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SPECIAL GRADUATION ISSUE
VINEMONT, WEST POINT

First Source for Women hoping to raise more than ever with Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — First Source for Women is a pregnancy resource center that, through its advocacy and baby boutique, supports young and unprepared mothers through the trepidatious waters of motherhood. The nonprofit looks to the community for support in continuing its outreach programs with various fundraisers every year.

The largest annual fundraiser First Source hosts is called Baby Bottle Boomerang. In past years, it asked local churches to place empty baby bottles at counters and entrances to collect spare change and donations to assist with pur- » PAGE 10

Library Board talks progress, future plans



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman County Public Library Board held its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 16, 2024. Left to right are Shelby Creekmore, Amber Thornton and Tanya Higdon Allcorn.

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Public Library Board at its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 16, approved the addition of newly appointed Cullman County Public Library System (CCPLS) Assistant Director Shelby Creekmore to the CCPLB checking account as an authorized user and cardholder. It also heard from new CCPLS Director Amber Thornton, who gave the Director's Report, highlighting some of the library's activities, accomplishments and plans.

The library is in the final stages of construction to repair the wall that was damaged during a severe storm in August 2023.

Students from across the county have been reaping the benefits of CCPLS, with St. Paul's students visiting the library for a field trip, and the library providing Good Hope Middle School students with their own library cards to use over summer break.

According to Thornton, space has been a limiting factor in the library's book sales.

"We have had good success with our ongoing book sale. We had a good turnout for the Strawberry Festival book sale," she said.

"Due to our limited space, we cannot keep the book sale out.

"We have discussed having the book sale on our porch during 2nd Fridays this summer."

The library also received help from one of its supporting organizations, the Friends of the Public Libraries of Cullman County.

The group hosted a Storybook 5K, which saw over 55 participants and raised funds to assist the library in purchasing prizes for its Summer Reading Program and paint for the front portion of the library's interior.

Thornton and Creekmore are in the process of auditing and updating the CCLPS policies and procedures, including the library's disaster and emergency plans.

"We will provide the drafts at a future meeting so the board can look over, make any changes and then approve the updated plans and policies," said Thornton.

The next CCPLB meeting will be held Thursday, June 20, at the main branch of the CCPLS at noon.

2 arrested following crash, pursuit

» PAGE 3

City: Social media post by Cullman Daily depicting closing of Swafford Road inaccurate

» PAGE 3

Cullman County PALS Beautification Award nominations underway



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

The 2024 Cullman County People Against a Littered State (PALS) Beautification Award nominations are underway. » PAGE 9

Hanceville Park and Rec seeking sponsors for upcoming H.P.R Pro Rodeo

» PAGE 5

ForestHER: Wildlife Workshop and Field Day set for May 21

» PAGE 9

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported May 17

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported May 17, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

May 13
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1184
- theft of property; CR 1223
- burglary; CR 1477
- domestic violence; CR 308
- trespassing; CR 569
- theft of property; CR 940
- domestic violence; Hwy. 278E
- theft of property; Welcome Rd.
- theft of property; Shedd Rd.
- harassment; Park Dr.

May 14
- theft of property; CR 222
- harassment; CR 201
- possession of marijuana; possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 157
- theft of property; Hwy. 91
- possession of dangerous drugs; US. 231
- theft of property; CR 623
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 940

May 15
- theft of property; CR 222
- assault; Day Star Dr.
- theft of property; CR 1043
- theft of property; CR 222
- burglary; CR 431

ARRESTS

May 13-15

Ayers, Aaron R.; 35
- Theft – shoplifting, less than $500

Bain, Michael D.; 47
- GJ – assault-2nd degree
- GJ – assault-domestic-harassment-family

Ball, Brittney L.; 37
- GJ – murder-reckless
- GJ – homicide-manslaughter-family other weapon

Burnham, Kelly L.; 50
- family offense-causing of delinquency, dependency or need of supervision of children

Conrad, Raymond M.; 32
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Cooper, Joseph D.; 47
- GJ – obscenity-production of pornography with minors (10 counts)
- GJ – sex offense-possession of child pornography (10 counts)
- GJ – sex offense-traveling to meet a child for an unlawful sex act

Cox, Jessie J.; 48
- Public intoxication

Doss, April D.; 40
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- possession of methamphetamine

Dragon, Albert J.; 43
- sell/distribution of dangerous drugs

Eipp, Austin W.; 29
- GJ – retail theft-1st degree
- GJ – organized retail theft

Farr, Christopher J.; 26
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Farrer, Paul J.; 54
- auto theft – stolen vehicles

Fields, Eric L.; 39
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Freeman, Logan L.; 35
- unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle (2 counts)
- giving false identification to law enforcement officer

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

Gillilan, Gabriel R.; 36
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked, or cancelled

Hudson, Felisha N.; 37
- GJ – retail theft-1st degree
- GJ – organized retail theft

Jolly, Ryan J.; 37
- GJ – homicide-manslaughter
- GJ – leaving the scene of an accident
- GJ – assault-reckless endangerment
- GJ – reckless driving
- GJ – texting while driving
- GJ – improper lane usage

Lambert, Jimmy W.; 45
- PROBATION VIOLATION – drug trafficking

Lynn, Dana B.; 55
- assault – harassment (2 counts)

Mardis, Barry D.; 55
- criminal trespass
- public intoxication

Marsh, Stacie L.; 37
- GJ – assault-child abuse-simple-family

Martin, Ashley N.; 34
- family offense-causing of delinquency, dependency or need of supervision of children

Maus, Marie E.; 30
- GJ – retail theft-1st degree
- GJ – organized retail theft

Meyer, Damon P.; 28
- GJ – flight-escape

Moody, Chloe R.; 23
- Possession of dangerous drugs

Osorio, Bladimir V.; 42
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family
- family offense-causing of delinquency, dependency or need of supervision of children

Ramirez, Jesus D.; 24
- DUI (alcohol)

Sickler, Michael S.; 35
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Thomas, Kristian J.; 24
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Thompson, Antonio R.; 27
- GJ – assault-aggravated assault police officer-other weapon
- GJ – flight-escape
- GJ – reckless endangerment
- GJ – criminal trespass
- GJ – disorderly conduct
- GJ – resisting arrest
- GJ – attempting to elude a police officer
- GJ – DUI (other substance)
- GJ – theft-grand jury arrest warrant

Watkins, Danajh T.; 25
- unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle

Willingham, Keith A.; 55
- driving while license suspended

Wingo, Joshua E.; 32
- GJ – retail theft-1st degree
- GJ – organized retail theft

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

May 15
- domestic violence-harassment-3rd degree; person; Ave D. SE
- retail theft of property-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $40; Hwy. 157
- domestic violence-harassment-3rd degree; person; Ward Ave. SW
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '11 Dodge Durango; $500; Hwy. 157

May 16
- criminal mischief-2nd degree; person; damaged mailboxes; $1,000; 3rd St. SE
- theft of property-1st degree; person; '19 Dodge Caravan; $20,000; White Cir. SW

ARRESTS

May 15-16

Green, George N.; 36
- trafficking
- possession of marijuana
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Bowling, Karen B.; 64
- FTA - violation of nuisance order

Pitts, Bo J.; 40
- GJ - retail theft of property-1st degree
- GJ - organized retail theft

Klumpe, Taren M.; 24
- GJ - burglary-3rd degree
- GJ - theft of property-1st degree
- GJ - criminal mischief-2nd degree
- GJ - organized retail theft

Ackerman, Terry P.; 62
- FTA - driving without a license

Lenz, William D.; 52
- GJ – retail theft of property
- GJ – organized retail theft

Perez, Diaundre R.; 29
- attempt to elude
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Hasberry, Antonio D.; 28
- attempt to elude
- unlawful possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- criminal mischief-1st degree

Sharp, Michael A.; 42
- GJ – assault-2nd degree
- GJ – attempt to elude
- GJ – resisting arrest
- GJ – reckless endangerment

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Baileyton Bargain Days
First Saturday of each month from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the old Baileyton fire station next to the town's park. Beauty and health products, toys, home goods, pet items, food and many everyday items. A donation of $20 will allow a shopper to fill up a bag, and for $40 a shopper can fill a large box. Some of the items of greater value will require a larger donation. There will be some restrictions and product limits on the items. Cash and checks accepted. Proceeds will be used for park improvements and capital improvements for the town.

Alcoholics Anonymous
The Grace of God group of Alcoholics Anonymous has open AA meetings (all are welcome) Mondays and Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. at the Carriage House, located next to Grace Episcopal Church, 305 Arnold St. NE Cullman. Contact phone numbers: 256-347-1097, 256-841-2209 or 256-708-1340

Church Services-Spirit Life Church of GOD
• Spirit Life Church of GOD, 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Mondays-Fridays-Free hot meals for children Mondays 11 a.m.-noon, Tuesdays 1-2 p.m. and Wednesdays-Fridays 11 a.m.-noon. Cullman Housing Authority Community Center 1545 Vine Circle SW. Please call Kristie 256-636-5362 for more information. Eat in or take out. Sponsored by Kids Loving Kids, Raising Arrows Ministry and Spirit Life Church.
• Kids Loving Kids Birthday Blessings serves children ages 1-18 in need of assistance to celebrate their birthdays. Register your child and pick up a birthday box with cake mix, icing, sprinkles, decorations and toys! Pickup is the last weekend of the month. Saturday (5100 Curry Highway Suite 100-B Jasper, AL 35504) from 3-5 p.m. or the last Sunday of the month at Spirit Life Church Cullman from 12:30-1 p.m. Birth certificate is required at the time of box pickup. Register at https://form.jotform.com/203435614640045. For more information, text or call 205-717-7478.
• Saturday, May 18 - Drive-through food bank 9-11 a.m.
• Sunday, May 19 - Prayer - Join Teresa at 9:15 a.m. in the prayer room to pray for our church, nation and those who need healing, salvation or deliverance.
• Sunday, May 19 - 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 message by Pastor Bobby 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.

Rummage Sale
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.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Singing
Sunday, May 19, at 5 p.m. with New Ground from Scottsboro. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278, approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. Everyone is invited. For more information call 256-796-5986 or 256-338-9202.

Cullman County Cattlemen's, Cattlewomen's Association Ribeye Steak Sandwich Sale
Friday and Saturday, May 24-25, in the theater parking lot near the south Cullman Walmart. Steaks are charcoal grilled using Kingsford charcoal. Sandwiches are $10 donation. Add chips and drink $1 each. We serve Friday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Employers are invited and encouraged to treat their employees to a great sandwich. Place advance orders by calling Edwin Calvert at 256-595-7608.


CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Antonio Dequan Hasberry


CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Diaundre Rashad Perez

2 arrested following crash, pursuit

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Two Jefferson County men were arrested in Cullman County Thursday, May 16, after allegedly fleeing a traffic stop, according to the Cullman Police Department.

"Officer Chad Ashworth stopped the subjects on Cherokee Avenue. During the stop the driver intentionally backed into the officer's car and fled," said the CPD's Adam Clark. "The suspects crashed at the rest area exit and fled on foot as officers pursued them. The aviation unit located the suspects, who were then taken into custody by officers. Both subjects had misdemeanor warrants with other jurisdictions."

Passenger Diaundre Rashad Perez, 29, of Birmingham is charged with felony attempting to elude and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia. The driver, Antonio Dequan Hasberry, 28, of Tarrant, is charged with felony criminal mischief, felony attempting to elude and second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana.

The CPD did not release any details about why the vehicle was initially stopped.


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LEGALS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

DYER ROY,)
DYER TERESA,)
Plaintiffs,)
)
V.) Case No.: CV-2023-900290.00
)
HILL LARRY DON,)
BARRY WILLINGHAM,)
Defendants.)

Order of Publication and Notice of Pendency of Suit

TO: ANY AND ALL PERSONS, HEIRS OR DEVISEES OF DEFENDANT LARRY DON HILL claiming any right, title and interest to the following described real property, to-wit: **Parcel # 07-09-31-0-000-002.002.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 5TH day of October 2023, a Complaint in Rem to Quiet Title and Foreclose the Right to Redeem was filed by Plaintiffs Roy Dyer and Teresa Dyer, by and through their counsel of record, Seth B. Thompson, wherein all parties at interest were given notice and wherein it was alleged that said Complaint was filed against the property described above, and it was alleged that Plaintiffs were entitled to a deed to the subject property and to foreclose the right to redeem of Larry Don Hill.

The parties at interest are further notified that Plaintiffs aver in said Complaint that they claim title to the real property by reason of the following, to wit:

On May 28, 2020, Plaintiffs received a Tax Lien Certificate of Purchase from the Revenue Commissioner of Cullman County after Plaintiffs paid the tax amount, interest, and fees for the amount of taxes owed on Parcel Number 07-09-31-0-000-002.002. Plaintiffs received subsequent Certificates of Purchase from tax lien sales conducted by Revenue Commissioner Barry Willingham on May 4, 2021, May 3, 2022 and May 2, 2023.

YOU ARE HEREBY DIRECTED to answer this Complaint on or before thirty (30) days from the 10th day of June, 2024, or on failure to do so, suffer a default judgment to be rendered against you.

DONE this 11th day of April, 2024.

/s/ MARTHA E. WILLIAMS
CIRCUIT JUDGE

City: Social media post by Cullman Daily depicting closing of Swafford Road inaccurate

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — A social media post by Cullman Daily on Wednesday depicting the closing of Swafford Road is inaccurate, according to the City of Cullman.

"A rendering of a proposed shopping center development by Alumni Properties at the intersection of Swafford and Cherokee Avenue included a proposed rendering showing the road closed from Cherokee Avenue to West Main Avenue to accommodate the development," the City said in a statement.

"The City of Cullman has no plans to close Swafford Road and the Alumni Properties Managing Partner/CEO/President Keith Owens says he is not requesting closure of the road."

According to the statement, Owens met with the Cullman City Council and Cullman County Commission last month to share more detailed information on the proposed development that has been in the planning states for several years.

Development plans submitted to the local government officials do not match the social media rendering Cullman Daily shared.

"I have no intention of asking that Swafford Road be closed," Owens said.

"I will request the City consider improvements to the roadway with the projected traffic increase."

Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs said Swafford Road absolutely will not be closed for the development, sharing,

"That is an important city street connector and the city council and I can assure you permanent closing is not on the table. Swafford will remain open."

Cullman County Commission Chairman Jeff Clemons said the renderings Owens shared with the county commission did not show a Swafford Road closure.

"There was no mention on that to us," Clemons said.

There are often multiple iterations of a site plan before a final design is presented.

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WSCC ATHLETICS

Wallace State's Luke Fernandez named ACCC Pitcher of the Year

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State student-athlete Luke Fernandez was named Pitcher of the Year by the Alabama Community College Conference.

Fernandez led the ACCC in strike outs. The freshman out of Cummings, Ga., smoked 100 batters for the season, 20 more than the next leading pitcher in the conference.

He is ranked first in strikeouts per game, second in innings pitched and seventh in earned runs. He allowed no home runs during his time on the mound for the Lions.

Coach Randy Putman said Fernandez stepped up when the team lost two other pitchers to injuries.

"He's a tremendous competitor on the mound and will have a great success at Middle Tennessee State next season," Putman said.

Fernandez and Colten Payton, a freshman catcher from Huntsville, were both named to the Division I All-Conference First-Team. Payton also pitched in at first and third base during the season.

Defensively, Payton is ranked sixth overall for put outs and total chances. Offensively, he ranks 30th in slugging percentage at .605, and 16th for total bases (85), home runs (6) and doubles (12).

"Colten played at a high level all season," Putman said. "He was definitely a presence behind the plate as well as a hitter. I'm looking forward to having him back for his second season in 2025."



WALLACE STATE

Wallace State's Luke Fernandez has been named the ACCC Pitcher of the Year.

PREP SPORTS

'Put all your faith and trust in the Lord': Hanceville's Katie Twilley recaps Bulldog years

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Hanceville senior Katie Twilley had a solid sports career and had some great memories during her playing days. She played with a lot of great teammates at Hanceville, learned a lot from that experience and had nothing but good things to say about her coaches.

"My favorite memories were always the ones with my teammates either at practice, or before games. We always had so many laughs together about the dumbest things all the time," Twilley said. "It was like a breath of fresh air. Despite many of them being so much younger than me, I knew that I could trust them with anything, no matter what. I learned that sports are all about having fun and making memories. I couldn't have made the memories I did without just having fun playing the games. My coaches were good people who wish the best for their athletes. My favorite game that I was a part of was when we played East Lawrence in the area tournament. Even though we lost by one, everyone was having a great time just playing together, and that's what it's truly about."

Twilley shares some more of her favorite high school memories.

"I'll always remember the girls that I played with. They made it so special and so much fun, no matter what. Playing at Hanceville was like playing for a big family, and I couldn't be more grateful for that," she said.

"My favorite high school memories were when we would have homecoming week during football and basketball season. It was a week of having fun, no matter what, and I always enjoyed it."

She talked about what made Hanceville a special place to go to, what she'll remember and miss the most about being a Bulldog, and her role models in sports and in school.

"What made Hanceville a special place to go to are the teachers. They were the best people to be around and always made sure their students were okay, no matter what, and I couldn't be more grateful for them," she said. "I'll definitely remember the friendships I've made along the way. All of my best friends are from Hanceville, and I'm going to miss every single one of them once I graduate. My role model in sports was coach Roxi Lee. She just started coaching this year, but she had such a significant impact on my senior year. In school, it was Mrs. Cone and Mrs. Lisle. Both of these teachers mean the world to me, because I had them for two years. They love each and every one of their students and always made sure that they were doing okay."

Katie gave the students that will be starting high school in August some advice, and she talked about being a role model for the younger kids.

"Stay on top of your work, be respectful to your teachers, because they only want the best for you, and stay out of drama, because it will only make your high school career much more dreadful," she said. "It was so important to me. I always tried my hardest to stay on task and to always show up just because I knew there were people looking up to me. I didn't realize that there were kids who looked up to me until my senior year, and they would be telling me how much they're going to miss me once I graduate."

She was in several clubs at Hanceville and learned a lot from that experience. She received a pair of scholarships from Faulkner and was so happy when she first got them.

"I was a member of the National Honor Society, Leo Club, Yearbook, and Quill and Scroll Honor Society. I also did the morning announcements for school.

"The experience was the best. It helped me prepare for my future, while also serving my community in many different ways," she said. "When I received the scholarships, I felt so thankful knowing that my hard work throughout high school finally paid off."

Twilley talked about what she wants people to remember about her, and what advice she would give to those athletes that want to be where she's at right now. She also talked about a life-changing experience that happened to her that helped her out in a positive way.

"I always want people to remember the hard work I put into my schoolwork, no matter what," she said. "For the upcoming athletes, I would tell them to never give up on their dreams. It's going to be hard at times, but it's so worth it once you get to the end.

"I was baptized just recently in December and became a member of First Baptist Church of Cullman. The best advice I would give people in high school would be to put all your faith and trust in the Lord, and all things will work out eventually. God only puts you through things that He knows you can handle."



KATIE TWILLEY

Hanceville's Katie Twilley





Rodeo (from Front)

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The H.P.R Pro Rodeo is gearing up for its third year, promising to be bigger and better than ever. Scheduled for June 29 at the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center, this action-packed event is set to provide a night of fun for the whole family. Gates will open at 5:30 p.m., with the rodeo starting at 7. Ticket prices are different for each age range, with children ages 5 and younger free, ages 6-11 at $12 and ages 12 and older at $20. Tickets will be sold at the gate.

Hanceville Park and Rec Director David Wasilewski shared insights into the event's growth and the exciting changes this year.

"The H.P.R Pro Rodeo is back for its third year, and it's going to be bigger and better than ever. We are thrilled to have Southern Rodeo Company producing our rodeo as they won the IPRA Stock Contractor of the Year for 2024."

This year's rodeo promises a full event experience, moving to the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center to ensure that it will proceed rain or shine. The event will feature a variety of rodeo activities, providing a thrilling experience for attendees.

Hanceville Park and Rec currently has sponsorship openings for the upcoming H.P.R Pro Rodeo. Sponsorship packages offer a unique opportunity for businesses to engage with a diverse and passionate audience. Benefits of sponsorship include increased brand visibility through event signage, announcements and social media promotion.

"Partnering with a rodeo event offers sponsors a unique platform to engage with a diverse audience, showcasing their brand to a passionate community. Sponsors can expect increased brand visibility through event signage, announcements and social media promotion. We have two sponsorship opportunities available where businesses can have a booth space to sell or show off their products," said Wasilewski.

Sponsorship bundles are available to those looking to promote their business at the upcoming H.P.R Pro Rodeo. (Hanceville Park and Rec)

Sponsorship bundles are varied and can include area signs, company logos on the shirts of the bullfighters, booth spaces available in vendor sections and the highest package as the presenting sponsor.

For businesses interested in becoming sponsors, all sponsorship opportunities are listed on the Hanceville Park and Rec Facebook page. This is a chance to support a significant community event while gaining exposure to a wide audience.

A more in-depth preview of the event will be available in June, detailing the activities and highlights planned for the rodeo.

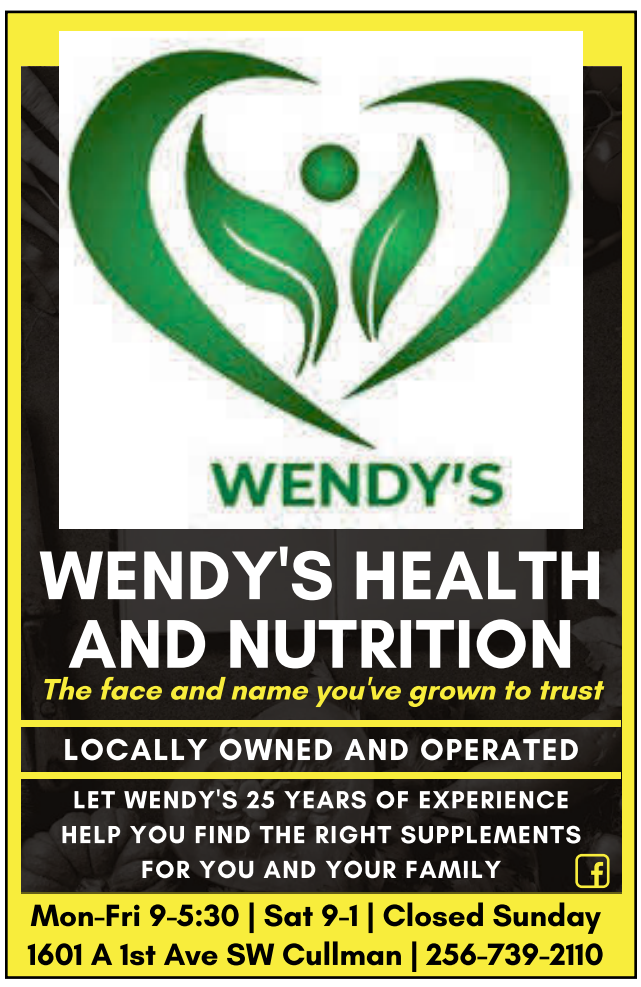
For additional information or to become a sponsor, call 256-735-6549 or 256-595-7763. You can also contact David Wasilewski at parkdirector@cityofhanceville.net or visit the Hanceville Park and Rec Facebook page.







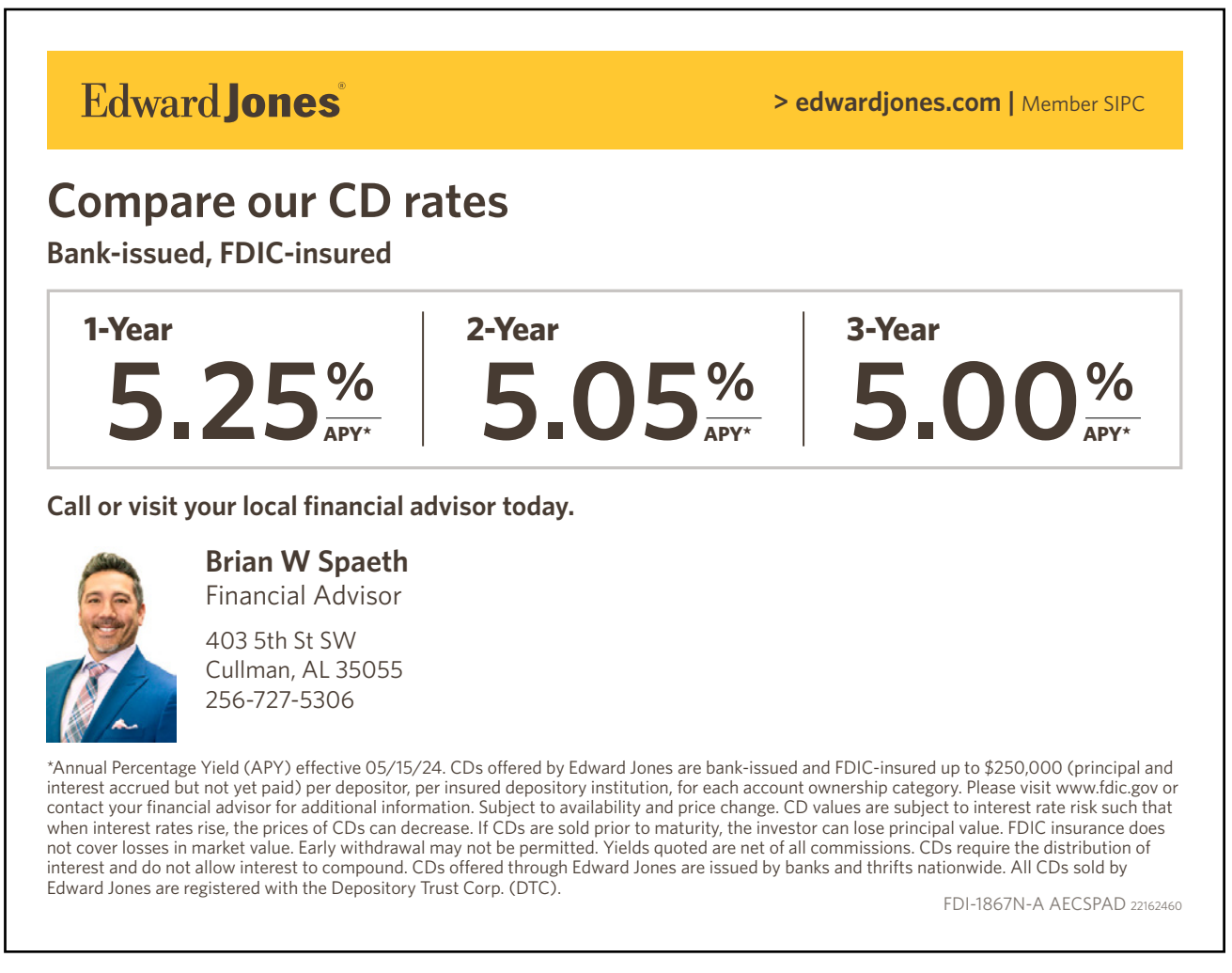












Wallace State Community College-Hanceville has the following open positions:

Police Officer

Engineering Technology Instructor

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

NOW HIRING CLASS A CDL DRIVERS

SAME DAY APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW + COMPETITIVE PAY AND BENEFITS

SFTWI

PLEASE APPLY AT COLLEGE TIRE

315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE

256-352-2221

LEGALS

Legal Notice

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

2011 Volvo Bronze, Vin.#YV4952DL0B2200809

This vehicle will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Smith's Body Shop and Wrecker Service, LLC, 11597 US Highway 278 East, Holly Pond, Alabama, 35083, on June 30, 2024, at 8:00 a.m.

DOCUMENT 10

ELECTRONICALLY FIL
5/6/2024 1:37 PM
25-CV-2023-900354.0
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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of * THERESA ANNETTE FIELDS, * CASE NO.: PC2024-158 Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to ANDREW L. FIELDS, as Personal Representative, of the ESTATE OF THERESA ANNETTE FIELDS, deceased, on the 16th day of May, 2024, by Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court.

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.

ANDREW L. FIELDS
Personal Representative

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney for Personal Representative
1939 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

DONE this 16th day of May, 2024.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of * OLEN CARTER, * CASE NO. PC2023-372 Deceased. *

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL

TO: CYNTHIA ADAMS, WHITNEY VANN CARTER AND ANY OTHER NEXT OF KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES.

Petition for Probate of Will for the Estate of Olen Carter, Deceased, filed by Virginia Carter, Petitioner, through Attorney Annette Irons Parker. A hearing on this matter has been re-scheduled for the **25th day of June , 2024, at 10:30 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County Courthouse, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman, Alabama.

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

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

Done this the 17th 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.

Annette Irons Parker
215 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF * ANDY STEVEN SPEARS, * CASE NO.: PC2024-149 Deceased. *

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Notice is hereby given that a Petition for Summary Distribution has been filed by Kathryn Spears Crawford on the 18th day of April, 2024, and that 30 days after the publication hereof and pursuant to law, the Court shall enter an Order Directing Summary Distribution of the Estate of said decedent.

Kathryn Spears Crawford
Petitioner

Thomas E. Drake. II Drake012
Attorney for Petitioner
419 Second Ave SW Suite B
Cullman, Alabama 35055
256-739-9445
tomdrake@bellsouth.net

To: PUBLISHER OF **The Cullman Tribune**

Please publish the above notice **ONE TIME** in said newspaper, and thereafter file with the Court a copy of the notice so published and an affidavit of publication.

DONE this the 17th day of May, 2024.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

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

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

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

VINEMONT HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2024

Graduation is Sunday, May 19, at 2 p.m. at Wallace State Tom Drake Coliseum

"Congratulations to the graduating class of 2024 at Vinemont High School. Throughout your freshman year, you've undoubtedly learned that change is the only constant. Your educational journey has been uniquely challenging, navigating through shifts and mandates that often defied expectations. Yet, you've approached these challenges with unwavering determination, making the most of your academic experience. While the future remains uncertain, one thing is clear: your success is virtually assured. You're entering the world better equipped than any generation before you. With access to unprecedented amounts of information and a vast array of career opportunities, you're poised for greatness. What truly sets you apart, however, is your indomitable spirit—the quintessential American determination to ask, "If not me, who?" From your freshman year onward, it's been evident that you possess the leadership qualities that few possess—a spirit driven by belief in oneself, faith, and country. Vinemont High School takes immense pride in your achievements and the exemplary manner in which you've represented our institution. As you embark on the next chapter of your journey, remember that your future is yours to shape. We have every confidence that the class of 2024 will achieve extraordinary things. Go, Eagles!"

Robin Netherton, Principal, Vinemont High School

PHOTO: SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY



Abigail Tankersley | *Alex West* | *Allie Hamm* | *Ashley Moreles* | *Ashton Kelley* | *Aubrey Jackson* | *Aubrey Pate* | *Aura Simpson* | *Austin Drinkard* | *Brooklyn Knott*

Callie Millwood | *Ciara Rusk* | *Clayton Jones* | *Culley Welch* | *Dalton Ray* | *Dawson Wilhite* | *Diego Rodriguez* | *Emma Dortch* | *Emma Smith* | *Faith Richardson*



Gracie Moody | *Isaiah Jones* | *Jacie James* | *Jackson Lamon* | *Jacob McKenna* | *Jamie Jones* | *Jana Harbison* | *Jasmin Chino* | *Jaxon Holcomb* | *Jay Shipp*

Jazmin Garcia | *Jeremy Harbison* | *Jonathan Flores* | *Jordan Eller* | *Jordan Pickett* | *Kaden Graham* | *Kami Young* | *Katelyn Evans* | *Kaylynn Rodriguez* | *Kimberly Driver*

Kyler Pugh | *Kyra Trahan* | *Kyser Campbell* | *Lucas Dunlap* | *Mabry Thompson* | *Maci Smith* | *Madalyn Flanagan* | *Maggie Burks* | *Maggie Cofer* | *Makenzie Turner*

Mason Fitzgerald | *Maverick Johnson* | *Michael Foust* | *Mildred Lemus* | *Morgan Armstrong* | *Nathan Maldonado* | *Parker Williams* | *Rylee James* | *Sarah Smitherman* | *Skyla Pair*



Sydney Ramey | *Tai Shurtleff* | *Toby Hill* | *Vance Powell* | *Will Hathaway* | *Xavier Sellers* | *Yoshelin Rendon*

happy GRADUATION

2024

SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY & Travel
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Congratulations Class of 2024!
Go Eagles!

CONGRATULATIONS VINEMONT CLASS OF 2024
COMPLIMENTS OF THE
TOWN OF VINEMONT
MAYOR
RADGINAL DODSON
COUNCIL MEMBERS
Chris Thompson, Nina Justice, Bonnie Goodwin, Sonya Copeland
TOWN CLERK Kayecea Sasser
MAINTENANCE Michael Stewart
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR Mike Graves
PHONE/FAX 256-737-5411
MONDAY-THURSDAY 7:45 A.M. - 2:45 P.M.,
FRIDAY 7:45 A.M. - 12:00 NOON
EMAIL: INFO@TOWNOFSOUTHVINEMONT.COM

WEST POINT HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2024

Graduation is Sunday, May 19, at 4 p.m. at Wallace State Coliseum

Not pictured: Haley Bearden, Raley Bryant, Olen Hardin, Tristan Bledsoe, Kasey Lawrimore, Brenton Marchese, Aubrey Moore, Austin Roggensac, Hannah Snell, Jordan Swafford, James Tankersley, Trenton Trammell

Class of 2024 -

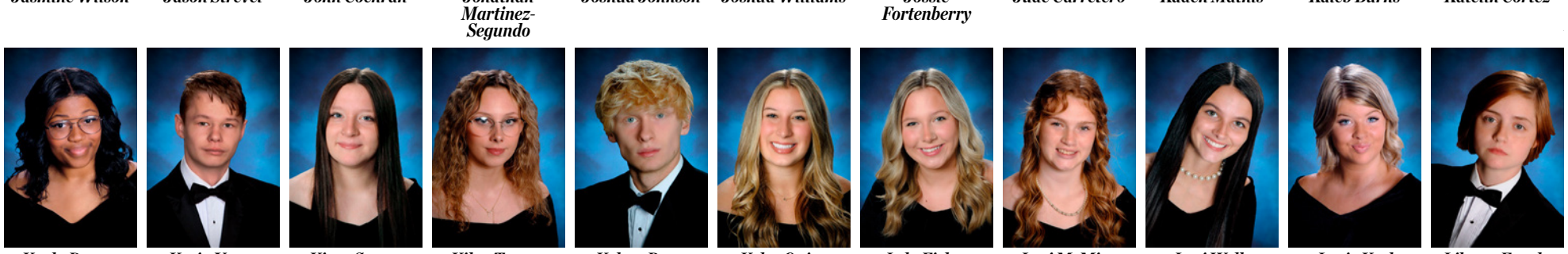
"Congratulations! This is a moment to celebrate all your hard work. You deserve every success that comes your way, but remember - there's no one-size-fits-all path. Trust that you're exactly where you need to be, even if it feels unfamiliar. Embrace the unknown! Growth happens outside your comfort zone. Don't shy away from scary opportunities - they'll shape you in incredible ways. Go into the world and do well, but more importantly, go into the world and do good. You've put in the effort, and now it's time for exciting adventures, new dreams, and self-discovery. Live life with passion and never stop reaching for your goals!"

Dr. Wes Black, Principal, West Point High School

PHOTOS: PRESTIGE PORTRAITS


Aidan Helms
Alana Lynn
Alissa Sims
Allen Trynton
Atalie Cornelius
Autumn Evans
Autumn Johnson
Ava Sims
Blain Marks
Branden Burtis
Breaze Freeman
Brinlee Phillips
Brodie Hickok
Brody Johns
Brooke Lynn
Bryce White
Cade Tyree
Carsyn Blankenship
Chaston Blackwood
Cheza Tucker
Damien Cornelius
Damien Kilcrease


Elijah Walker
Elisha Sims
Elizabeth Brady
Ella Minck
Emmalee Sayre
Eric Gilbreath
Ethan Jordan
Ethan McKenney
Ethan Shearrer
Ethan Warren
Etta Hudson
Evan Franks
Evelyn Guevara-Duarte
Ewan Ward
Felipe Vargas
Gabriel Hasting
Gabriel Lee
Garit Roberson
Hallie Wheeler
Haydan Hinkle
Hayden Jones
Haylee Hernandez-Suarez
Hiley Moore
Hunter Lindsey
Illora Goodwin
Jacob Ballew
Jacob Bencze
Jacob Harbison
Jada Austin
Jadien Smith
Jaeden Smith
Jake Overton
Jasmine Johnson
Jasmine Wilson
Jason Strevel
John Cochran
Jonathan Martinez-Segundo
Joshua Johnson
Joshua Williams
Jossie Fortenberry
Jude Carretero
Kaden Mathis
Kaleb Burns
Katelin Cortez


Kayla Dotson
Kevin Vance
Kiera Swann
Kilea Tanner
Kolten Perry
Kylee Quinn
Lela Fisher
Lexi McMinn
Lexi Wells
Lexie Keel
Liberty Franks
Liberty Shadix
Lilli Martin
Logan Harris
Logan Miller
Lona Lamar
Lucas Thornton
Lynnsie Fortenberry
Macayla Wilkins
Machea Shrader
Madison Evans
MaKenna Bright
Mariana Degolliado-Ramos
Marlene Garcia
Marli Powell
Mary Metze
Mason Rosner
Matthew Riggs
Nathan Coggins
Omar Segundo-Guevara
Parker Marks
Piper Lawrence
Rachel Shannon
Riley Burk
Ronald Robbins
Rosa Shaw
Ryan Douglas
Ryan Hancock
Ryder Powell
Salvador Morales-Flores
Sara Owens
Sarai Juarez
Sidney Burks
Spencer Huckeba
Tara Miller
Thomas Brown
Toree Wells
Tyler Franklin
Vinit Patel
Wesley Shadix
William Eaves

Class of 2024

Nominations (from Front)

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County People Against a Littered State (PALS) is currently accepting nominations for Beautification Awards. These awards are a physical recognition for local businesses, churches, practices and organizations that add to the beauty of the area with exceptional landscaping or design.

Currently, the recognizable green signs can be found at the Cullman County Courthouse, Carlton's Italian Restaurant and The Cabin at Clarkson Covered Bridge.

"If you are especially proud of your own landscaping design, don't hesitate to nominate your own business for consideration," said Cullman County PALS Chairperson Cherrie Haney.

The PALS Committee appoints a group of local, qualified judges to review and score nominated businesses, schools, churches and government facilities. The judges ultimately bestow the Beautification Awards on the most appealing lawns and spaces.

Any individual who would like to recognize a property owner or manager's beautification efforts may make a nomination.

Haney implored the community for help, saying, "Please take a moment to nominate your business or a business you believe is worthy of consideration."

All nominations must be received by Cullman County PALS no later than 3:30 p.m. on Friday, May 24.

Award recipients will be named and have their associated landscaped area featured locally and on the PALS Facebook page.

Images of the chosen properties will be sent to Alabama PALS to be featured on its website and social media platforms statewide.

Send nomination forms to Cullman County PALS at P.O. Box 1935, Cullman, AL 35056.

For more information on Cullman County PALS or the Beautification Awards, contact Cherrie Haney at cherriehaney@bellsouth.net or 256-531-4222.



ForestHER: Wildlife Workshop and Field Day set for May 21

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The ForestHER: Wildlife Workshop and Field Day is set to take place on Tuesday, May 21 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the North Alabama Agriplex. The registration cost is $25 and includes lunch, T-shirt, publications and handouts and a raffle ticket for one of the two prizes. This unique event, offered by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), aims to provide women landowners with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively manage their properties with a focus on enhancing wildlife habitats.

The ForestHER program was created to cater specifically to women landowners.

"With more young women owning land and older women that have taken over the family property, there is a demographic of landowners that may benefit from learning about the processes and decisions related to maintaining a healthy forest and wildlife habitat.

"Without this knowledge or a trusted advisor, it can open up opportunities for others to capitalize on one's unfamiliarity with these topics," explained Kerry Steedley, forestry and wildlife agent for northwest Alabama with ACES.

The program offers a supportive environment where women can connect, learn and gain confidence in managing their land sustainably.

Participants can expect to learn about a range of topics from a diverse group of natural resources professionals. The event will cover habitat management, timber management and its benefits for wildlife, urban habitat management and food plots, among other subjects. In the afternoon, attendees will participate in a field portion that provides a hands-on look at the topics discussed, allowing them to visualize how different management activities are implemented in practice.

The field portion of the event will include a walkthrough of various areas of Peinhardt Farms, where participants will see practical examples of timber management's impact on shelter and forage plants, field renovation and plant composition. This hands-on experience is designed to deepen understanding and provide practical knowledge that attendees can apply to their properties.

Speakers at the event include Amber Baker, wildlife biologist with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; Norm Haley, regional Extension agent for forestry and wildlife in northeast Alabama; Mary Claire Smith, forester with the Alabama Forestry Commission in Cullman County; Jessie Taylor, biologist with Quail Forever; Autumn Watrous, wildlife biologist with the Alabama Forestry Foundation; Jared Carter program manager for the Alabama Mountains, Rivers & Valleys Resource Conservation & Development Council; Kira Sims, Cullman County Extension coordinator; and Kerry Steedley.

The workshop is designed to cater to women landowners with varying levels of experience in managing wildlife habitats.

"This class will be for anyone from those getting started on their property management journey or those looking to learn more and connect with natural resource professionals or other women landowners. Whether someone is interested in improving the hunting opportunities on their land or just increasing the wildlife viewing opportunities, they are sure to get something out of this class," Steedley said.

Participants will receive a variety of handouts and publications on the topics covered, as well as contact information for agencies that can provide further services, such as site visits and management plans. Two lucky raffle winners will take home either a wildlife trail camera or snake gaiters.

Although this is an event geared toward women landowners, anyone is invited. For those who need further information, contact Steedley at kes0150@gmail.com or 334-350-0485. Interested individuals can register at www.aces.edu/go/WomenAndWildlife.

Education notes

Cullman's Caleb Norman named to spring 2024 Dean's List at Belmont University

By: Jasmine Simmons

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Caleb Norman was named among the students who qualified for Belmont University's spring 2024 Dean's List. Approximately 44% of the university's 7,338 undergraduate students qualified for the spring 2024 Dean's List.

"Earning a place on the Dean's List is a testament to the unwavering diligence, tenacity and commitment to scholarly distinction exhibited by Belmont's promising students," said Belmont University Provost Dr. David Gregory. "The ability to excel both inside and outside the classroom emphasizes these students' exceptional character and drive, and it is an honor for me to extend my heartfelt congratulations to each one.

"Whether they are contributing to the arts, pioneering groundbreaking research or championing important causes, they have consistently demonstrated the same level of passion and excellence that has brought them to this momentous academic achievement."

Dean's List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

Area students named to Jacksonville State University President's, Dean's Lists

By: Kelli J. Holmes

JACKSONVILLE, Ala. — More than 995 students were named to the President's List at Jacksonville State University for their outstanding academic performance in spring 2024.

Local students include:
- Ryan Fannell of Arab
- Katherine Robles of Arab
- William Caneer of Arab
- Lakelyn Wilson of Arab
- Lilly Hudson of Cullman
- Kolton Guthrie of Cullman
- Elijah Loyd of Cullman
- Robert Pitts of Holly Pond
- Della Hand of Vinemont
- Emma Fincher of Arley
- Heather Sharpe of Falkville

More than 1,200 students have been named to the Dean's List for their outstanding academic performance at Jacksonville State University in spring 2024.

Local students include:
- Emma B. Stewart of Arab
- Breanna Marie Ballew of Arab
- Maggie Mae Roberson of Arab
- Blake Matthew Aziz of Arab
- James Tyler Thompson of Bremen
- Chloe Ann Thompson of Cullman
- Brennen Elliott Norton of Cullman
- Keagan Wayne Hardin of Cullman
- Ashley Warren Turner of Cullman
- Whitney Jo Vincent of Hanceville
- Madisyn R. Meharg of Hanceville
- Gracie Caroline Abbott of Logan
- Stella Grace Phillips of Vinemont
- Paige E. Holcomb of Vinemont
- Jessie Lane Woodard of Arley
- Kinley G. Coots of Falkville

Cullman's Cody McCain graduates from University of the Cumberlands

By: Andrew Powell

WILLIAMSBURG, Ky. — Everyone at University of the Cumberlands wishes heartfelt congratulations to all graduates in the Class of 2024!

Local graduates include:
- Cody McCain of Cullman

Local students named to Samford University Cumberland School of Law Dean's List for spring 2024 semester

By: Carter Schultz

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Samford University's Cumberland School of Law recognizes 156 students named to the Dean's List for the spring 2024 semester.

Cumberland School of Law recognizes excellence in academic achievement each semester by publishing a Dean's List. Included on the list are students whose end-of-semester GPA is 3.3 or higher.

Local students include:
- Hannah Dillashaw of Cullman
- Synclair Goyer of Bremen



THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MAY 18, 2024

ACES: 4-H BIGGEST Catch contest featuring new categories for 2024

Justin Miller
Ala. Cooperative Extension Office

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. — The Alabama 4-H BIGGEST Catch contest is back for another year with some new competition categories. Emily Nichols, an Alabama Cooperative Extension System 4-H natural resources specialist, said she is excited to add new components to this year's competition.

"This is our fifth year to offer this contest, and there is more that we want youth and their families to discover," Nichols said. "I'm thrilled to incorporate new categories that encourage young people to explore as many public water bodies as possible and gain exposure and familiarity with as many different fish as possible. I want people to get to know the special aquatic resources that we have in our state."

This fishing and fish art competition is May 24 through June 3. All Alabama youth ages 9 to 18 are invited to participate. There is no prior 4-H experience required to join in on the fun.

Contest categories

Unlike traditional fishing competitions, the 4-H BIGGEST Catch is completely virtual. This year, there are four main categories: Biggest Catch, Biggest Variety of Fish Species, Biggest Variety of Public Water and Biggest Fish Art.

In the Biggest Catch category, the name says it all. The goal is to reel in the biggest fish in one or more fish categories. These include bass, sunfish (bream), catfish and crappie.

In the Biggest Variety of Fish Species competition, size is not the objective. Participants are out to catch as many different species of bass, catfish, crappie and sunfish (bream) as they can.

One of the new categories this year is the Biggest Variety of Public Water. This encourages participants to catch a fish in as many public water bodies as possible.

This new addition pushes youth to experience the wonderful fishing resources in their area and beyond.

"Because this contest allows kids to choose where they go fishing, it is a great opportunity to explore fishing across the state," Nichols said. "Whether that is in state-managed public fishing lakes, state parks, rivers or creeks, this part of the contest helps kids learn more about different bodies of water."

The Biggest Fish Art is another new category, which encourages youth to let their inner artist shine.

Whether it is through drawing, sketching or painting, the goal is to portray a bass, catfish, crappie or sunfish (bream) species that is listed on the 4-H BIGGEST Catch web page.

Fishing contest rules

To enter the three fishing categories, participants must catch a fish in Alabama waters between May 24 and June 3.

To be eligible, contestants must catch and land their fish without any help. After making the catch, contestants must include a photograph of the fish along with the submission.

"The photograph must include the kid and their fish, the contest code AL4H24 and the total length (inches) of the fish," Nichols said. "Participants can write this information on a piece of paper and hold it up in the photograph or they can write it on their hand."

Submit contest entries online at aub.ie/4HBiggestCatch24. This portal opens May 24 at 8 a.m. and closes June 3 at 8 p.m.

Fish art contest rules

Participants in the fish art contest must also submit entries between May 24 at 8 a.m. and June 3 at 8 p.m.

Each entry must include a picture of the youth's drawing, sketch or painting. This artwork must be done without the help of others.

"For this contest, we want the kids to portray one of the fish species that is listed under our official contest categories, which are bass, catfish, crappie and sunfish (bream)," Nichols said.

"We can't wait to see the beautiful artwork that the participants come up with this year."

There is a separate online submission link for the fish art contest. Submit contest entries at aub.ie/4HBiggestCatchArt.

More information

The 4-H BIGGEST Catch fishing contest is a great chance for young people to make awesome memories and have fun. A complete list of contest rules and more information is available on the 4-H BIGGEST Catch web page at www.aces.edu. Also, join in on the fun through the contest's event on the Alabama 4-H Outdoors Facebook page.



ADCNR

Traci Wood with ADCNR releases an Eastern indigo snake in the Conecuh National Forest.

Fundraiser (from Front)

chasing medical equipment, counseling materials and baby care items for clients. This year, First Source is opening the fundraiser to more than religious organizations and churches; any business or organization that wishes to participate in the Baby Bottle Boomerang is welcome.

The 2023 Baby Bottle Boomerang saw the center raise an astounding $63,000 for its ministry and associated programs; for 2024, the staff hopes to surpass that, setting their sights on raising more than ever.

"I will be uploading weekly a bottle 'thermometer' to keep track of how much this campaign has raised. The goal on the thermometer is $65,000, but I would honestly like to blow that out of the water and raise $100,000 with this fundraiser this year," said First Source Administrator Meredith Little. "We are seeing more clients than ever, and their needs are outpacing our available funding."

Last year, FSFW successfully got 21,000 diapers into the hands and bags of local mothers, as well as matched parents and families with safe cribs and car seats along with clothes and other necessities, all free of charge. The growing ministry means the center is making an impact and reaching the community in the way it was intended, but a growing ministry means growing needs.

"In 2023 alone, we saw almost 700 unique clients for prenatal care and parenting classes. and nearly 200 babies were born from First Source for Women clients last year. From 2022 to 2023 we experienced a 50% increase in clients, appointments and babies born," said Little.

First Source supports mothers and the community through its baby boutique, providing parents and caregivers "baby bucks" in return for completing various parenting and informational classes. The boutique is a place where new and expecting mothers can go to receive necessities for their children. The boutique, along with the nonprofit's other resources, support and classes are all available until children are 2 years old.

At the resource center's recent banquet, Invest in the Gift of Life, Board President Julia Rushing said of the ministry, "If a woman comes to us in the first few weeks of her pregnancy, we will walk with her along the way and support her and comfort her until her child is 2 years old. That is almost three years that she can take advantage of the friendship, support and education throughout her pregnancy and early family life. That's what we provide to the community; that's what you all are a part of."

For more information on First Source, its ministry and programs or to receive a collection bottle at a church, organization or place of business for the Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser, contact First Source at 205-908-8137 or info@firstsourceforwomen.org.

Obituary Announcements: May 16-17

Jaudon William Wiggins, 90

Jaudon William Wiggins, "Don", went to be with our Lord on Wednesday, May 15, 2024. He was born on Aug. 31, 1933, in Duncanville, Alabama, to Lottie Grace and Marion Richmond Wiggins, and grew up with three brothers and two sisters 13 miles from the goal posts of his beloved Crimson Tide. Following high school graduation, he worked as an auto body mechanic before joining the United States Army where he served as paratrooper during the Korean War. It was while on leave, he met the woman who would be his wife of 60 years, Carolyn Ruth McGukin of Eva, Alabama. They married in 1955 and together in Cullman, they raised their only child, Nancy Carol Wiggins Webb. Don was known for his generous heart, easy-going nature, love of animals, his sense of adventure, and never meeting a stranger. He was a man of integrity whose word was golden and was never too proud to take on any job to support his family. He worked at jobs ranging from hanging curtains on chicken houses, making Harley Davidson motorcycle spokes, setting out pine trees in Talladega National Forest, loading steel buildings for transport, and later retiring from Americold Corporation. He served his community for several years with the Cullman County Rescue Squad. He was also a kid at heart, once riding bikes with his daughter so far that a Cullman County sheriff stopped them and told them they should return home before dark! Don was preceded in death by his parents, Lottie and Marion Wiggins, his wife Carolyn Ruth Wiggins, brother Johnny (Bertha) Wiggins, and his sister Linda Bardon. He is survived by his daughter, Nancy (David) Webb, grandson Jeremy (Taylor) Webb, brother Lee Ondis "Bill" Wiggins (Nita), sister Zoe (Jim) Breugem, and brother Larry Wiggins. Heartfelt appreciation to the incredible nurses at Summerford Health and Rehab who cared for him with love and compassion. Visitation is Monday, May 20, 2024, from noon to 2 p.m. at St. Andrews Global Methodist Church, 615 Main Avenue, Cullman, AL, with funeral services to follow immediately at 2 p.m. A brief graveside service with military honors will follow in the Cullman City Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to St. Andrews Global Methodist Church, Cullman, Alabama.

Sandra Denise Long, 63

Sandra Denise Long, age 63, of Guntersville, Alabama passed away o n Thursday, May 16, 2024.A visitation for Sandra will be held Monday, May 20, 2024, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Moss-Service Funeral Home, 1901 Second Avenue, NW, Cullman, AL 35055. A funeral service will occur Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 2 p.m., 1901 Second Avenue, NW, Cullman, AL 35055. An interment will occur Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 3 p.m. at Ebenezer Cemetery, 2245 County Road 1242, Vinemont, AL 35179.

Franklin D. Speakman, 81

Franklin D. Speakman, 81, of Falkville, Alabama, entered into his heavenly home on Wednesday evening, May 15, 2024. Mr. Speakman was born in Cullman County, Alabama, on Aug. 27, 1942, to the late Irwin Washington and Bessie Mildred Massey Speakman. Mr. Speakman married his wife, Imogene "Jean" Page Speakman, at the age of seventeen. Frank and Jean were married for sixty-three years. Together they had a beautiful daughter, Rhonda, and she was their joy. They were blessed with grandchildren, and then a great-grandchild and they were looking forward to the arrival of a second great-grandchild later this year. Mr. Speakman adored his family, and he cherished the time he spent with them. Several years into their marriage, Frank was called into the ministry, and he spent the next fifty years sharing the message of salvation through Christ Jesus. Mr. Speakman preached at various churches in the area and was honored and humbled to have taken the word of the Lord not only to his friends and neighbors, but also into both Canada and Norway. He and Jean were enjoying attending Temple Baptist Church together in his retirement. Mr. Speakman lived out his faith and with a servant heart, he was always offering to help his neighbors. Frank enjoyed gardening and tending to his flowers, and he was quick to share his talents and knowledge with them. Without the neighbors asking him to, he made sure their yards were free of leaves and limbs and even planted flower beds for them. Frank enjoyed showing the love of Christ to others, and this was one of the many ways in which he did so. Frank was a true example to us all of the love of Christ. While his family grieves for him, they are comforted with the knowledge that Frank is now in the presence of our Father. Just a few days ago Frank expressed his excitement to meet his Jesus. There is true joy in knowing that he is made new, knows no pain or sorrow, and he now walks with his Savior. Those preceding Mr. Speakman in death includes his parents; brothers, John B. Speakman, Ollie Speakman; and sisters, Earlene Morgan, Marie Warnke, Nella Mae Massey. Franklin is survived by his beloved wife, Jean Speakman; daughter, Rhonda Speakman Tower (Brent); grandchildren, Brittany Tower, Amanda Tower, Brianna Tower Chapman (Cannan); great-grandson, Cooper; brother, Lummie Washington Speakman (Sue); and a host of nieces and nephews. A time of visitation will be held for Mr. Speakman on Friday evening, May 17, 2024, from 6-8 p.m. in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel. Mr. Speakman will lie in state, at the funeral home, on Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 1 p.m. until services begin at 2 p.m. Keith Poss and Steve Hasting will be officiating. Burial will follow services in Redan Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Speakman 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

Is this another plague of locust?

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



What has six legs, two antennae, two pairs of wings, a beak for drinking, large eyes that can be red, white, or blue, (they sound patriotic, don't they?), transparent wings that can appear to be rainbow colored, and sings? No, it's not your older sister! She can't sing! You may or may not have seen, and even more so, heard, thousands of them lately. Yes, I'm talking about our loud little singing visitors called cicadas. Scientist have been telling us for quite some time they were coming. They are here...lots of them.

Experts and entomologists tell us there will be billions of them in the eastern part of our nation this summer. First, we had the coronavirus pandemic and now we have the cicada pandemic! Maybe scientist will come up with a cicada's vaccine...for us, not them!

Strangely, they don't seem to be everywhere, at least not yet. I don't have many at my house in Opelika, but in Lanette, thirty minutes to the northeast, where I serve as pastor, they are everywhere.

At first, the woods across the road from the church was full of them. Last week they even came to church.

In fact, I think there may have been more of them than there was of us. They weren't content to just hang out in the parking lot, but several of them tried to come inside. At Lanier Baptist Church we say anybody and everybody is welcome, and we mean it, but I'm not so sure about this swarm of cicadas! They fly up in your face, they don't tithe, and they won't hush and be quiet. I've known a few church members in my lifetime like that, but, of course, not at our current church. This bunch of bugs are also like a few church members I've known in that they haven't been here for 17 years. They weren't dead, just hiding underground until they woke up and decided to emerge. I'm talking about the cicadas, not awol church members.

The good news is that they won't stay long, just a few weeks and we won't see or hear them anymore. (No, I'm still talking about the cicadas). The cicadas have provided our special music for several weeks now, and boy, can they sing! When they get the full cicada choir cranked up you can hear them loud and clear even while driving down the road. They all sing the same song, in unison, and I haven't heard a single one of them sing off key.

If any of you suffer from tinnitus, that irritating nonstop ringing in the ears, I think the cicadas may be the answer to our problem. At least with them around, we don't notice the ringing as much!

I'm kind of beginning to understand how the Pharoah in the days of Moses felt. I'm even beginning to have a little sympathy for him. I certainly have a better understanding of why he let Moses' people go. He may have said something like, "Just make them hush" to Moses.

Actually, cicadas are not locust. They are a different species of insects. There is some good news about cicadas. They don't devour crops like locusts have been known to do. They don't eat up our houses like termites or powder-post beetles.

They don't sting or bite like bees or wasps do. They just fly around and sing. Maybe we could get them a tryout for The Voice or American Idol next time, but then most of them won't be back around for another 17 years, so just enjoy the music while they're here.

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

HISTORY

Files from yesteryear: 1952

From the files of 1952

Hanceville cheerleaders this year ae Jo Vaughn, Hail Thomas, Belva Sue Johnson, Eleanor Gay Chappell, Margaret Johnson, Barbara Ann Johnson and Mona Ann Seibert.

Private A.P. Alvis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Alvis, formerly of Garden City was killed in Korea in late June. His body was shipped to Cullman last week. In addition to his parents, he is survived by three brothers, Vernon, Frank and Julian and three sisters, Mrs. Paul Ray Anderson, Vickie Alvis and Barbara Alvis.

Carolyn Peinhardt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Peinhardt won eight first place ribbons with her Guerneys in the Tennessee Valley Show and a trip to Toronto, California to compete with cattle showers from other countries.

Wesley Rhodes is recuperating in St. Agnes Hospital in Fresno, California following an accident which necessitated spinal surgery. He is the eldest son of John and Mutell Gilley Rhodes, former residents of Bethsadia.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Edwards of New Harmony are parents of a baby girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ziegenbein and Rex of Norfolk, Nebraska are spending this week with Mr. and Mrs. C.V. McElroy and other relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. John Keller have returned home after spending several days in Columbus, Georgia with Mr. and Mrs. Burton Keller.

Mrs. Cortez Peeler and daughter, Peggy have returned from visiting Mr. and Mrs. Cal Peeler in Orlando, Florida.

Mrs. Nancy Mize was honored with a dinner last Sunday on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

A.B. Marsh of Union Hill has bought a new electric stove.

Reverend Virgil Sizemore preached at Enon last Sunday.

A daughter was born recently to Mr. and Mrs. T.E. Phillips.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Huffstutler of Cullman announce the engagement of their daughter, Christine to Billy James Hodge, son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Hodge of Cullman.

Dating on Tuesday night were Ann Harbin and Ed Knight, Rebecca Hesterly and Harold Chandler, Mary Frances Zeinsmeister and Rayburn Parker.

Betsy Bridgesand and Virgil Fowler were spotted on Sunday afternoon.

Bill Rasco has been on a trip to Texas.

POET'S CORNER

Moods | By: Sara Teasdale, 1884-1933

I am the still rain falling,
Too tired for singing mirth—
Oh, be the green fields calling,
Oh, be for me the earth!

I am the brown bird pining
To leave the nest and fly—
Oh, be the fresh cloud shining,
Oh, be for me the sky!

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

MAY 18

W	A	I	M	I	R	I	A	P	A	C	H	E	M	F	O	X
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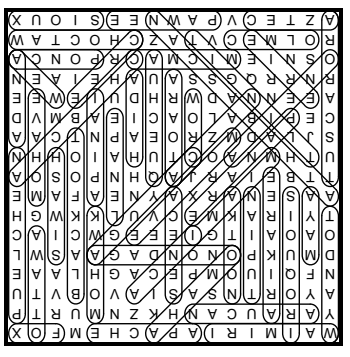
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Aztec
Blackfoot
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Choctaw
Cree
Crow
Erie
Fox
Haida
Inca
Iroquois
Lenape
Maya
Miami
Micmac
Mohave
Mohawk
Mojave
Nazca
Nootka
Olmec
Omaha
Oneida
Onondaga
Ottawa
Panare
Pawnee
Ponca
Puelchean
Quechua
Seneca
Sioux
Siwash
Tlingit
Tupian
Tuscarora
Waimiri
Wea
Wyandot

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

MAY 18

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ANSWERS:



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







Recycling Collection
Now Available in Cullman County for Residents and Businesses
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No drop-off location

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25% OFF 225-65-17
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MON-TUES-THURS-FRIDAY 8:00-5:30
WEDS 8-12 | SAT 8:00-2:00
256-352-2221
...IN THAT WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS CHRIST DIED FOR US. ROMANS 5:8

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!

Wallace State Nursing holds 1st of 2 pinning ceremonies for Class of 2024

Special to The Cullman Tribune



WSCC

Members of the May 2024 UAB/Wallace State Nursing Joint Enrollment cohort pose for a photo before the pinning ceremony on May 9, 2024, at Traditions Bank Arena inside the Tom Drake Coliseum at Wallace State Community College.

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College's Department of Nursing Education recognized more than 75 graduates at the first of two pinning ceremonies for the class of 2024. Both the May and August ceremonies celebrate new nurses graduating from the program that has twice been designated as a Center of Excellence by the National League for Nursing.

Wallace State Community College President Dr. Vicki Karolewics welcomed Nursing graduates and their families to Tom Drake Coliseum, congratulating students on their upcoming nursing careers.

"Here is your future, Wallace State Nurses. Welcome to it and congratulations," said Karolewics.

Chair of the Department of Nursing Education Deborah "Pepper" Hoover praised Nursing graduates on their dedication to academics and expressed her gratitude for their decision to attend Wallace State.

"Graduates, you selected nursing at Wallace State at a very uncertain time in healthcare," said Hoover. "When you applied for admission in the fall of 2022, the pandemic had created a scary world.

"However, we were so happy that you selected Wallace State for your nursing education and have continued to allow us to be part of your nursing journey."

"These unique individuals have worked very hard to earn this degree," Hoover added. "Creating a culture of possibility to empower students to realize their dreams, developing strong healthcare partnerships to facilitate employment options and achieving the vision of academic excellence are some of the goals of the nursing department.

"Today marks the culmination of years of hard work, dedication and sacrifice. Each of you has shown immense courage and perseverance to reach this point. I commend you for choosing a path of compassion and life-changing service. A career that demands not only knowledge and skill, but also empathy and heart," said McElrath.

"We have learned not just the science of medicine through nursing, but also the art of caring and the art of being present in moments of vulnerability, grief and joy. Today is not just about looking back, it is also about looking forward with hope and determination. The world needs us now more than ever."

Apprenticeship, Joint Enrollment cohorts recognized

The May pinning ceremony marked the first cohort of nursing apprenticeship students to graduate from Wallace State. The apprenticeship initiative began at Wallace State in Spring 2023 and is coordinated by Christina Holmes, director of career services and work-based learning. The program partners with area employers, providing Wallace State Nursing students with the opportunity for on-the-job experience alongside standard classroom instruction. Apprentices work under the guidance of mentors that ensure they are mastering skills and will enter the nursing workforce in a role at their apprenticeship facility. Graduates in the apprenticeship cohort include Sarah Borden of Haleyville, Diamond Horton of Gadsden, Heather Ivey of Union Grove, Devin Kirk of Cullman and Ryleigh Patterson of Hartselle.

Among the almost 80 graduates at the pinning ceremony, eight graduated with an associate degree from Wallace State and a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) as part of the UAB/WSCC Joint Enrollment program. This year, Wallace State celebrated the sixth cohort of graduates to complete the program and earn two degrees. Members of the joint enrollment cohort include Melissa Dillon of Birmingham, Chloe Dover of Hanceville, Ashley Haga of Arab, Lydia Kelso of Cullman, Chibueze Merematoh of New York City, Devin Murphree of Hanceville, Skylar Sloan of Dora and Brady Helms of Pearl, Mississippi.

Nightingale Award Winners recognized

Three students were recognized as Nightingale Award Winners from the May 2024 pinning class. Zachary Gables of Sterrett, Benjamin Bianchi of Trussville and Brady Helms of Pearl, Mississippi each received the award, which is given in recognition of a student's commitment to excellence in scholarship and dedication to exemplary patient care.

Gables, a licensed paramedic and firefighter, is known for being "compassionate, a quick learner, a good critical thinker and someone who practices with integrity." He shared that even though nursing school was difficult, he had grown in his medical knowledge and his role as a father and husband.

Bianchi is described as having excellent bedside manner and is "an eager learner and a selfless helper who cares with compassion, respect and authenticity for his patients." Bianchi also served his class as a representative.

Helms, a competitive runner on the Wallace State Cross Country team, is noted as having "brought a light to every room he entered, along with the hum of music."

One faculty member remarked that Helms displayed the best work ethic and compassion they had experienced in a student and that he "always wanted to learn and do more." Helms was recognized by UAB as a Nightingale Award winner during the UAB Senior Recognition Ceremony and was also awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Health Science during Wallace State's 2024 Spring Commencement Ceremony.

Other nominees for the Nightingale Award include Chase Dupree of Baileyton, Levi Garner of Cullman, Thomas Marshall Horton III of Kimberly, Atyah Jones of Courtland, Lydia Kelso of Cullman, Christopher Martinez-Tello of Guntersville, Chibueze Merematoh of New York City, Sara Morgan of Sumiton, Obi Chinenyenwa of Hoover, Ryleigh Patterson of Hartselle, Brandi Seelbinder of Gardendale and Rachel Vincent of Hanceville.

Following the pinning ceremony, Nursing graduates left the Traditions Bank Arena at Tom Drake Coliseum dancing down the aisle, many carrying signs decorated with the names of medical facilities where they will be working.

The pinning ceremony for the August cohort will be held at 5 p.m., on Thursday, Aug. 1, in Traditions Bank Arena at Tom Drake Coliseum.

Applications for Spring 2025 Open July 1

The Wallace State Department of Nursing Education offers a traditional option through which students can earn a practical nursing certificate after completing three semesters and an associated in applied science after completing the fifth semester.

It also offers the UAB/WSCC and Athens State University (ATSU)/WSCC Joint Enrollment options, allowing students to concurrently complete associate and bachelor's degrees through Wallace State and the partnering institution.

Both the traditional and joint enrollment pathways have mobility options for certified health care professionals wishing to pursue a career in nursing.

The Wallace State Nursing program will accept applications July 1 through Oct. 1 for the Spring 2025 semester for the traditional associate degree in nursing, practical nursing degree and Joint Enrollment program options with UAB and ATSU.

For more information about the Wallace State Nursing program, visit www.wallacestate.edu/nursing, call 256-352-8199 or email nursingapplicant@wallacestate.edu.