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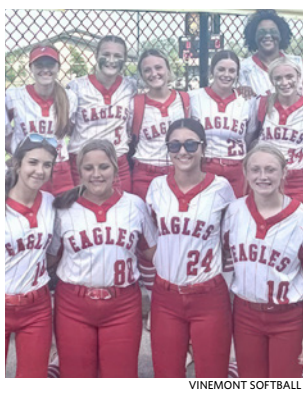
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VINEMONT SOFTBALL

– SPORTS –

Vinemont eliminated at 3A East Regional Tournament

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‘I promised Curt I would never let him be forgotten’

Annual Clothed in Cullman event raises funds for Curt’s Closet

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Curt’s Closet held its largest fundraiser of the year on Thursday night, May 9, at Stone Bridge Farms’ Browne Stone Centre. The house was packed for the sold-out event, and the community showed up with support and love for Ashley Wilson and her nonprofit, which was founded in honor of her son Curtis Wilson who was tragically killed in 2017. Curt’s Closet keeps his memory alive by clothing the community’s children in need and showing them that they have value and are cherished parts of the community.

The annual event raises funds for the » PAGE 8



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Curt’s Closet Founder Ashley Wilson delivers an emotional speech at Clothed in Cullman on May 9, 2024.

Best in Show

CHS art student Lane McLeod wins U.S. Congressional Art Competition



CULLMAN HIGH SCHOOL

CHS student Lane McLeod with her winning artwork, which will be displayed at the U.S. Capitol for one year

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — A young artist from Cullman High School has won the prestigious Best in Show award for the 4th Congressional District’s Annual Art Competition.

CHS student Lane McLeod was awarded a trophy and scholarship, and her watercolor painting of Sacred Heart in downtown Cullman will be on display in the Cannon Tunnel at the Capitol in Washington D.C. for one year. She will also receive a full scholarship to Wallace State Community College, and » PAGE 3



CULLMAN HIGH SCHOOL

FACT CHECK

Potential Topre America employees not undocumented

» PAGE 4

OP-ED

To the single mother on Mother’s Day



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Happy Mother's Day to you, Mom. Thanks for all you have always done. » PAGE 7

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Fairview’s McDonald, Calvarese sign with Wallace State



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

» PAGE 3

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported May 10

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported May 9, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

May 6

- domestic violence; Hwy. 157
- theft of property; CR 1428
- domestic violence; CR 1160
- Harassment; Hwy. 91

May 7

- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 747
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; CR 1223
- harassment; CR 223
- harassment; CR 109
- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; CR 1234

May 8

- domestic violence; CR 1094
- violation of protection order; CR 1605
- harassment; CR 1609
- criminal mischief; CR 1437
- theft of property; CR 437
- burglary; CR 750
- trespassing; CR 728
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of marijuana; resisting arrest; giving false name to law enforcement officers; Hwy. 278E
- theft of property; CR 437
- theft of property; CR 1094

ARRESTS

May 6-8

Baker, Mark A.; 56
- assault- shooting into occupied building
- assault-domestic – reckless endangerment
- reckless endangerment

Blackmon, Joshua D.; 38
- possession of dangerous drugs
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- resisting arrest
- obstructing justice using a false identity
- illegal possession of prescription drugs

Boyd, Lacie M.; 27
- FTA – burglary
- FTA – theft-pickpocket, $1500-$2500

Chafin, Jared G.; 43
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Cordes, Kennith E.; 63
- assault-simple assault

Filippone Jr., Vincent E.; 48
- fraud – swindle/home repair
- tax/revenue-licenses required; exceptions; fees. (home building and home improvement industries)

Fitzgerald II, Alan R.; 43
- FTA - possession of dangerous drugs (4 counts)
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia (4 counts)
- FTA – criminal trespass (2 counts)

Grant, Steven L.; 36
- FTA – promote prison contraband (drugs)
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs (2 counts)
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Green, Brittney L.; 29
- FTA – burglary
- FTA – theft-shoplifting, $1500-2500

Hall, David R.; 68
- FTA – public intoxication

Harris, Nathan D.; 35
- FTA – driving while license suspended
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- criminal mischief – damaged property
- criminal trespass

Hernandez, Mario G.; 22
- public intoxication

Jacobs, Jenny M.; 51
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree (2 counts)

Keeton, Charles L.; 62
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – DUI

Kratz, Jesse P.; 43
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs (3 counts)
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)

Lawson, Garrett B.; 22
- FTA – DUI (combined substance)
- FTA – improper lane usage

Mccay, Hannah M.; 24
- unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle (2 counts)
- receiving stolen property, $500-less than $1500
- possession stolen property, $1500 or more

Pennington, Christopher C.; 62
- drug trafficking

Speakman, Tyler L.; 29
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Stevens, Leroy C.; 41
- assault-domestic-harassment-family
- criminal trespass

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

May 4
- duty upon striking fixtures upon highway; Kay Jewelers; damaged bollard; $200; Olive St. SW

May 7
- unlawful breaking entering of motor vehicle; theft of property-2nd degree; miscellaneous; 2nd Ave. SW

May 8
- identity theft; person
- theft of property-1st degree; person; '99 Suzuki, '92 Honda, '82 Suzuki, vehicle parts; 14th St. SE
- Domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Brunner St. NW
- theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; miscellaneous; $48; Hwy. 157

May 9
- criminal mischief-1st degree; person; damage to '23 Dodge Challenger; $7,585
- theft of property-4th degree; criminal trespass-3rd degree; WildWater Cullman; miscellaneous; Field of Miracles Dr. SW

ARRESTS

May 8-9

Cottingham, Jody W.; 34
- Domestic violence

Cook, Kelly L.; 61
- harassing communications

Francis, Robert A.; 53
- FTA – duty upon striking unattended vehicle

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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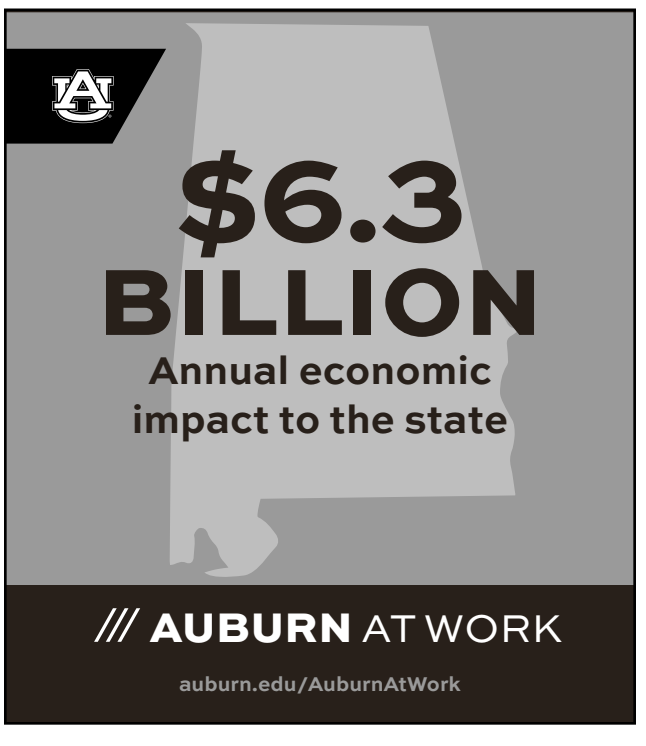
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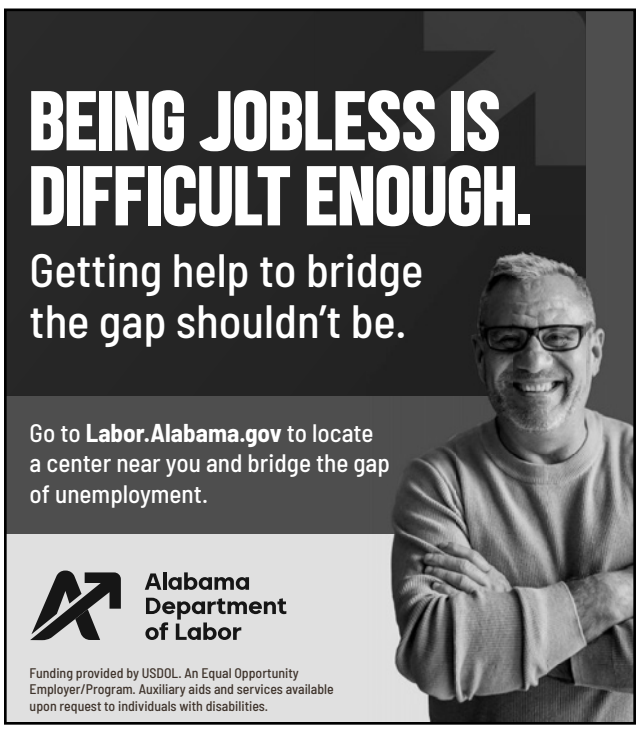












COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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.
• 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.

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.

U.S. Postal Service Job Fair
The Cullman Post Office has an immediate need for the following positions to be filled: Rural Carrier Associate (RCA) and Assistant Rural Carrier (ARC). Wednesday, May 15, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Cullmn Post Office, 500 Main Ave. SW, Cullman. AL 35055.

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.

Rummage Sale
Friday, May 17, 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 18, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. at Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church (located on Saint Joseph Street in Cullman). Huge annual sale with lots of items for young and old alike. Come and bring a friend.

Hamm Family Reunion
Saturday, May 18, at noon, at the Hanceville Lions Club, 111 Michelle St. NW, Hanceville. Please bring a covered dish. For more information, contact Scott Hamm at 256-924-6272.

Fairview (from Front)

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — Congratulations to Fairview High School's Abby McDonald (left) and Ava Calvarese (right) on signing to continue their playing careers with the Wallace State Lions.

"I just want to thank God for giving me the ability to play this sport for so long," Calvarese said. "I want to thank my parents for putting in so much money and time, my coaches for always pushing me to be my best no matter what, my teammates because we've been through some ups and downs throughout the years, but we always have a good time together"

"I want to thank God and my family for supporting me on this crazy journey," McDonald said. "Without them I definitely would not be committing to be a libero or a DS for a college team. I'm so grateful for my grandparents and my team and everyone who was there for me."

McLeod (from Front)

roundtrip travel to see her artwork.

Each spring, the Congressional Institute sponsors a nationwide high school visual art competition to recognize and encourage artistic talent throughout the nation, and in each congressional district. Since the Artistic Discovery competition began in 1982, more than 650,000 high school students have participated.

House members may honor one high school student from their districts by selecting a piece of artwork for inclusion in an exhibit in the U.S. Capitol. Millions of visitors to the U.S. Capitol view this exhibit each year.

Students submit entries to their representative's office, and panels of district artists select the winning entries. Winners are recognized both in their district and at an annual awards ceremony in Washington, DC.

"Lane is extremely talented and is very deserving of this prestigious award as she is a hard and dedicated worker with a big heart," CHS art teacher Elizabeth Miller said. "I cannot wait to see what Lane will do in her bright future."

Other Cullman City Schools students who placed at the Congressional Art Competition include: Saley Winn, first place in Photography; Chloe Clark, first place in Computer Graphics; May Dawsey, second place in Mixed Media; and Ziza McDonald, second place in Printmaking.

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Cornerstone Revival ALTARED Youth group holding BBQ fundraiser

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cornerstone Revival Center (CRC) ALTARED Youth group is hosting a BBQ fundraiser to support its growing ministry.

Youth Pastor Jordan Fitzgerald and his wife, Jade, run CRC's Youth Ministry.

"Every Friday night, our ALTARED Youth meets for service, Bible study or fun and fellowship. On these Friday nights, we (also) feed the youth," Jade Fitzgerald said.

"This fundraiser is to help support those Friday night gatherings and to provide fuel for any out-of-town excursions."

The CRC congregation is providing and will prepare the meat and all the traditional fixins and sides for a proper Southern BBQ plate. A donation of $10 will get you a pulled pork BBQ sandwich, pickle, chips and desert. Drinks will also be available for purchase on-site.

The ministry can accept cash, card or checks from reputable businesses for the plates.

Jordan Fitzgerald offered an option for those businesses that may want to place a larger order for an office or a team, saying, "We can also provide donation receipts for offices or businesses, if needed, for tax deductions."

Plates can be ordered by calling or texting 256-338-0389; orders must be received by Tuesday, May 14.

Meals are available to be picked up at CRC on Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Delivery is available upon request at the time of ordering.

Cornerstone Revival Center is located at 3151 Alabama Highway 69.

Employees (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

The following is a follow-up to www.cullmantribune.com/2024/05/08/going-to-work-100-plus-apply-for-positions-at-topre

CULLMAN, Ala. — Topre America in Cullman is not hiring undocumented immigrants or busing undocumented Haitian workers to the Cullman Career Center, as has been erroneously reported in social media, according to City of Cullman and Cullman County government officials.

Cullman County Commission Chairman Jeff Clemons, Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs, Cullman Economic Development Agency Director Dale Greer and Cullman County Economic Development Director Matt Kinsland met onsite at Topre Thursday, May 9, 2024, with Topre America officials to seek clarity on the Haiti recruitment rumors.

Clemons said rumors spread like wildfire on social media. "We have not found anything that shows Topre is hiring illegals, busing undocumented workers or any other violation," he said.

"They actually showed facts to counter every claim of wrongdoing to prove they are complying with state and federal guidelines at every turn."

There were several Haitians at the Cullman Career Center over the past several days completing applications with a temporary staffing agency interviewing applicants for approximately 80 open jobs at the Topre Cullman operation.

The staffing agency has been running advertisements on the available jobs, but it was not a targeted ad campaign to the Haitian community or any specific area, according to officials.

Clemons said Topre has been a great corporate citizen and provides jobs for hundreds of Cullman County residents.

"We do not want them to potentially lose their jobs over something like this," he said.

"I am disappointed we are having to defend unfounded claims."

Cullman Career Center Director Billy Dussett and Alabama Department of Labor Communications Director Tara Hutchison verified that information and said the career center was being used (as intended) as a location for interviewing people looking for employment.

There was also an unfounded rumor that Topre was busing illegals here for "cheap labor."

Topre last week did transport 26 Topre employees from its facility in Tennessee to work Thursday, Friday and Saturday in Cullman.

Those employees volunteered to work in Cullman those three days. They were housed at a hotel in Decatur because of a lack of available rooms in local hotels due to the state track meet and Alabama Strawberry Festival events taking place in Cullman.

Topre produced documentation on those expenditures and a list of employees who traveled to Cullman. Topre officials said they expect that policy to continue until they can hire enough employees to fill the gaps. Topre did not bus Haitians in, and the Tennessee workers were never at the Career Center, according to Topre.

"Sometimes people need to take a minute, slow down and get the Paul Harvey rest of the story. Unfortunately, that was not the case yesterday (Wednesday) for one blog in town," said Jacobs.

"The City and County are committed to supporting business and industry in Cullman County, but we, too, want to be sure companies do things the right way. What Topre did was advertise for job openings."

Topre also produced paperwork showing compliance with the Alabama E-Verify law requiring companies to show within 72 hours of hiring an individual that he or she is a citizen, documented worker or legally allowed to work in Alabama.

Entry-level hourly production wage at Topre ranges from $18 to more than $19 an hour depending on skill, production position and shift.

The company has an annual Cullman payroll of $54.5 million and employed 1,364 people as of May 9, 2024.



DALE GREER

Left to right are Cullman County Economic Development Director Matt Kinsland, Cullman County Commission Chairman Jeff Clemons, Topre CEO Tesshu Harada, Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs, Cullman Economic Development Agency Director Dale Greer and Topre Chief Operating Officer Brad Pepper.

A total of 1,029 are full-time Topre employees and more than 500 are Cullman County residents.

Another 335 employees are working full time through one of four temp agencies used by Topre. Thirty-eight percent of the 335 temp agency workers list Cullman County as their county of residence.

Jacobs said unemployment in Cullman and all of Alabama is very low with many of the companies locally have staffing problems.

The labor participation rate in Cullman is just over 50%, which forces large employers to look at other avenues to recruit employees, he said.

"I am proud of Topre. They have a huge financial investment in this community and provide jobs for our people and for many folks in surrounding counties.

"I am proud to stand with the County and Topre in our desire to see the company continue to be a driving force in the Cullman County economy," he said.

"It's a team effort. It would be a shame and a terrible financial blow to this community for hundreds of jobs to disappear because someone distributed false information."

Greer and Kinsland agreed with the elected officials about how the misinformation "gave Topre and Cullman a black eye."

Greer said people who know nothing about Cullman or Topre relate everything now to the misinformation spread online about the Haitian job applicants.

"This hampers our ability as economic developers to recruit new industry and retail, to grow our existing company base, recruit potential workers and bring visitors in for events like Strawberry Festival, 4th of July fireworks at Smith Lake Park, Oktoberfest, Christmas market and other activities," Greer said.

"Our community suffered a setback because a few people fueled a fire with negative, inaccurate accusations that could have easily been presented with factual information."





United Way of Cullman County hosting Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet May 30

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The United Way of Cullman County (UWCC) will host its Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet on Thursday, May 30, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Loft 212, where the past year's community efforts and endeavors will be recognized and honored publicly. Also recognized will be the donors, volunteers and board members who keep the organization and its 19 partner agencies afloat.

"Even though I have been with United Way for a short period of time, it is overwhelming the impact it has been in my life. I have seen God in more ways than ever in the work of the hands of our community," said Resource Development & Outreach Manager Taylor Johnson.

"I cannot wait to celebrate the 2023 calendar year and advocate what resources we have through our partner agencies at our 45th Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet."

While the UWCC is, in and of itself, a charitable organization that offers countless resources to the Cullman area, it also supports partner nonprofits and other agencies including Cook Ministries, the Cullman County Center for the Developmentally Disabled, First Source for Women and more.

The UWCC is also home to the United Way Food Insecurity Task Force, a congregation of individuals focused on feeding as many people in need in Cullman County as possible through partner agencies, local food banks, churches and other organizations working to combat food insecurity.

Seating for the UWCC Annual Meeting may be reserved by purchasing individual tickets for $35 or a full table for eight guests for $350.

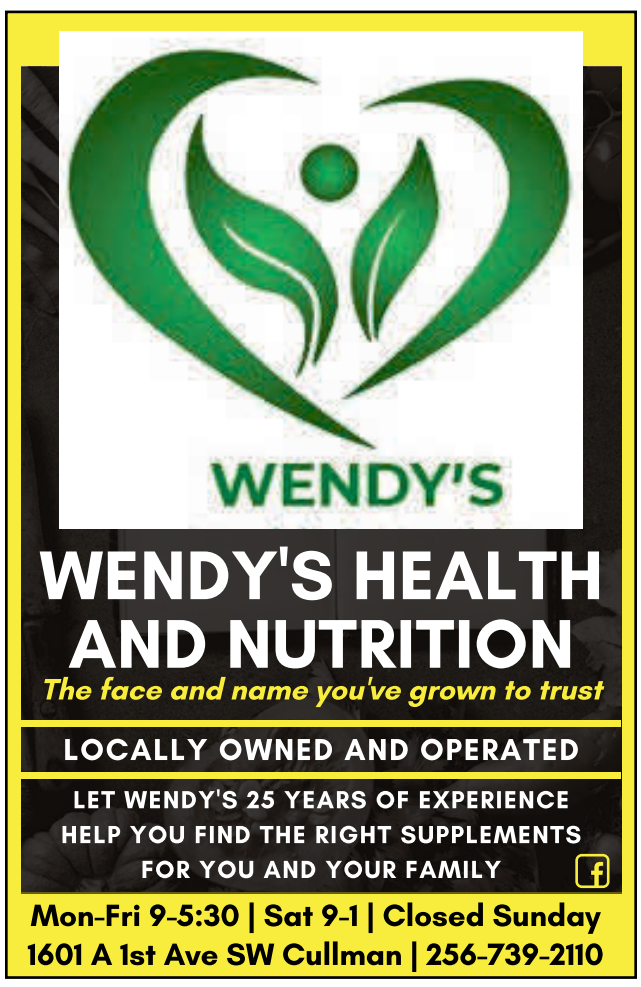
Tickets are available for purchase at www.eventbrite.com/e/united-way-of-cullman-countys-annual-meeting-award-banquet-tickets-886435371057?aff=oddtdtcreator or in person at the UWCC office at 304 First Ave. NE.







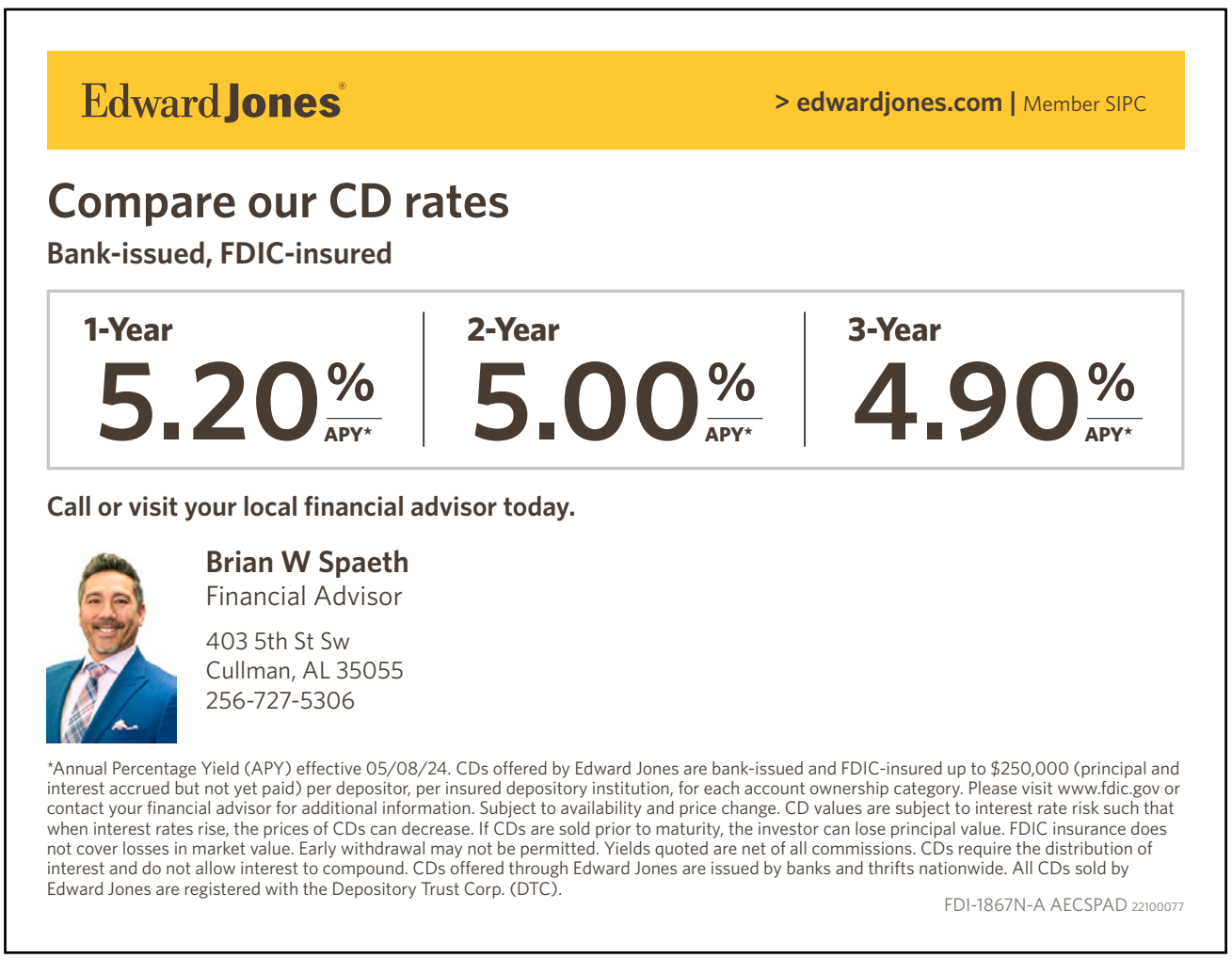












THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MAY 11, 2024

‘It means a lot to play where my daddy did’

Good Hope’s Kylee and Kyle Smith share bond on the field

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — At the Smith household, playing for the Good Hope Raiders has become something of a family tradition and just one season into her varsity career, Good Hope’s Kylee Smith is putting together impressive performances that remind us of another Raider standout. Kylee’s father, Kyle, last faced the West Point Warriors in the 2009 Cullman County Baseball Tournament when he pitched a complete game shutout, racking up 12 strikeouts and allowing just two hits to lead the Raiders to a 1-0 win. This season, Kylee faced the Warriors in the JV Cullman County Softball Tournament Finals and tossed a shutout of her own, allowing just two hits and striking out six batters to help lead the Raiders to a 3-0 win.

“It means a lot to me watching her grow and develop into a strong athlete, both mentally and physically, especially coming from the same school I played for. It brings back some of my favorite memories of being on the field,” Kyle said. “We’ve worked her whole life for this. She started travel ball at age five with eight & nine-year-olds. She’s never been timid at all to step on the field, until this year. She got over that very quickly as the older girls showed nothing but love for her.”

Kylee came into her seventh-grade season with some big personal goals and she had fun chasing those alongside her teammates this spring.

“I’ve enjoyed everything about this season. From summer work to pitching in the county tournament, winning county and now starting on varsity as a seventh grader at pitcher or shortstop,” Kylee said. “That has always been a huge goal of mine. Softball is a big part of my life and this year has taught me a lot of patience, a lot of discipline and to keep pushing through the hard days.”

Kyle has enjoyed watching Kylee develop as a player and accomplish some of her goals this season. He sees some similarity in their games as well and is excited to see how much more she can accomplish in the coming years.

“One of her main personal goals as an athlete was to start on varsity in seventh grade. She’s now playing varsity as a pitcher and shortstop as a seventh grader. She has accomplished one of her big goals and is doing a wonderful job on the mound or at shortstop,” Kyle said. “Our playing styles are very similar. We are both quiet on the field, but we make big plays. Even if we are under a ton of pressure, we don’t let it show. We just perform and do our best. I’ve loved watching her grow and develop and cannot wait to see her five years from now as a senior.”

For Kylee, softball is already something she’s passionate about but playing for her father’s alma mater only adds to the experience and has created a shared passion for the two of them.

“It means a lot to play where my daddy did because he’s taught me everything I know about softball,” Kylee said. “Instead of lessons, he’s sacrificed so much and worked with me almost every day in our yard or the field since I was three years old. At age three I told him and my mom I wanted to play softball for Alabama when I got big. I meant it. So, they’ve pushed me hard.”



AMANDA SMITH

L-R: Kyle Smith, Kylee Smith and Amanda Smith



AMANDA SMITH

A young Kylee Smith with her father, Kyle

PREP SOFTBALL

Vinemont eliminated at 3A East Regional Tournament

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

ALBERTVILLE, Ala. – The Vinemont Eagles hit the road to begin their run at this year’s 3A East Regional Tournament at Sand Mountain Park in Albertville and after dropping their first game of the day to Hokes Bluff 15-5, they bounced back with a 7-3 win over Geraldine to keep their season alive. Vinemont returned to Albertville Thursday morning for an elimination game against Glencoe but a 15-0 loss to the Yellow Jackets knocked the Eagles out of the Regional Tournament.



VINEMONT SOFTBALL

The Vinemont Eagles split their day one matchups at the East Regional in Albertville Wednesday and were eliminated with a second loss Thursday morning.

Hokes Bluff 15 – Vinemont 5 (Game One)

Hokes Bluff took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first but after Katelyn Evans and Maci Smith led off the top of the second with back to back singles, Brooklyn Knott laid down a sacrifice bunt to give the Eagles a pair of runners in scoring position. A few pitches later, Jadyn Knott scored on an RBI groundout from Emma Dortch to cut the lead to 2-1. Hokes Bluff put together a big second inning, plating five runs to stretch the lead to 7-1 going into the third.

An RBI single off the bat of Haley Millwood trimmed the lead to 7-2 in the top of the third and the Eagles continued to chip away at the deficit in the fourth. Abby Kuykendall drew a bases-loaded walk to bring in a run, Arleigh Thomason knocked a single into left field to drive in another and Callie Millwood drew another walk with bases loaded to make it a 7-5 game. However, the Eagles were unable to put any more runs on the board over the next two innings and Hokes Bluff pulled away with a 15-5 win.

Thomason (one RBI) and Smith each posted a pair of hits in the loss and Dortch and Haley Millwood each added a hit and an RBI as well.

Vinemont 7 – Geraldine 3 (Game Two)

Arleigh Thomason and Callie Millwood led off the bottom of the first with back to back singles and after Haley Millwood drew a walk to load the bases, Katelyn Evans barreled up a 2-run double to give Vinemont an early lead. Maci Smith squared up an RBI single two pitches later to make it a 3-0 game and she scored on a passed ball later in the inning to put the Eagles in front 4-0 going into the second inning.

Geraldine cut the lead to 4-1 in the top of the second, but Vinemont got the run back in the bottom half of the inning when Thomason brough Abby Kuykendall home to score with a sacrifice bunt.

The Bulldogs plated another run in the third to trim the lead to 5-2 and after a scoreless fourth inning, Geraldine was able to bring the lead down to 5-3 in the top of fifth.

The Eagles responded in the bottom half of the inning, moving ahead 6-3 with an RBI single from Emma Dortch. An RBI single from Haley Millwood extended the lead to 7-3 in the bottom of the sixth and Vinemont collected the final three outs in the following frame to wrap up a 7-3 win.

Dortch (one RBI) finished 3-for-3 at the plate and Smith (one RBI) and Haley Millwood (one RBI) each posted a pair of hits as well.





COLUMN

Dear Coach Saban

Joe Hobby
Contributor

Dear Coach Saban,

Since I wrote a letter to Kalen DeBoer a few weeks ago and gave him some pointers about the South, I thought it was only fair to drop you a note and give you a tip or two about the strange new world that you are in now – retirement. Since you've only been at it about four months, and because I've been at it about four years, you may benefit from my experience. So listen up, aiiight?

I realize that although we both call ourselves retirees, there are some differences between us. For example, I have a nest egg, and you have the whole chicken house. Once I was recognized by someone in the local Wal Mart, and you were recognized in the Vatican – by the Pope! (That's a joke – I think).

Nevertheless, since I'm a bit further down this road than you are, here's a few nuggets of wisdom that will make your transition easier.

1. Don't forget that acting young is the secret to staying young. We may be older models, but let's keep the body looking good – even if the motor and transmission are showing some wear. Shoulders back, brisk walk and alert to the environment. Any person with slumped shoulders, eyes on the sidewalk and a slow gait will be perceived as a retiree with one foot in the grave. Clint Eastwood said it best, "Don't let the old man in."

2. That orderly group of people waiting in a restaurant is called a line. Not an offensive line, not a defensive line, just a line. These are people actually waiting their turn to get a table and eat a meal. Join them, at the rear of course, and strike up a conversation with a stranger – you'll be surprised how enjoyable that can be.

3. I'm sure you may be a bit confused about another kind of line. This one is in a supermarket where people check out their groceries. Just roll with it. If you happen to be in a hurry (and now there's no reason to be), try the self-service checkout. That's right, now you can check out your own purchases. Give it a try. And don't worry – someone is always close by to help you out.

4. It's incredible how much gas pumps have changed in the past few decades. By now you should know that all you have to do is follow the queues, then insert your credit card and get your gas. It's kinda nice to pay at the pump isn't it? And don't bother with a receipt. Once you get the hang of it, you can advance to tapping your card to pay. We've come a long way from your dad's service station in West Virginia.

5. This sounds crazy, but think about cutting your own grass. Go get you a top of the line zero turn lawn mower – that's chump change for you – then turn the key and mow away. I know lots of retirees who find cutting their lawn a peaceful way to create order out of chaos. Afterward, you and your wife can sit on the deck, drink a glass of tea and admire your handiwork. Go ahead and hire someone to do the edging. All that bending over can adversely affect your golf swing.

6. Thank goodness that between Alabama and ESPN, you'll have a couple of nice part-time jobs. The structure will be good for you. My financial planner told me that the key to a successful retirement is to have a reason to get up every day. Well, that, along with a nice-sized nest egg, and we've already discussed that. I know this won't be a problem because I can't envision you sitting in an easy chair, stuffing your face with Little Debbie snacks and watching "Judge Judy" all day.

7. I saw where Miss Terry said it seems like you just came out of a 50-year coach's coma. There's something to be said for that. Lots of retirees come out of comas. There's all kinds: salesmen's comas, attorney's comas, manager's comas, doctor's comas – any career you devoted your whole life to and excluded everything else, creates a coma, and it's not healthy. I once worked for someone who told me that I gave 110%, but he wanted 150%. An attitude like that will cause you to miss out on more important things in life. Fortunately, now there's time to correct that.

Nick, we have to admit that we are in the fourth quarter of our lives. We don't know what the clock says: it may be early, or we may be approaching the two-minute warning.

What we do know is we have less time left than we've already lived. And just like a football game, it's time to finish well. What does that mean? Reconnect with old acquaintances, friends that you drifted away from because life got in the way. Did you do something in your life you still need to apologize for? Do you need to thank someone for something they did or said to you? Do it. Tie up those loose ends. And spend time with those grandchildren. They're wonderful – kids you can spoil – and then give back to their parents.

Oh, and play lots of golf. It doesn't have to be 18 holes. Try going out on the course late in the afternoon to play three or four holes and catch a sunset. I find that invigorating.

And if you need someone to play with, give me a call. I'm almost always available. After all, I'm retired, too.

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

Mother's Day (from Front)

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

I write this as a man who was raised by a single mother during the most transformative years of my life. It's hard to express in words the depth of my gratitude for all the trials she faced to enable me to pursue the life I have now. On this Mother's Day, my thoughts go to her and all the single mothers out there, who may often feel unseen and underappreciated.

Growing up, I saw how the world often looked down on single mothers. There were judgmental glances directed at a mother simply doing her best under difficult circumstances. I saw the ways societal pressures and personal challenges could drain a mother's spirit, stripping away her self-love.

Yet amidst this, I witnessed the incredible resilience that adversity can breed. I saw my mother, and many like her, rise to places they never imagined possible because they had no choice but to keep moving forward. To do all they could to survive.

Motherhood is universally challenging, but single motherhood introduces a unique set of trials. I remember watching my mother's journey with young eyes, misunderstanding all that she was going through. From dealing with the death of my biological father to the divorce with my stepdad that would once again thrust her into single motherhood and relearning how to navigate life with two teenagers who now depended only on her – I remember it all.

Life began for my sister and me with a father who was never fully present, which meant my mom would have to rely on anyone she could around her to take care of us. We lived in Gary, Indiana, at the time, a place that didn't offer a stable environment to be raised in to begin with.

As we moved to Alabama and my mother remarried, the pattern of poor father figures persisted. From a biological father who called just a few times a year, to a stepfather who showed me everything not to be, our closest male role models were deeply flawed.

Then chaos would ensue, and I would lose my biological father and witness my mother's inevitable divorce all in the same week. I saw our world crumble away. We stood to lose everything, and suddenly, we had nothing.

Single motherhood had once again found my mother, just with two teenagers this time. We were left with nothing after the divorce. No place to live, no money and nothing to my mother's name. Everything seemed lost.

My sister and I would spend many nights couch surfing with friends who would have us. It was here my mother would be faced with the choice of picking up the pieces and starting over again.

The reality of our situation was grim. My mother would dive back into the dating scene, where abusive and toxic relationships would become the norm in my mother's life. No matter how many times I told my mom that a relationship was bad, or that a person was taking advantage of her, it never changed anything. My mother was in a never-ending loop of self-defeat. And it was there that I had to watch her fall each time.

My frustration with my mom grew over time. I was upset by the seemingly endless cycle she was trapped in, feeling that she wasn't trying hard enough.

I was frustrated over the loss of material comforts we once had. I was frustrated that she attempted to shield us from these realities as if we couldn't see what was happening. Yet, children, teenagers especially, perceive and understand much more than we as adults give them credit for.

Despite the endless poor relationships, my mom's resolve finally began to strengthen. Determined to provide what she could, she got a job, applied for food stamps, something she judged herself way too harshly for, and was able to get us an apartment. I contributed too, working during high school and taking on three jobs during my college years. We did what anyone else would do in that situation – we survived.

Yet throughout all of this, I failed to see the bigger picture. My mom was lonely. And it was the predator of loneliness that drove my mother to make consistently poor decisions for herself. It was in her loneliness and failed relationships that she lost sight of who she was. Her life's goal became singularly focused on us, her children; we were her pillar of purpose.

It wasn't until later in adulthood that I truly began to understand everything she went through. It was through forgiveness that I could begin to make sense of it all. Forgiving her for her perceived mistakes and forgiving myself for failing to see her struggles through a lens of compassion and empathy. It was at this crossroads, a juncture of forgiveness and finding my self-worth, that her story and all she had been through unraveled for me.

I realized that she had been the father I needed when I had none, my unwavering encourager when I felt lonely or lost. She had to persevere even when life pushed her to quit. She worked endlessly so my sister and I could participate in sports and clubs. She placed her trust in people she normally wouldn't, all to ensure we had a place to stay. My mother would give the only love she had remaining in her to us and leave none for herself.

A single mother carries more than her own weight; she often becomes the sole lifeline for her dependents, just like my mother did. While all mothers face immense responsibilities, single mothers frequently have fewer choices. For many, the luxury of a quick break simply doesn't exist. In a typical family, a mother might ask the father or grandparents to watch the children for a while. But for single mothers without this support network, there are no such moments of rest.

My mother understood the challenges before her, yet she pressed on regardless. She began to accept the hand that was hers as she began to heal and empowered herself to do it on her own.

This past year, my mom celebrated her 50th birthday. As I reflected on her journey and her impact on my life, I see her as more than just my mother; she embodies the enduring strength of all single mothers. Since embarking on her path as a single mother, she has worked tirelessly to piece her life back together. She climbed the ranks in the retail job market, becoming a store manager at multiple locations, from Alabama to Mississippi and now Pensacola, Florida.

She could finally afford her own place, where she could host all her grandchildren. She even makes it a point to buy Christmas for us "old" children, her way of wanting to make up for the Christmases we didn't get as much because of the circumstances, even though we never wanted it.

She accomplished all of this on her own, as a single mother. She managed to pull herself through decades of hardship, to a place where she can now enjoy more things in her life, without having to rely on someone else. She is learning to love herself again and has found worth in her abilities and accomplishments. The grandkids flood her with calls for Mimi, a testament to the love she so deserves. The long-sown fruits of her efforts are finally appearing.

So, to every single mother reading this – you are important. When you feel like you are not seen, your little ones see you. Your teen sees you. Your grown son or daughter sees you.

They see the love you pour into your role, the hard decisions you make and the burdens you bear. It may take them time, as it did for me, to truly appreciate the magnitude of your strength and the depth of your love, but know that you are seen, you are important and you are valued.

You deserve to love yourself and to know that your journey, although not an easy one, is filled with worth. You are the superheroes in our lives, often carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders, and yet, you still provide, you care and you love deeply as only a mother could.

Lean on your children, fight to love yourself no matter how long that journey takes, and never forget that you are worth every effort and every moment of happiness.

You are worth it, single mom. Happy Mother's Day to you.

Event (from Front)

organization's large back-to-school rush in August. the fundraiser also supports Curt's Christmas, the nonprofit's holiday outreach. Every Christmas, the group at Curt's Closet searches for families in need and begins to check items from their Christmas wish lists, ensuring every child feels the magic of the holiday, no matter the household's circumstances or hardships.

This year, Clothed in Cullman was held on a day that Ashley Wilson will forever remember.

"Seven years ago today, I was sitting in a funeral home, planning my 15-year-old's funeral – something that no parent should have to do. God does not waste your pain," said an emotional Wilson.

"I went home and told God that I would turn it into something good, and I would not let Satan win. I promised Curt I would never let him be forgotten."

Wilson has kept that promise. Curt's Closet has reached and continues to reach thousands of local children annually through its boutique-style clothing "store" and back-to-school and Christmas programs.

Clients of Curt's Closet receive 10 items of clothing, a pair of shoes, a backpack and brand-new socks and underwear at each visit.

Running the organization is a large operation that takes four full-time staff members and countless volunteers.

"I want everyone to feel so worthy and so accepted and so loved. In this world, there is so much hate. If I can love on one child and change the way they see themselves, I can go home and know that I'm still sharing the love of Christ," Wilson shared.

"I've always had a heart for children; they are innocent victims of life's circumstances."

Wilson was also on stage to present the organization's Connell Volunteer Award, established four years ago and given to a volunteer who goes above and beyond in his or her duties to the nonprofit, embodying a servant's heart for the cause.

This year, the award went to Fred Hankey.

"I don't know what we would have done without him the past year," Wilson said tearfully.

The silent auction portion of the evening was full of amazing gifts and winnings – from baked goods, such as a Reese's cake donated by Amber's Delights, a red velvet cheesecake made by Delbert Cargile and even Curt's Closet-themed sugar cookies, graciously made and decorated by Cullman's own Katilynn's Cookies all the way to three-night mountain and beach vacations were up for bid. Guests were invited into the venue at 5:30 p.m. to peruse the offerings and place bids.

The ever-popular Heads or Tails game made a return at the 2024 Clothed in Cullman event.

For $20, guests purchased cards to hold either at their head or, you guessed it, tails, to win over $600 in prizes and gifts from local individuals and retailers.

Each time the coin flipped, those with their cards on the "wrong end" were eliminated, ultimately leaving one winner each round.

The live auction portion was called from the podium and the bidding wars got intense for a few of the big-ticket items, some selling for well over $1,000.

The big bid of the night was for a complete dinner for eight, including specialty wines, from local eatery The National; the bidding was so intense, the restaurant donated another dinner for eight mid-auction to benefit Curt's Closet.

Find out more about Curt's Closet at www.facebook.com/cw20curtscloset.



IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION THE PETITION OF ASHLEY NICOLE HALL FOR THE ADOPTION OF — CASE NO.: AD 2024-019

K.D.H. A MINOR.
D.O.B. 06/20/2015

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: KATTIE BREANNA ARNOLD, NATURAL MOTHER OF K.D.H.

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Ashley Nicole Hall, Petitioner. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within Thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with Counsel for said petitioner, whose name and address are shown below, and with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 17th DAY OF April, 2024.

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

Jerry Kilgo
Attorney for Petitioner
421 3rd Ave SE Suite 250
Cullman, Alabama 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION THE PETITION OF LISSYEN MARIANA DELGADO FOR THE ADOPTION OF — CASE NO.: AD 2023-031

S.D.I.D. A MINOR.
D.O.B. 12/27/2011

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: ANGELA DELGADO, NATURAL MOTHER OF J.I.D.J.

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Lissyen Mariana Delgado, Petitioner. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within Thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with Counsel for said petitioner, whose name and address are shown below, and with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 25th DAY OF April, 2024.

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

KimberlyH. Drake
Attorney for Petitioner
419 2nd Avenue SW, Suite B
Cullman, Alabama 35055

PB WIL BK 123 PG 385 - 05/02/2024 01:39 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of * — FLORENCE DAY, * — Deceased. * — CASE NO. PC2023-335

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: JULIE ELAINE DUNCAN, JENNIFER LEE DUNCAN, ADRIANNE DAY COLE AND ANY OTHER NEXT OF KIN AND HEIRS OF FLORENCE DAY.

Petition for Probate of Will for the Estate of Florence Day, Deceased, filed by Zane Kelly Day, Petitioner, through Attorney Beverly Paschal Poston. A hearing on this matter has been scheduled for the **25th day of June , 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 1st day of May, 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.

Beverly Paschal Poston
Attorney for the Petitioner
201 2nd Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama, 35055

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

GAF MARINE LLC, PLAINTIFF, VS. STEPHEN GRAVELY, DEFENDANT. — CASE NO. CV-2023-900354

NOTICE

The 2020 Bass Cat boat, Hull #BASVI585I920, Registration No. SC 3945 DN for the state of South Carolina, owned by Stephen Gravely, will be sold at public auction on the 22nd day of May, 2024.

DONE this the 7th day of May, 2024.

LISA MCSWAIN, Circuit Clerk

Plaintiff's attorney:
J. Bradley Wilson
Baggett & Wilson, LLC
206 Ninth Street SW, Suite 102
Cullman AL 35055

5/6/2024 1:37 PM
25-CV-2023-900354.00
CIRCUIT COURT OF
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALA
LISA MCSWAIN, CLE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

GAF MARINE LLC, Plaintiff, V. GRAVELY STEPHEN, Defendant. — Case No.: CV-2023-900354.00

ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The Plaintiff having made a Motion for Order of Publication of Sale; and it appearing that the Plaintiff has filed a Complaint on December 1, 2023. It is therefore,

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Plaintiff shall publish the sale of the 2020 Bass Cat boat, Hull #BASVI585I920, Registration No. SC 3945 DN for the state of South Carolina.

FURTHER ORDERED that this Order and Notice be published one time in the Cullman Tribune, a newspaper of general circulation in Cullman County.

DONE this 6th day of May, 2024.

/s/ MARTHA E. WILLIAMS
CIRCUIT JUDGE

PB WIL BK 123 PG 381 - 05/02/2024 01:27 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of * — BENJAMIN THOMAS DRIGGS, * — Deceased. * — CASE NO. PC2024-134

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: SHELBY R. DRIGGS, MATTIE ISABELLA DRIGGS, DAVID L DRIGGS, KATHERINE ANN (DRIGS) DRIGGS.

Petition for Probate of Will for the Estate of Benjamin Thomas Driggs, Deceased, filed by Lu Wrenda Driggs, Petitioner, through Attorney Alex J. Chaney, has been scheduled for the **25th day of June, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear and contest said petition if they think proper.

Cullman County Courthouse
500 2nd Avenue SW
Room 101
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Done this the 1st day of May, 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.

Alex J. Chaney
Attorney for Petitioner
Berry, Berry, Little & Chaney
405 2nd Ave SW
P.O. Box 1052
Cullman, Alabama 35056

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE THE MATTER OF: K.W.K., a minor, DOB: 12/05/2023 — CASE NO. JU-2023-732.02

NOTICE OF PETITION

The unknown father of minor child K.W.K., date of birth December 5, 2024, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights by June 4, 2024 or thereafter a Judgment by Default may be rendered against him in Case No. JU-2023-000732.02 in the Juvenile Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

Done this the 18th day of April, 2024.

Clerk of Court

Petitioner's Attorney:
Shelbie G. Hankey
101 Main Ave SW
Cullman, AL 35055

TO PUBLISHER: BEGINNING ON April 27, **2024,** PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR (4) SUCCESSIVE WEEKS IN THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE.

*Please bill Petitioner's attorney for the cost of publication.

STATE OF ALABAMA, CULLMAN COUNTY
I, Lisa McSwain, Clerk of Circuit Court in and for said County and State, hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy as the same appears of record in this office.
Witness my hand and official seal, this 23rd day of April, 2024.
Clerk of Circuit Court

FILED IN OFFICE
APR 18 2024
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

PB ADT BK 68 PG 951 - 04/18/2024 11:43 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION THE PETITION OF ASHLEY NICOLE HALL FOR THE ADOPTION OF — CASE NO.: AD 2024-018

M.J.H. A MINOR.
D.O.B. 09/20/2016

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: KATTIE BREANNA ARNOLD, NATURAL MOTHER OF M.J.H.

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Ashley Nicole Hall, Petitioner. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within Thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with Counsel for said petitioner, whose name and address are shown below, and with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 17th DAY OF April, 2024.

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

Jerry Kilgo
Attorney for Petitioner
421 3rd Ave SE Suite 250
Cullman, Alabama 35055

PB ADT BK 69 PG 7 - 04/25/2024 03:37 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County,

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION THE PETITION OF LISSYEN MARIANA DELGADO FOR THE ADOPTION OF — CASE NO.: AD 2023-030

J.I.D.J. A MINOR.
D.O.B. 06/20/2008

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: ANGELA DELGADO, NATURAL MOTHER OF J.I.D.J.

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Lissyen Mariana Delgado, Petitioner. If you should contest this adoption, you must file a written response within Thirty (30) days from the date of the last notice of publication. Your response must be filed with Counsel for said petitioner, whose name and address are shown below, and with the Clerk of Probate Court, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE THIS 25th DAY OF April, 2024.

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

KimberlyH. Drake
Attorney for Petitioner
419 2nd Avenue SW, Suite B
Cullman, Alabama 35055

PB MIN BK 223 PG 563 - 04/25/2024 03:00 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The estate of SHEILA DIANNE DANIEL, Deceased — Case No.: PC-2024 - 111

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Amie Melissa White, as the Personal Representative of the Estate of SHEILA DIANNE DANIEL, deceased, on the 25th day of April, 2024 by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

Amie Melissa White
Administrator of the Estate of
Sheila Dianne Daniel, 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
Sheila Dianne Daniel deceased.
201 2nd Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama, 35055
bposton@beverlypaschalposton.com
(256)739-3970 Fax (256)739-3968

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

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, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Maldonado, Lindsey named to ACCS All-Alabama Academic Team

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Two Wallace State Community College students were recognized recently at the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) All-Alabama Academic Team Banquet in Birmingham.

Vianney Verdin Maldonado and Makayla Lindsey represented Wallace State as the college's 2024 All-Alabama Academic Team scholars.

"We are extremely proud of Vianney and Makayla, both of whom are wonderful representatives of the college as student-leaders," said Kristen Holmes, vice president for students at Wallace State. "These students have incredibly bright futures ahead of them."

Both Maldonado and Lindsey were selected from Wallace State by members of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society for their demonstration of academic excellence and intellectual rigor, leadership and service, and for a commitment to extending their education beyond the classroom to benefit society. Each received at $1,000 scholarship for earning the All-Alabama designation.

Maldonado, of Oneonta, was also recognized as an All-USA Coca-Cola Silver Scholar during the banquet, earning an additional $1,250 scholarship.

She intends to transfer to Auburn University where she plans to double major in biology and psychology and expects to earn her doctorate and work in the field of Neuroscience Psychology.

She is extremely active on campus as a member of eight student clubs and organizations, serving as an officer in seven of those.

She is also a member of the WSCC Choir and Percussion ensembles and has helped organize a student-led podcast called The Mane Topic.

She also works on campus, most recently as an intern in Wallace State's Marketing Department.



WALLACE STATE

Wallace State student Vianney Verdin Maldonado, center, was recognized as an Alabama Community College System All-Alabama Academic Team scholar by ACCS Chancellor Jimmy Baker, left, and Wallace State President Vicki Karolewics.



WALLACE STATE

Wallace State student Makayla Lindsey, center, was recognized as an Alabama Community College System All-Alabama Academic Team scholar by ACCS Chancellor Jimmy Baker, left, and Wallace State President Vicki Karolewics.

Lindsey, of Double Springs, is a defensive specialist on the Wallace State volleyball team and president of the National Society of Leadership and Success. She also works on campus in the college's Wellness Center.

Lindsey plans to attend the University of Alabama to earn a bachelor's degree in education and expects to earn her master's and teach mathematics at the high school level.

The All-Alabama Academic Team recognition program was founded in 1995 to complement the All-USA Academic Team Program that is sponsored by USA Today, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and the American Association of Community Colleges.

Wallace State's Alpha Chi Tau chapter of PTK was recognized for achieving the designation as a REACH chapter for 2023. The recognition is part of PTK's REACH Rewards program, which celebrates and rewards PTK chapters that excel in membership development by achieving exceptionally high rates of membership acceptance in the 2023 calendar year. The REACH rewards program encourages membership by rewarding chapters who achieve or exceed 15 percent for their membership acceptance rate. In 2023, Wallace State's PTK chapter achieved a 21 percent membership acceptance rate and was one of 159 chapters nationwide honored for their efforts in bringing the benefits and opportunities of PTK membership to more students.

Wallace State Respiratory Therapy graduates 23 from program

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College's Respiratory Therapy program held a pinning ceremony on May 8, recognizing 23 students successfully completing the program for the Class of 2024.

"This pinning ceremony marks the important transition from student to respiratory therapist," said Program Director Ashley Lancaster. "This event provides an opportunity for us to recognize you and welcome you as our peers and colleagues in the respiratory therapy profession."

Class president Madison Hamilton of Kimberly addressed those gathered at the ceremony, stating she is grateful for the relationships she's made among her instructors and classmates and for her family's support throughout her time in the program.

She encouraged her classmates to always remember their why.

"Why did you choose respiratory therapy? Who did you choose it to represent?" she said. "When new hills and challenges are in front of you, remember your why. Remember who encouraged you. Remember you can do hard things."

Respiratory therapy instructor Jennifer Logan was chosen to address the class.

"I'm reminded of the profound impact each of you will have on the lives of others," Logan said. "You're about to become stewards of human health and well-being. As you embark on this journey, I encourage you to never lose sight of the human aspect of healthcare. Behind every diagnosis, every treatment and every chart is a person, someone's parent, child, sibling or friend. Remember that your words and actions can have a profound impact on their lives.

"In the face of challenges and adversity, stay resilient and adaptable," Logan added. "The healthcare landscape is constantly evolving, and you will undoubtably encounter obstacles along the way, but with the perseverance and a commitment to lifelong learning, you will continue to grow and thrive in your career. Above all, I urge you to never underestimate the power of kindness and compassion. In moments of uncertainty and fear, a caring touch, a listening ear or a reassuring smile can make all the difference to those in need."

Awards were presented to several students for their accomplishments.

Wesley Bryan of Albertville earned an induction into Lambda Beta, the National Honor Society for Respiratory Care.

Wallace State Respiratory Therapy Program Director Ashley Lancaster, left, presents Wesley Bryan of Albertville with a certificate marking his induction into Lambda Beta, the National Honor Society for Respiratory Care.

Class secretary Hannah Waldrop of Blountsville received the Program Award, which is reserved for the student who has excelled not only academically but has also embodied the core values of the profession: professionalism, respect and empathy.

Madison Hamilton received the Academic Excellence Award, which is presented to the student who has displayed unparalleled determination, resilience and a thirst of knowledge.

Morgan Gibson of Fort Payne received the Clinical Excellence Award, which is presented to the student who performs at a level well above satisfactory in clinical experiences.

Along with class president Hamilton and secretary Waldrop, other officers for the Class of 2024 include vice president Aileen M. McCracken of Arab, treasurer Kourtney D. Knight of Huntsville, and class representatives Kensley E. Johnson of Joppa and Destiny R. Smith of Birmingham.



WALLACE STATE

Members of the graduating class include:

- Albertville: Wesley Bryan
- Arab: Aileen M.McCracken
- Athens: Marissa D. Willis
- Birmingham: Destiny R. Smith
- Blountsville: Hannah E. Waldrop
- Bremen: Abby G. Montgomery
- Chelsea: Ashley M. Williamson
- Cullman: Bailee P. Jones
- Double Springs: Krissy C. Whisenant
- Eva: Rebecca Cloer
- Fort Payne: Morgan B. Gibson
- Hanceville: Carter B. House
- Harvest: Sandy L. Watkins
- Huntsville: Kourtney D. Knight
- Joppa: Kensley E. Johnson
- Kimberly: Madison L. Hamilton, President
- Muscle Shoals: Keauna Hiles, Enrique Martin-Miguel
- New Hope: Karla L. Doran
- Springville: Meagan J. Ewing
- Sumiton: Kendra L. Hannah
- Warrior: Dalton R. Duncan, Kaira McAdams

The Respiratory Therapy program and all other Health Science programs at Wallace State are currently accepting applications for Fall 2024 admission. The deadline to apply is May 15 for Nursing and June 1 for all other programs. Visit www.wallacestate.edu/health to get more information.

Sullivan Creek Ranch hosting 5th annual Gather and Branding Day May 19

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Step into the world of traditional ranching with the Sullivan Creek Ranch as it opens its doors for the 2024 Gather and Branding event. Scheduled for Sunday, May 19, starting at 8 a.m., this annual event promises an authentic glimpse into the Western tradition of "neighboring," where friends and family come together to help with cattle gathering, branding and doctoring. The event will be held at Sullivan Creek Ranch, located at 151 County Road 1047 in Vinemont.

Greg Anderson, the owner of Sullivan Creek Ranch, explained, "'Neighboring' is the concept of fellow ranchers (neighbors) recognizing a need for extra manpower and chipping in to help out. It is very common during branding season or 'Spring works' where cattle are gathered, calves are given the mark of the ranch, and vaccinated against potentially life-threatening diseases. Additionally, in times of stress, neighbors will help each other out to ensure critical tasks are completed and the continuity of ranch operations is maintained. Everyone reciprocates and the fabric of the community is strengthened.

"Oftentimes, given the workload throughout the year, this is the time of catching up with old friends and having a reunion of sorts. Everyone is involved, including children. It is a family oriented culture."

A typical day at the event involves detailed preparations and skilled activities that are essential to ranch operations. After breakfast is served to those working the event, a briefing takes place to ensure that everyone understands how the gathering is going to work and what to expect. Key personnel are introduced, providing attendees with clear points of contact for any questions they might have.

The briefing also details the specific roles assigned for the day, such as who will be responsible for roping, who will attend to any sick calves and sorting off calves for weaning. With the conclusion of the briefing, the goal is to have the team well prepared and ready to commence the gather and branding, setting the stage for a well-coordinated day of traditional ranch activities.

"After the briefing, we set off to round up the herd, gather them in the corral and sort the calves to be worked off their mamas. Once sorted, we methodically rope and drag the calves to a branding fire where the ground crew awaits with vaccine guns and the branding iron. Once branded, the calves are released back to the herd and their awaiting moms. Upon completion, we enjoy food, drink and fellowship. People play corn hole, practice roping, ride horses and we've even had folks fly kites out in the pasture," Anderson shared.

The event is particularly family friendly and educational for first-time attendees, with various opportunities for the attendees to interact.

Anderson emphasized the educational aspect: "Attendees are given the opportunity to vaccinate a calf or two under the supervision of our very experienced ground crew, and we put a heavy emphasis on safety. The idea is that people get to participate in a tradition that few in the Southeast see and walk away feeling a stronger connection to traditional ranching and how their food gets from the pasture to the table. Most people find the day to be a lot of fun. They learn about tradition, common ranching practices and the cowboy culture."

Lunch will be an affair to remember with freshly grilled Mexican cuisine prepared on-site by Carlos Soto and his family.

"Every year our good friends Carlos and Claudia Soto bring their whole family out and grill traditional Mexican food, right there on-site. Usually, as the branding is wrapping up, the smell of grilling onions and various meats fills the air and that signals the beginning of the celebration – a celebration of good stewardship of livestock, a kinship with our friends and family that live a similar lifestyle and the development of new relationships. It is the perfect punctuation mark on a cool event. The food is fresh and delicious. There is really none better!"

The menu will include a variety of meats, homemade tortillas and traditional dishes such as tacos, fajitas and quesadillas. The meal will be an all-you-can-eat Mexican buffet, priced at $25 a plate. Please note that tickets will not be sold at the event and must be purchased in advance by May 14. Tickets are available on the ranch website or through a link posted on its Facebook page.

With this year marking the fifth public branding hosted by Sullivan Creek Ranch, Anderson reflected on its success and growth, saying, "The response has been great. We work hard to let folks be a part of it and every year, the 'neighboring' part of the tradition grows as more nonranchers in our community come out and participate."

For more details on the gather and branding event or Sullivan Creek Ranch, contact Greg and Emily Anderson at greg.anderson@sullivancreekranch.com or emily.anderson@sullivancreekranch.com. Additionally, more information can be found on the Sullivan Creek Ranch Facebook page or www.sullivancreekranch.com.

New Sacred Heart Altar Society officers installed



LAJUAN TALLO

The Sacred Heart Altar Society installed new officers for the 2024-2025 year on Tuesday, May 7, at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church. The new officers (left to right) are Maryann Kelley, treasurer; Jeannie Fine, secretary; Vickie Dawson, vice president and Cynthia Daniel, president. The society's next event will be Ladies Night Out Bunco on Friday, May 24, at 6 p.m. in the gym at the church. The cost is $20, and players may bring a snack to share if they like. Ladies Night Bunco is open to the community.

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Obituary Announcements: May 9-10

Lennes Mae Cheatham, 76

Lennes Mae Cheatham, age 76, of Berlin, Alabama, passed away peacefully at her home on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. There will be a memorial service for Ms. Cheatham announced, at a later date. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Ms. Cheatham was preceded in death by her parents, Gordon Wesley and Etta Mae Thomas; her husband of 55 years, Joe Neil Cheatham; sisters, Lucille (Larry) Shamblee, Jeraldine (Arvil) Stone; and brother G.W. Thomas. Ms. Cheatham is survived by her children, Kelvin Cheatham, Charlie (Chris) Cheatham, and Mandy (Tavares) Turner; her grandchildren, Whitney Cheatham, Austin Turner, Bryceson Turner, Cainen Turner, and Drakelin Turner; great-grandchildren, Kyler Donaldson, and Bennett Donaldson. Ms. Cheatham was fortunate to have a large family who cared for her dearly. She is also survived by siblings, which include, Billy Ray Thomas, Katherine Vanzandt, Patricia Stidham, Debra Stanley, Darwin (Brenda) Thomas, Kenneth (Penny) Thomas, and Annette (Calvin) Johnson; a host of nieces, nephews and other family and friends. Lennes Mae was a strong woman who was dedicated to her family. She showed kindness and selflessness, despite the challenges she faced. She was always there to uplift those around her. She will be deeply missed by many, but we take comfort in knowing that she is now free from pain and reunited with Joe and all of her loved ones in Heaven. Obituary written by family. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Hazel Marie Culp, 76

Graveside Service for Hazel Marie Culp, age 76, will be at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 13, 2024, at Union Grove Cemetery with Chris Brooks officiating; burial at Union Grove Cemetery in Holly Pond, Alabama. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Culp passed away on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at Albertville Health and Rehab. She was born Monday, Jan. 12, 1948, to Chelcey Clinton (CC) Arrington and Eunice Arrington. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Freddie Culp; sisters, Ruth Towers, Gladys Carr, Helen Whisenant and Sharon Arrington; brothers, Floyd Arrington, Boyd Lee Arrington and Royce Arrington. Survivors include her son, Chris (Kasey) Culp; daughter, Annette Munger; grandsons, Chelcey (Victoria) Hamilton, David Hamilton and William Culp; sister, June (Ben) Bailey; brothers, Tony (Kim) Arrington, Glen (Charlotte) Arrington and J.C. (Karla) Arrington, and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. In lieu of flowers please make donations to Garrison Gives Hope.

Thomas E. Hall, 87

Funeral services for Thomas E. Hall, 87, of Colony, Alabama will be held at 1 p.m., Friday, May 10 at Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. The burial will take place in the adjoining cemetery. Visitation for the public will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Hall Family

Melba Jean Scott, 90

Funeral service for Melba Jean Walling Lindsey Scott, 90, will be at 3 p.m., Saturday, May 11, 2024, at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Mt. Zion Cemetery, 31 North, Vinemont, Alabama. The family will receive friends at the funeral home one hour prior to the service. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Melba Jean was born in Vinemont at the old Walling homeplace located about ten miles northeast of here on July 23, 1933. (Since her mother's birthday was July 24, she would often kid Melba of being older than she, not considering the year.) Melba passed away from this earthly realm on May 9, 2024, at the Hanceville Nursing Home surrounded by her loved ones, and was escorted into eternity by angels sent from her God whom she had great faith. Melba was predeceased by her parents, Julious Eric and Gladys Montez Chambers Walling; a four year old precious brother, Julious Walling; her husband and father of her three children, Jack Walter Lindsey; second husband, Leldon Scott; her loving daughter, Lisa Lindsey Posey; grandparents, many aunts and uncles, cousins, including a sister-like cousin, Miriam Walling Dull. Melba Jean was before her death the oldest grandchild of David Lon and Samantha Alice Chambers. With Melba's passing, ten out of 39 Chambers grandchildren survive. From the Walling family lineage of Eugene and Maude Drake Walling, there remain three grandchildren that survive out of 15. Survivors include son, Randall Keith Lindsey and wife, Kim, of Vinemont; daughter, Lindsey DeShazo of Gulf Shores; grandchildren, Stephanie Posey Koswaski and husband, Joseph Koswaki, Ryan Posey and wife, Tonya of Huntsville, Tiffani Lindsey Doyle and husband, Rory of Vinemont, Brandon Lindsey and wife, Stacy of Ullman, Lindsey Grace DeShazo of Pensacola, Jackson Walling DeShazo of Gulf Shores; great-grandchildren, Finley Koswoski of Madison, Tucker Koswoski of Madison, Fisher Doyle of Vinemont, Ellis Posey, Wade Posey, of Huntsville; brother, Rodger D. Walling of Vinemont; son-in-law, Frank Posey, of Athans; special cousins, Sharon Dull Hume of Toana, Va, James Dull of Williamsbug, Va, Charlotte Burks of Cullman, Sonny Mullins of Cullman; special friend, Bonnie Blanton of Cullman, and a host of relatives and friends. Melba attended Vinemont School in grades 1-9. She attended Cullman High School in grades 10-12 where she was a member of the Library Club, Yearbook Staff and the Journalism Club. Melba was elected by student body Miss Cullman High School in 1951 – 1952. She graduated from Cullman High School May 19, 1952. While attending high school Melba met her first and only boyfriend, Jack Walter Lindsey who was a rather good football player from 1949 – 1951. Melba and Jack were married May 20, 1952. Jack had enlisted in the U.S. Air Force after high school graduation. After their marriage Melba accompanied Jack to Fort Worth Texas. They remained in Fort Worth until Jack left the Air Force and they moved back to Vinemont in 1955. Melba's dad, Julious Eric Walling secured Jack a job at U.S. Steel in Birmingham motivating them to move to Birmingham and Gardendale until his death in August, 1995 of cancer. Melba was a brave widow for several years. She met and dated Leldon B. Scott and were married. Leldon passed away in 2006. Melba was again a widow, taking on all the household responsibility vigilantly. In 2009 Melba sold her home and moved to Morningside Assisted Living. Due to her developing dementia or Alzheimer's Disease, Melba took up residence at Hanceville Nursing home and remained there until her death. Melba, according to staff there was known as always a good patient and a sweet lady making many friends. Melba was an extraordinary woman throughout her life. While young and living on the homeplace, she learned farming, gardening, household skills, cooking from her parents, a supportive military spouse, a wonderful cook, an immaculate housekeeper, a fine mother and grandmother, and to her baby brother, "the greatest sister ever!" Melba was quite a versatile career woman. While in high school she worked part time for the old Thompson Bros. Furniture Store, (now the site of Vincent Furniture). In Fort Worth she worked as an office clerk for Dickies Clothing Manufacturing Company. While in Birmingham, Melba worked at Sears Roebuck Co and Wilsons Florist and Gifts, and as a record clerk at Carraway Medical center for many years. Melba's most important job was being a wife and mother to her loved ones. She also was a shrewd investor of her monetary resources, inheritance and other financial arrangements. Melba was always considerate and helpful to others. She, along with Jack, provided college for each of her grandchildren, serving as a member of the volunteer task force Brookside and Alumni Association. She assisted the Senior Citizens Groups encouraging fellow citizens in life situations. Melba was a fine Christian lady, such as noted in Proverbs Chapter 31. Paraphrasing simply, "A virtuous woman is worth far more than rubies." Melba at the age of 17, in 1945, obeyed the Gospel at the Vinemont Church of Christ that her great-grandfather, Dr. John Henry Walling and grandmother, Maude Drake Walling helped to establish. She remained active in the church for many years ensuring that her children were at all services, doing her lengthy Bible lesson, praying with her children and reading Bible sermons. Later in life, Melba attended Baldwin Heights Baptist Church with her husband, Leldon Scott. Over the years and on many different occasions, individuals knowing Melba would say she was such a beautiful person physically, but even more beautiful inwardly in personality and disposition. Melba Jeana was truly our hero for many reasons, Melba you were always so proud of your family members' accomplishments. We are so proud of you and your accomplishments in life. Perhaps soon, in the eternal future with all our loved ones, over the Jordan River, we will visit forever. The family requests if you would like, in lieu of flowers, please consider making donations to Mt. Zion Cemetery Fund, c/o Rodger Walling, 2976 Co. Rd. 1339, Vinemont, AL, 35179 or Cullman Caring For Kids, c/o Javon Daniel. Friends may sign the online guestbook at www.cullmanfuneralhome.com.

Donald Wayne Harrison, 70

Donald Wayne Harrison passed away on Thursday, May 9, 2024. He was born Tuesday, Dec. 1, 1953, to Tharon Harrison and Methel Harvison. He was preceded in death by his parents and Siblings. Survivors include his brother, Robert (Jane) Franklin Harrison; Nieces Renee Way and Nanette Pride and a host of other nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Patricia White Smith, 72

Patricia White Smith entered into the presence of our Lord on Thursday evening, May 9, 2024, at the age of 72. Mrs. Smith was born in Cullman County, Alabama, on Jan. 11, 1952, to the late Loyd James and Maureen Crawford White. Mrs. Smith is preceded in death by her parents, as well as her husband, J.C. Smith. Patricia is survived by her sons, Mike Jenkins (Darla), Joey Smith, Jason Smith (April), Nicholas Smith (Nicole); grandchildren, Aaron Jenkins, Zane Whisenant, Zane Miller (Megan), Sadie Smith, Landun Smith, Lyric Smith; great-grandchildren, Grayson Miller, and Hudson Smith; and siblings, L.B. White, Randy White, Tony White, Joyce Maze, Bobbie Guthery, Martha Freeman, and Rita Young. Friends are invited to join the Smith family for a time of visitation on Saturday afternoon, May 11, 2024, in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel from 3 p.m. until services begin. A funeral service for Mrs. Smith will follow visitation, beginning at 4 p.m., with Tony Thomas officiating. Burial will follow services in Simcoe Methodist Cemetery. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Smith family and our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Free Obituary Listings

Have your funeral home contact us

Email: robin@cullmantribune.com • Phone: 256-739-1351

Complete obituaries may be found free of charge at CullmanTribune.com/obituaries.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Memories made with Mama

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Growing up, some of my favorite memories happened on our front porch. After we had been to Mama's 100-acre garden to pick what had "come in," we usually went to the porch to shell butterbeans, break green beans, shuck and silk corn, and all that fun stuff. I would have rather gone fishing or swimming, but Mama believed in work first. I usually didn't get a vote!

After the work was finished, sometimes we cut open a watermelon we had grown. We never canned or froze watermelons.

I'm not sure that's even possible, but ours never made it that far anyway! Sometimes I'd bring out my first guitar and play for Mama some new song I had learned. It was usually some rock song she had never heard.

Mama would say, "That's good, Son, why don't you play Amazing Grace and we'll sing it." She enjoyed Flat and Scruggs much more than she did McCartney and Lennon!

After I got my first electric guitar, I usually retreated to the bedroom to play. Mama said the neighbors didn't want to hear that. I think she may have sided with the neighbors. Mama often hollered back to me in the bedroom for me to unplug it, turn it down, or to simply put it up. Sometimes she said, "Would you please stop banging on that guitar?"

That was not a request. I would ask, "Would you like to hear "I'll Fly Away," "Amazing Grace," or something like that? She would answer, "Why don't you get your other guitar and we'll go sit on the porch?" She meant the guitar that was not electric (and not so loud). Once I played Amazing Grace for her to the tune of "House of the Rising Sun." She raised those eyebrows and said, "Son, if you're going to play it, play it right." So, I did.

I was almost 20-years old when I left Mama's house. Every time I'd go home to see her, almost as soon as I got there, she would ask, "Did you bring your guitar?" Sometimes I had, and we would always sing a few old tunes. Once I played some Iron Butterfly music (In a Gadda Da Vida) for her.

I thought she won't ask anymore, but she did. Years later, I stopped playing. I had gone back to school to work on another degree, was serving a large and busy church, married and with a daughter. I didn't think I had time anymore for guitar.

One day, when I had not brought my guitar with me, Mama gave me a nice little lecture about how God had given me a gift and how I was wasting it. She said if you don't start using it, you going to lose it. Shortly afterwards, I bought a new set of strings and minded my mama.

The old house, the front porch, and Mama are all long gone now, but what would I give to sit out there with her and play and sing one more time. I would play whatever she wanted. Why, I would even shell a few butterbeans, especially if she would cook them afterwards!

I know that will never happen again, but I am so thankful that it has. I'm especially thankful that God blessed me with my mama. I think I'll go grab my guitar now, go sit on my back porch, and sing "Precious Memories." I hope you have a wonderful Mother's Day. If you still have yours, go see her if you can. If you play or sing, do one for her. Happy Mother's Day!

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

HISTORY

Files from yesteryear: 1936, 1952

From the files of 1936

Mrs. H. Parker was a nice hostess on Thursday for a dance.

George Stiefelmeyer, Grand Master- Elect of the Grand Lodge of Alabama Odd Fellows, attended the district convention of the Rebekahs in Hanceville on Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Herrell have named their little daughter, Katherine Rose.

Reverend J.E. Creel of Bangor, Clerk of the Cullman Baptist Association was a visitor to Cullman recently.

Miss Gladys Glover of Baldwin spent Saturday night with Miss Melba Bradford.

Misses Aline and Dorothy Kraft were the Sunday afternoon visitors of Miss Christine Styles.

A two-course luncheon was served by Mrs. Edwin Bottcher for the patrons of Pleasant Hill School on Monday evening. They have plans for a pie supper on Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Odes Lovell are the parents of a baby girl. They have named her Abbie Sue.

Roy Ashwander of Hanceville has been visiting his sister and family Mr. and Mrs. Paul Motzkus of Cullman, Route Five.

Dan McGugin, coach of Vanderbilt College died suddenly at age 56. It was believed to be a heart attack.

Mrs. Graf Hart spent Friday with Mrs. Zelma Self of Welcome.

Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Waldrop and Mrs. Verla Bice were in Cullman on Saturday.

From the files of 1952

Retired Reverend Bede E. Luibel, O.S.B., age 35, the nation's youngest abbott is now head of St. Bernard College and Abbey.

The Cullman Bearcats football team, coached by Grady Elmore and John Meadows has the following players: Royce Brown, Brownie West, Ed Miller, Jack Railey, Jerry Patrick, Bobby Cox, Pete Taylor, Guy Waldrop, "Corney" Smith, Mark Heatherly, "Red" Miller, Larry Sanderson, Bill Wilhite, Bob Russell, Sherrill Smith, Bill Baggett, Asa Brandon, Jerry McClendon, Pat Padgett, Douglas Lovelace, Ralph Blalock, "Speedy" Wood, David Quattlebaum, Eugene Sandlin, James Higgerson, Harry Nix, Joe Brown, Joe Miller, Jack House, Keith Moore, Wayne Dahlke, Jimmy Knight, Donald Burnham, Bill Martin, Max Kelley and several others.

POET'S CORNER

No Trade | By: Randy C. Hale

What if I didn't have that?
Said the man to his things.
He said that to his car, his
gold, and rings.
And said that to his mansion, his
stocks, and bonds.
He counted all his possessions
and left off, not a one.

But the time came.
When death came to his door.
And it was unexpected,
he crumbled to the floor.
The angel asked, are you ready,
to leave the world behind.
He said, not now, I need some
more time.

While looking at his possessions
in hopes for just one thing.
He surely had something,
to heaven he could gain.
But heaven did not need
a car, his gold or his rings.
And required no earthly mansion,
no stocks or bonds to trade.

And nothing in his possessions, would work for what he lacked.
He couldn't beg or steal
or give a nickel back.
In life, he never took the time
to care about his soul.
And now that's all that mattered
as judgement he must go.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

MAY 11

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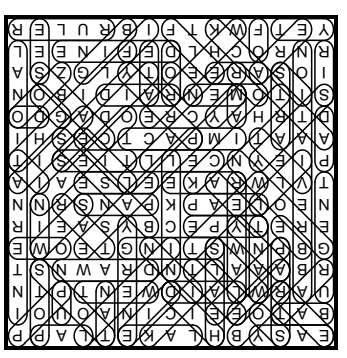
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

MAY 11

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ANSWERS:



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

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