived by the town clerk.

The Holly Pond Town Council meets at 6 p.m. on the first Monday of each month at the Guy Hunt Library. The public is invited to attend.

Center (from Front)

intricate part of our program so I'm thankful for the City of Hanceville's council and mayor for allowing us to use the facility and I know it's going to help build our program.

Bulldogs Head Coach Wayne Davidson believes the added practice time in the facility will help develop the program's players even further and give them a chance to be more competitive statewide.

"I did a little research on the last several state champions in each classification and every single one of them had an indoor facility, so I think that says it all right there as far as how important it is," Davidson said.

"It's close enough to the school where we can do our prep work here and get ready before games and when we're playing an away game, we can come over here first to warm up.

"Not only can we hit, our pitchers can do their warmups here too so it's going to make a huge difference.

"It also becomes kind of a home, even more so than the field.

"We're still furnishing it, but this has already become our home."

Fairview (from Front)

Katie Spicer
katie@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — At its monthly meeting on Monday, May 6, the Fairview Town Council voted to assist the Fairview Volunteer Fire Department with some necessary purchases.

Fire Chief Alan Miner requested that the council consider assisting the fire department with its purchase of new hoses, AED adapters and other medical supplies.

Miner also discussed the fire department's new accounting system that is in the process being implemented. He reassured the council that this new financial system will create transparency in the VFD's spending and also ensure the department is eligible to apply for grants by August 2024.

Miner stated, "If y'all see any way clear to help us, we would appreciate it and any little bit will help. I'm looking forward to working with the Town. I want everything else to be in the past; we're looking forward."

Councilman Steve Eddleman made a motion to fully cover all needs for the department up to $12,000. The motion was unanimously approved.

In other business, the council:

- Received proposals from CDG Engineering for park plans
- Approved a motion to pay bills
- Approved renewal of AirEvac coverage

The next Fairview Town Council meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on June 3, 2024, at Fairview Town Hall, located at 7525 Alabama Highway 69.

