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Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force looks to educate community

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force met Wednesday, May 22, at the Cullman County Sheriff's Office Training Center.

The gathering was a meet and greet of sorts, with Secretary Ana Claire Pealor revealing that while the task force is not a new organization, its membership numbers have waned since the pandemic. The meeting and its special guest speakers from the Alabama Attorney General's Office and the Department of Homeland Security were a draw to get the community involved in finding and doing their part in ending human trafficking.

United States Department of Homeland Security Regional Director out of Huntsville, Logan Hoffman, spoke to the group and shared which populations are the most targeted as well as stories and likely scenarios Cullman residents could see that potentially could be human traffick- » PAGE 2



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force held a community meeting on Wednesday, May 22. Department of Homeland Security Regional Director Logan Hoffman spoke to the task force and gathered residents.

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85 / 67
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
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MLF

– SPORTS –

Lee leads wire-to-wire to win MLF General Tire Heavy Hitters 2024 Presented by Bass Pro Shops on the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes
» PAGE 8

Honoring those who sacrificed



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Flags placed by volunteers covered the Cullman City Cemetery in remembrance of those who served in the United States Armed Forces.

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Volunteers gathered at the Cullman City Cemetery on Friday, May 24, to honor those who served in the United States Armed Forces by placing flags at their graves. Under the guidance of the Cullman VFW, community members walked the cemetery, identifying the gravestones of past service members and placing American flags.

VFW Chaplain Gary Rodgers opened the memorial event with an impassioned prayer and spoke about the importance of the day.

"While you are » PAGE 6



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Charles Lee and two of his brothers stand before the Thiot and Sims gravestones, which included family members of theirs who had served in the United States Armed Forces.

Police chase ends in wreck, 1 fatality, in south Cullman



MORGAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The victim Ellarea Dickson is pictured with her son, Sgt. John Dickson.
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Vinemont to hold cleanup day for Henry and Roe Wood Park June 1
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From the Live Well Kitchen: 4 easy recipes for Memorial Day weekend



ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

Fiesta Confetti
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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported May 24

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. – Below are the arrests and incidents reported May 23, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

May 20

- domestic violence; CR 386
- possession of dangerous drugs; Edmondson Rd.
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69N
- theft of property; CR 264
- theft of property; Hwy. 278E
- criminal mischief; Hwy. 69N
- domestic violence; CR 468
- harassment; trespassing; CR 1856
- harassment; CR 818
- theft of property; CR 2030
- domestic violence; CR 1387
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 437
- criminal mischief; CR 935
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1763
- violation of protection order; CR 436
- domestic violence; CR 1212

May 21

- unlawful breaking entering motor vehicle; assault; CR 386
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 437
- domestic violence; Municipal Dr.
- domestic violence; CR 503
- theft of property; Hwy. 69S
- reckless endangerment; permitting dogs to run at large; criminal mischief; CR 1807
- domestic violence; CR 558

May 22

- harassing communications; CR 1850
- theft of property; CR 216
- assault; CR 431
- theft of property; CR 715
- domestic violence; CR 1668
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1141
- possession of marijuana; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69S

May 23

- retail theft of property-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; miscellaneous; $108; Hwy. 157
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '17 Chev. Suburban; $2,000; Olive St. SW

ARRESTS

May 20-22

Bentley, William B.; 57
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Blair, Dale R.; 60
- criminal trespass (2 counts)
- assault-harassment (2 counts)

Blair, Linda L.; 53
- assault-harassment (2 counts)

Breaux, Nicholas A.; 25
- sex offense-sodomy-with a girl-strong arm
- sex offense-rape-strong arm
- theft-shoplifting
- unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle

Conn, Stanley D.; 60
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of methamphetamine

Davis, Jessica H.; 35
- possession of drug paraphernalia

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

Goodlett, Andrew
- BAIL JUMPING 2 – possession of dangerous drugs
- BAIL JUMPING 2 – possession of drug paraphernalia

Green, Bradley S.; 36
- reckless endangerment (2 counts)
- DUI

Haff, Joseph A.; 41
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Jones, Shonia M.; 47
- family offense-causing of delinquency, dependency or need of supervision of children

Kongslien, Brian T.; 39
- GJ – possession of child pornography (2 counts)

Martinez, Dustin A.; 30
- Possession of methamphetamine

Parker, Kenneth W.; 51
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Reeves Jr., James T.; 32
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Rohrscheib, Justin M.; 42
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Sandlin, Isaac J.; 22
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Sharp, David A.; 46
- FTA – permitting dogs to run at large

Trussell, Mary S.; 35
- GJ – unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle
- GJ – theft-grand jury arrest warrant, $500-less than $1500

Watson, Braden H.; 26
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Watson, Tyler B.; 28
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- promote prison contraband (drugs)

White, Bobby A.; 40
- GJ – buying/receiving stolen property

White, Roger A.; 46
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Whitworth, Fayda C.; 63
- Negotiating worthless instrument (14 counts)

Wood, Christine M.; 59
- GJ – forged instrument (2 counts)
- GJ – counterfeiting (2 counts)
- GJ – theft-miscellaneous, less than $500

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

May 22
- leaving the scene of an accident; person; damage to '16 Mazda; $500; Warnke Rd. NW
- harassing communications; person
- retail theft of property-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $75; Hwy. 157
- theft of property-3rd degree; person; miscellaneous; $993

ARRESTS

May 22

Parker, Bryan A.; 34
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Herron, Jason E.; 48
- FTA – driving while suspended

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Community (from Front)

ing.

With a lengthy career of over 20 years as a law enforcement officer and agent with the Department of Homeland Security, Hoffman recalled his first brush with human trafficking. As a young officer, Hoffman responded to a call of a shooting during a drug deal gone sour. After a quick investigation, it was revealed that instead of the sale of illicit drugs turning bad, it was the sale of a 14-year-old girl.

"Is it all getting kidnapped and shoved into a shipping container and sent overseas and sold on the black market? No. I would say that's what human trafficking may look like," shared Hoffman. "I think in Cullman County you will see vulnerable, underprivileged people being taken advantage of for profit."

Hoffman touched on the largest populations of trafficked individuals through labor or human trafficking: immigrants and their children.

According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, over 16,700 victims of human trafficking were identified in 2021 alone . Similarly, Survivors Against Familial Exploitation reports that approximately 200,000 American children are sexually exploited annually; like child sexual abuse, 90% of commercial sexual exploitation starts within the victims' own homes, perpetrated by a family member or close family friend.

Most of these children will be entered into commercial sexual exploitation around 5 years old, but for some it will begin as early as infancy.

Alabama Anti-Human Trafficking Alliance Coordinator Katie Beth Macarthy exposed one more hidden fact about trafficking in Alabama – northeast Alabama is a hotbed of unaccompanied minors; many of these unaccompanied minors simply disappear when they leave the airport.

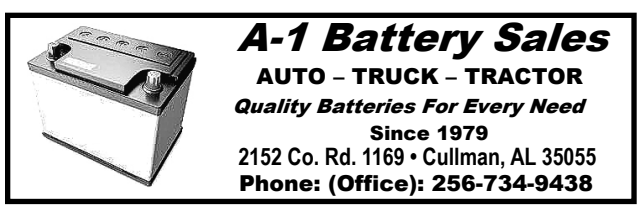
McCarthy said, "In northeast Alabama, we have seen an influx of unaccompanied minors that are coming through the border. They're doing home studies and being placed with individuals that are not family members, and then we lose track of them."

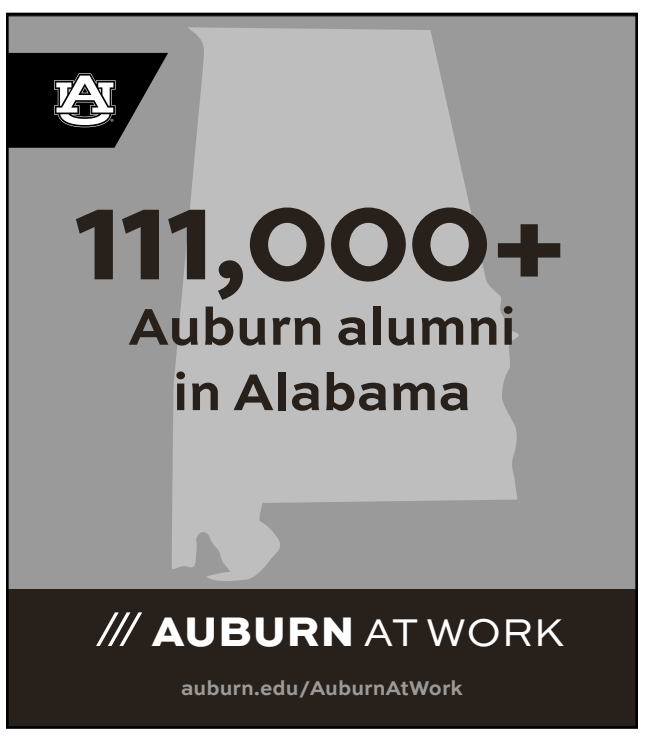
The U.S. is the world's largest consumer of sex and human trafficking, but the federal government has no regulations or policies on maintaining contact and welfare checks on the minors brought to the country, according to McCarthy. Instead, said Hoffman, the onus falls on the individual states and their departments of human services.

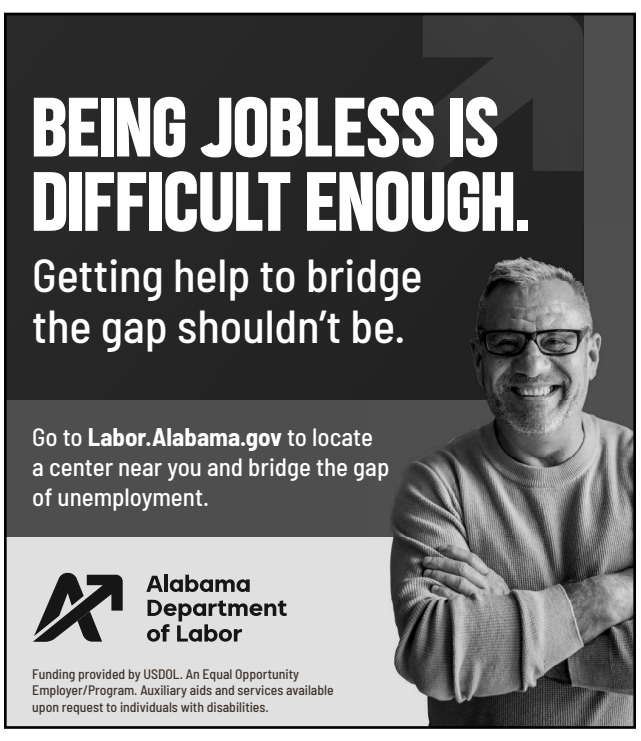
Victims of human trafficking do not always look, behave, or become victims of trafficking the same way. Hoffman shared tips on who to look for and how to spot a victim in a potentially dangerous situation.

"They target halfway houses and places where young girls are in foster care. They may not have any parents. They may have had some trauma and some abuse in their past," Hoffman said. "It's no secret that we have an immigration problem in this country, and a lot of those families and individuals don't have a lot. They're very vulnerable and easy to target."

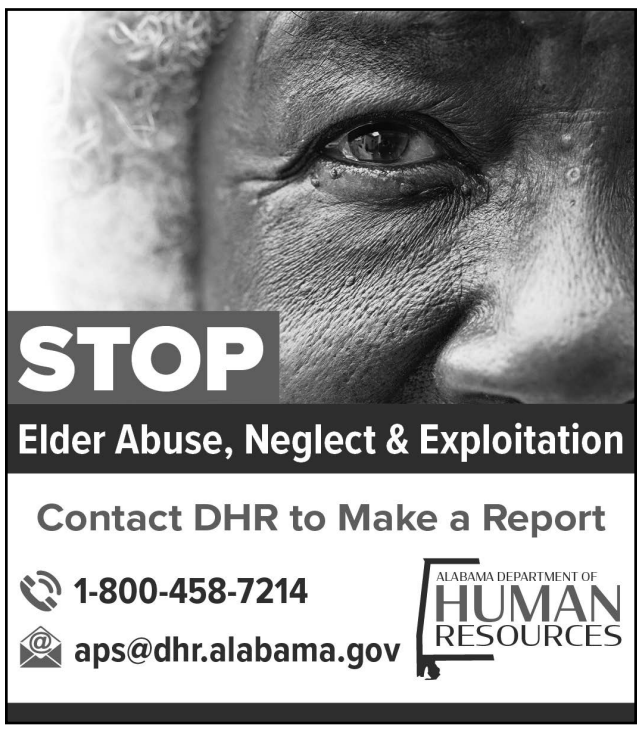
The next task force meeting will be held on June 10 at noon, in Judge Chad Floyd's courtroom at the Cullman County Courthouse.







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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.
• Sunday, May 26 - 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 26 - 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.

Cullman County Cattlemen's, Cattlewomen's Association Ribeye Steak Sandwich Sale
Saturday, May 25, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 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.

Memorial Day Festival
Saturday, May 25, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Smith Lake Park. We will have live entertainment on the stage as well as food and arts and crafts vendors throughout the event area.

Tribute to Cullman Fallen
Saturday, May 25, at 10 a.m. in Veterans Park at Sportsman Lake Park. Public is encouraged to attend. 30-45 min. Families of fallen will attend.

West Point Class of 1959 Reunion
Saturday, May 25, at 11 a.m. at the Brandin Iron Restaurant in West Point. For more information contact Doyle or Carolyn Jones at 256-734-3078 or doylebama@charter.net.

VFW KIA Ceremony
Monday, May 27, at 6 p.m. by Ed White Jewelers. White cross display. "Taps" will be played. VFW will hold a brief ceremony, honoring all Cullman vets killed in action.

Swamp Johns Dinner
Tuesday, May 28, from 4-7 p.m. at Saint Andrews Church, 615 Main Ave. SW. Eat in or take out.

Berlin Neighborhood Watch Meeting
The Town of Berlin will hold an information meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 30,at the Berlin Community Center to consider the formation of a community watch. For more information, contact Edith Stevenson at 256-709-3163.

Mopars by the Lake
Friday and Saturday, June 7-8, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at Sportsman Lake Park in Cullman. Car show (Mopar powered only!), live music, food, fellowship. All proceeds benefit Secret Meals for Hungry Children. For more details, visit https://tinyurl.com/PentestarSouth.

Vacation Bible School at Mt. Nebo Baptist
Ever wish your kids could go to an old-time vacation Bible school? Here is the chance. Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, 11 County Road 1273, Cullman, Alabama 35055, June 10-14, from 6-8:30 p.m. Meal served each night. Special needs welcomed with guardian. Babies through teens. Any questions, call Joan Roy at 256-590-2020.

Bates Reunion
Saturday, June 15, at 10 a.m. at the Trimble Community Center.

Fatality (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – A Crane Hill woman was killed in south Cullman Friday morning when the vehicle she was driving was struck as a result of a high-speed police chase. Cullman County Coroner Jeremy Kilpatrick identified the victim as Ellarea Dickson, 77. A social media post from the Morgan County Sheriff's Office said the victim was the mother of Sgt. John Dickson.

The chase allegedly initiated in Hartselle and continued south on U.S. Highway 31 into Cullman where the crash happened in front of the Town Square Shopping Center near McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

According to a statement from the Hartselle Police Department, "On May 24, 2024, at about 07:35 am a Hartselle Patrol Officer was traveling south on Highway 31 near Crescent Drive. The officer was behind a vehicle turning left into a business. The officer heard the sound of squealing tires and observed a vehicle approaching from the rear at an excessive speed. The vehicle then swerved to the right lane almost striking another vehicle. The officer attempted to stop the vehicle, but the vehicle continued at a high rate of speed toward Falkville and out of the city limits of Hartselle. The officer determined not to pursue the vehicle further due to the excessive speed.

"The officer later discovered this same vehicle proceeded to Cullman and was involved in a wreck. The officer obtained the driver's name and other identifying information and obtained a warrant for Attempted to Elude Police, a Class C Felony. The warrant is entered into NCIC and the suspect, Michael Ivy, age 39 of Middleton, Tennessee will be arrested following his release from the hospital."

Officers from the Hartselle Police Department, Falkville Police Department, Cullman Police Department, Cullman County Sheriff's Office and Alabama State Troopers were involved in the pursuit at different points.

According to a statement from the City of Cullman, "A high-speed chase was initiated in Hartselle this morning. The suspect was chased into Cullman County and then entered the city limits. Due to a high rate of speed in heavy traffic areas, Cullman Police Department joined in the pursuit. Officers observed him run multiple red lights and the suspect later collided with an innocent third party in front of Town Square Shopping Center. The crash resulted in one fatality and a second person transported with critical injuries. The suspect is in custody but was transported due to injuries sustained in the crash. The crash is under investigation and more details will follow."

Kilpatrick said two other people involved in the crash were transported to an area hospital.

The Morgan County Sheriff's Office posted, "Please join us in praying for Sgt John Dickson and his family in the tragic loss of his mother, who was killed by a reckless driver in Cullman earlier today. His niece, who was also in the vehicle, is currently in critical condition. Our team will continue to lift up, support and be there for Sgt Dickson in the hard days ahead. While we know "there's nothing like a mother's love," we also know that "in the face of adversity, the bond of brotherhood grows stronger"!"

There is no official word yet on what additional charges Ivy my face once released from the hospital.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MAY 25, 2024



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CCPS Kindergarteners celebrated the end of the academic year with "Lemonade!" the musical.

CCPS Kindergarteners perform 'Lemonade!'

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Kindergartners at Cullman City Primary School on Tuesday, May 21, presented "Lemonade!" a 20-minute musical for friends and family to mark the end of a notable year.

The early learners had the chance to try out their practiced stage presence and perform the classic "Lemonade!" in the school's newly constructed gymnasium.

In addition to displaying their talents on stage, they showcased adorable lemon-themed papier-mâché props crafted under the instruction of CCPS Art Teacher Christy Brock.

Directed by CCPS Music Teacher Tyler Skinner, the ensemble of 5- and 6-year-olds began the hard work of learning "Lemonade!" in January when school resumed after Christmas break.

"These students have worked very hard since about January. I am so proud of them; they have come such a long way this year and they've just been great," gushed Skinner as he spoke to the packed gym before the performance began.

The songs included "Get your lemonade!," "Recipe for Joy" and "The Worst Day All Day Long," with students' facial expressions matching the sweet and sour themes.

Most of the participating students had speaking roles.

One by one, students recited short lines, emphasizing the hard work and dedication put forth by Skinner, the students and Kindergarten teachers.

Assistant Principal Brandee Sims recognized the lengthy practices and time invested by the students and Skinner.

"These students did so well, and we always appreciate Mr. Skinner," she said. "He always does such an outstanding job."







Vinemont to hold cleanup day for Henry and Roe Wood Park June 1

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

VINEMONT, Ala. — The Town of South Vinemont, local business the Man Cave Market and Cullman real estate agent Richard Neese are coming together to improve, clean up and revitalize the park between Vinemont High and Middle Schools, Henry and Roe Wood Park.

The park has been a centerpiece between the schools' campuses for decades.

With generations of love come generations of wear, and while the Town has made efforts in the park before, the park is in need of rejuvenation.

On June 1 at 8 a.m., members of the Vinemont Town Council, staff from the Man Cave Market, as well as volunteers from the community will meet at the park to begin the undertaking. Structures will be cleaned and painted and the grounds will be picked free of trash, glass and debris.

"If you are interested in volunteering please reach out to Bekah Gibbs by email (at) bekah@neeseteam.com," Neese said. "Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at the park."

Henry and Roe Wood Park is located on High School Road, between Vinemont High School and Vinemont Middle School.

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Assistant Baseball Coach

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



Sacrificed (from Front)

doing this, I ask everybody to remember and keep in your hearts what the people died for, what they lived for and how they lived," Rodgers shared.

Rodgers went on to share why the event is held every year, "We come out here every year to the City Gardens (sic) and we also do the Memory Gardens to put flags out to remember all that have fallen and that gave their lives for this country.

"There is no other sacrifice greater than for man to lay his life down for another."

Among the volunteers were multiple Scout troops, including Blount and Cullman County Service Unit 20602, as well as numerous Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.

They joined VFW members and their families in ensuring that each military gravestone was marked with an American flag.

DeeAnn Collins, a leader from Girl Scout Troop 20602, highlighted the importance of her troop's participation, "We felt like it was important to give back to those who gave so much for us," Collins stated.

"They love doing it. This is our third year doing it and it has gotten bigger and bigger. We started out my first year with two girls, and now there are 15 here."

With spikes and flags in hand, community members, including families, scout troops, youth groups, veterans and other participants, walked the cemetery rows, seeking the graves of those to be remembered.

"As they found names and set flags in place, many took time to reflect on the significance of the freedom provided by the courage, bravery and sacrifice of the men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces.

Some volunteers found not just strangers to be presented flags, but also family members who had passed on – and had the honor of presenting a flag to their family members' gravestones themselves.

Charles Lee with his two brothers and mother, Jenee Lee, were one such family. Charles Lee, part of Boy Scout Troop 219, got the opportunity to learn about those family members and have the honor with his brothers of placing flags by their gravestones.

"I got to learn about some family members I never knew I had. My great-great-grandfather and my great-great-great-grandfather are all buried over there," he shared.

As all the proud graves of past service members were eventually draped with the view of an American flag, a gentle rain began to fall, adding a touching moment to the remembrance of those who have fallen and served to provide the freedoms that all Americans enjoy today.

Recipes (from Front)

Justin Miller
Contributor

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. — Whether you spend the weekend by the pool or on the lake, food is often a big component of Memorial Day activities. However, who wants to spend all their time in the kitchen? Cut down on your kitchen time with these four easy recipes from Live Well Alabama. Whether it's the veggie-loaded dip, fruit-infused frozen pops or refreshing melon salad, these recipes are sure to be a hit.

FIESTA CONFETTI

Ingredients
- Three Roma tomatoes, diced
- One or two fresh jalapeño peppers, diced with seeds removed
- Three large, sweet bell peppers (any color)
- One 15-oz. can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 cup whole kernel corn
- 2/3 cup onion, red or white, diced
- 1 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- 2 tbsp. lime juice
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp. salt

Directions
In a large bowl, mix all the ingredients together. Toss well to cover the vegetables evenly with the spices and lime juice. Serve immediately or chilled with whole-grain chips or crackers. To include more heart-healthy fats, add fresh avocado to this dip.

PEAR POPS

Ingredients
- One 15-ounce can unsweetened pears, undrained
- 2 tbsp. lemon juice
- 2 tbsp. honey
- Four small paper cups
- Four pop sticks

Directions
1. In a bowl, mash the pears using a hand masher or hand mixer. Add the lemon juice and honey and mix well.
2. Using the four small paper cups, pour equal portions of the mix into each cup.
3. Freeze for 1 hour, then insert a pop stick into each cup.
4. Freeze until the pops are firm. Peel off the paper cup and serve.

SUNSET POPS

Ingredients
- 1 cup strawberries, chopped
- One 15-ounce can unsweetened peaches, undrained
- 2 tbsp. lemon juice
- 2 tbsp. honey
- Four small paper cups
- Four pop sticks

Directions
1. In a bowl, mash the strawberries using a hand masher or hand mixer. Add 1 tbsp. lemon juice and 1 tbsp. honey and mix well.
2. Using the four small paper cups, fill each cup half full with the strawberry mix. Freeze for 1 hour.
3. In another bowl, mash the peaches with juice using a hand masher or hand mixer. Add 1 tbsp. lemon juice and 1 tbsp. honey and mix well.
4. Fill the partially frozen strawberry cups the rest of the way with the peach mixture.
5. Insert a pop stick into each cup and freeze until firm. Peel off the paper cup and serve.

MELON AND MINT

Ingredients
- 3 cups watermelon, diced
- 3 cups honeydew melon, diced
- 1/4 cup mint leaves, chopped
- Juice from half a lime
- 2 tbsp. honey

Directions
In large bowl, combine all of the ingredients and mix well. Serve chilled. You can also be creative with this recipe. Add or substitute your favorite fruits in this salad or use basil instead of mint for a different flavor.

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.

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 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

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

PB WIL BK 123 PG 813 - 05/23/2024 10:19 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
ANGELIQUE CAMILLE KLINE * **CASE NO.: PC 2024-118**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary of said Deceased having been granted to McKenna Claire Kline on the 22nd day of May, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persona having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same with time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

McKenna Claire Kline
Personal Representative

Atorney for Estate:
Michael R. Burleson
Law Office of Josh O'Neal, LLC
200 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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

Please publish the above Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

Cullman County's Grayson Randall attends inaugural 4-H Leadership Academy

Katie Nichols
Ala. Cooperative Extension System

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. — Five Alabama 4-H members are among the 25 students selected nationwide to attend the inaugural 4-H Leadership Academy. The academy is made possible through the National 4-H Council's partnership with Joel Roth, an Atlanta-based businessman and philanthropist. Roth provided a $1.1 million gift to launch the 4-H Leadership Academy.

"The problems facing our society are getting bigger and bigger, and more and more lasting," Roth said.

"It's increasingly important that we prepare young people to be thoughtful, effective leaders who are well positioned to take on these challenges."

This two-year pilot will provide high school students with career skills that business leaders seek — including communication, leadership, ethics, conflict resolution and social responsibility.



ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

Left to right are Walton Butterworth, Ryan Teague, Joel Roth, Grayson Randall, Brianna Fleming, Camryn Humphries and Joy Scott.

Alabama 4-H Roth Scholars

Joy Scott, an Alabama 4-H leadership and citizenship specialist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, said the investment Roth is making is life changing.

"We understand the value of leadership skills as we prepare our members for their future careers and community involvement," Scott said. "We strive to instill citizenship and leadership values in our members. This academy will allow them to gain experiences and build relationships outside the boundaries of our state."

Known as Roth Scholars, the academy's first cohort includes 4-H participants based at five land-grant universities through Cooperative Extension. Auburn University's Alabama 4-H members include the following:

- Walton Butterworth, Baldwin County
- Brianna Fleming, Marion County
- Camryn Humphries, Clay County
- Grayson Randall, Cullman County
- Ryan Teague, Limestone County

The other four land-grant universities include Rutgers, Ohio State, Idaho and Minnesota.

4-H Leadership Academy

Jill Bramble, president and CEO of National 4-H Council, said the 4-H Leadership Academy advances a commitment shared by 4-H and Roth: to help young people develop the skills they need to prepare for work and life.

"We thank Mr. Roth for his gratitude and this avenue to share leadership skills where our young people can learn, grow and be work ready," Bramble said.

Through the academy, 4-H members will receive stipends to support research projects that address community challenges. These lessons learned will allow Roth Scholars to make research-based impacts in their communities.

"4-H's national reach, university-backed expertise, network of highly trained educators, in-person and virtual programming options and longstanding reputation make them the perfect positive youth development partner for this new academy," Roth said.

More information

For more information on the 4-H Leadership Academy or to request interviews with Roth, National 4-H Council leadership or the Roth Scholars, contact 4hcouncil@ssmandl.com.

The decline of the flowering dogwood

Shane Harris
Ala. Cooperative Extension System



ALABAMA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SYSTEM

It can be disheartening to see a prized and beloved landscape tree or shrub be damaged, fall, decline in health, or die. Over the last few years, many Alabama residents have observe the decline of the native flowering dogwood (Cornus florida), which is concerning on multiple levels.

Alabama Cooperative Extension System professionals first observed this decline in central Alabama a few years ago. When walking through a wooded area that had many older dogwoods growing amongst the mature forest, it was noticed that several of them had begun to experience dieback in the canopy. Also, random portions of the trees had died, typically the top growth and large branches. The death of these portions was apparent, because they had no leaves during the spring. Within two to three years, at least ten or more large dogwoods in the same area slowly got worse, died, and fell down. Unfortunately, the dogwood decline is not limited to just one location. Since the issue was first observed, Alabama Extension agents have examined dogwoods across the state for similar symptoms.

What is happening?

Several homeowners have called Extension agents out of concern that their dogwood tree is dying. There may be several causes of this type of decline.

Drought

Flowering dogwoods have shallow roots, and a lack of water can result in root dieback, which affects overall health and longevity. Severe drought stress is a major enemy and often kills mature trees, especially those living in dry and elevated habitats. A lack of consistent soil moisture harms the roots and affects tree health. Root dieback, damage, rot, and vascular issues will result in dieback in the top canopy of the tree and almost always lead to a slow death.

For example, Tallapoosa County recorded extreme to exceptional levels of drought in late 2007, early 2008, much of 2011 and 2012, and in the fall of 2016 and 2019. John Christy, Alabama's state climatologist, said Alabama soils do not have a lot of water holding capacity. This is why Alabamians say a drought can happen within a week without significant rainfall. The lingering effects of these droughts over time could be why so many dogwoods are suffering in central Alabama.

Environmental conditions and disease

Jim Jacobi, an Alabama Extension plant pathologist, said the decline and death of dogwoods might be a combination of environmental conditions and diseases. Although it is a native species, flowering dogwoods are susceptible to several diseases, insect pests, and abiotic (nonliving) problems. Common diseases found on dogwoods in central Alabama are spot anthracnose, powdery mildew, and twig and branch cankers. Powdery mildew, which shows up as a white coating on the leaves, tends to be the most severe and widespread. Infections of this fungal disease cause a loss of water in the photosynthetic leaf area, which weakens trees and reduces growth. Under severe conditions, the new leaves can exhibit leaf scorch, twisting, distortion, and smaller-than-normal size. Older infected leaves often develop purple blotches that progress to dead areas.

Stress

The decline of dogwoods may also be contributed to a combination of these two major issues, which causes stress to the trees. Stressed trees may exhibit smaller-than-normal leaves and have wilting leaves, pale-green leaves, early fall coloration, and an overall poor appearance. Dogwoods that are stressed because of poor cultural and environmental conditions, especially drought, are more susceptible to diseases and pest problems. Various forms of stress can lead to decline and death.

Save the dogwoods

What can be done to save the dogwoods? The following suggestions are things for homeowners and landowners to keep in mind as they care for dogwood trees:

Remember that flowering dogwoods are native understory forest trees that do best in partially shaded locations with moist, well-drained soil. They thrive in a soil pH range of 5.5 to 6.5. Under ideal conditions they may live up to 80 years. They do not tolerate full sun and don't like hot and dry conditions or poorly drained soil. Under poor and stressful conditions, including dry summers and competing with grass for moisture, they will not live as long.

When planting a new tree, choose a dogwood cultivar that is disease resistant, with an emphasis on resistance to powdery mildew. 'Appalachian Joy', 'Cherokee Brave', 'Jean's Appalachian Snow', 'Karen's Appalachian Blush', 'Kay's Appalachian Mist', 'Weaver's White', and 'Welch's Bay Beauty' are all powdery mildew resistant cultivars. Some of these cultivars are also spot anthracnose resistant.

Take additional precautionary steps to help the trees conserve moisture and have good, long-term growing conditions. Apply pine bark or pine straw mulch around the tree after planting and reapply each year. Do not pile mulch up along the trunk, as this can encourage rot and diseases. Mulching to the canopy drip line is highly recommended to protect the shallow feeder roots.

Irrigate and supplement water during hot and dry conditions. This is critical during the first year of establishment, as many plants die in late summer because of a lack of moisture and unestablished roots in the native soil. The soil around the tree should be moist but not saturated.

Apply a fungicide for protection and control at the first sign of mildew. Make applications during the spring, between late-April and early May. Reapply throughout the summer at 14-day intervals, according to the label directions.

Recommended fungicides for powdery mildew are Spectricide Immunox (myclobutanil), Fertilome Systemic Fungicide (propiconazole), and MilStop (potassium bicarbonate). Neem oil is also an alternative, but avoid spraying oils in hot weather above 90 degrees F.

Remove dead branches and prune back to living wood. This will help remove potential cankers that can spread and lead to decay and further dieback. Selective pruning will also increase air movement and help with disease control within the tree canopy.

Happy, healthy dogwood trees

While dogwoods may not be as prized as they have been in the past, with other ornamental trees—such as crape myrtles, flowering cherries, and red maples—being some of the preferred options, they are still considered natural beauties in Alabama. Homeowners and landscapers can help save these beautiful and legendary trees by planting and caring for them.

Healthy and happy dogwood trees are less likely to have diseases and experience decline and dieback. Take care of existing dogwoods through the spring and summer. However, in some cases, older dogwoods may be well protected and mulched but may not be able to overcome the years of stress.

If these trees are lost, consider planting additional dogwoods in the fall, which is a great time to plant new and better cultivars. For more information on this and other home and garden questions, contact your county Extension office or visit www.aces.edu.

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
MAY 25, 2024

Lee leads wire-to-wire to win MLF General Tire Heavy Hitters 2024 Presented by Bass Pro Shops on the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes

Joe Opager
MLF

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — The first time Abu Garcia pro Jordan Lee of Cullman, Alabama, ever tasted tournament victory, competing on Lake Guntersville at age 17, he earned the win throwing a topwater frog. Ever since, he's continued to hone his skills with his favorite technique, waiting for a chance to show them off on the national stage.

When he finally got the chance at General Tire Heavy Hitters Presented by Bass Pro Shops on the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, Lee made sure to take advantage.

Lee caught each of his seven scorable bass during Thursday's Championship Round and nearly all his weight throughout the event walking a Berkley Swamp Lord over matted hydrilla on Lake Toho. His 27-pound, 14-ounce final-day total proved just enough to clinch a second Heavy Hitters championship belt.

Lee entered this week as the clear favorite thanks to his two prior wins on the Kissimmee Chain in Bass Pro Tour competition, including the inaugural Heavy Hitters event in June 2020. And for much of the event, he made it look easy. He led Group B through both days of qualifying, stacking more than 60 pounds on SCORETRACKER® during a Day 1 he called "insane," then won the Knockout Round.

Come Championship Thursday, though, his fish proved far less cooperative. Whether due to five days of fishing pressure, the variable minimum weight increasing to 3 pounds or the calm, bluesky conditions that greeted the Top 10, the entire field had to grind for bites, Lee included. It took him two hours to book his first scorable bass.

But, leaning on the hundreds of hours he's spent frogging mats on Guntersville through the years, the Alabama native eventually figured out which tricks to try to generate just enough bites. He crawled his frog painfully slowly, especially when he knew he was around active fish.

He also doctored one frog, removing the silicone strand legs and replacing them with super-glued jig rattles, saying the added noise helps attract bass through the thicker slop.

Most important was knowing where to look amid a sea of hydrilla. Lee learned during practice that he could get more bites through bigger mats than small, matted clumps. From there, he covered water to identify which areas were better than others, using the extra practice time he earned during the Qualifying Round to expand his list of waypoints. That proved vital, as Lee said certain mats stopped producing during the course of the event due to fishing pressure and boat traffic.

"They had to be hollow underneath, ... and where you had that kind of cheese," Lee explained. "They weren't way out on the outside where there was isolated clumps. I was looking for the bigger mats in areas where they just looked fresh almost, and I was looking for blowholes, where fish come up, blowing through the mat.

"It's Guntersville 101. I do this every fall since I was 16, the exact fishing that I did this week. It was no different. The grass was the same, and it was just awesome because of how identical it fishes to there."

Lee used beefed-up tackle to throw his Swamp Lords, which he believes was key. He primarily wielded a Jordan Lee signature series 7-6 heavy rod from Abu Garcia — designed to be a flipping stick — instead of his usual, 7-3 frog rod. He also turned to a 7-9 punching rod in the thickest mats, spooling both with 50-pound Berkley X5 braid.

The heavier rods gave him more power to winch bass out of the thick grass.

"I didn't want to mess up the mats," Lee said. "That's kind of what I've learned about going in and getting them, you ruin a place, and then you've got to drag them out.

"You can catch a fish right there in the same hole that you've caught one before, and that happened a ton this week where you'd find them just packed in out of the same spot."

Lee bounced from spot to spot Thursday morning before landing on a mat that produced a three-fish flurry in the final half four of Period 1, giving him the lead. He extended his advantage with two more scorable bass around noon.

Then, his bite went dormant. Lee went more than two hours without adding to his total. During that time, several anglers crept within one scorable bass of his lead, and Poche eventually passed him with a little more than 90 minutes left in the competition day.

Lee didn't panic, though. He returned to one of the mats he'd fished early in the morning. While he didn't get any bites there initially, he'd noticed that it didn't show signs of fishing pressure. The decision proved to be worth $100,000.

"I thought there was some fish around there," Lee said. "I had some bites throughout the week right there. But I just decided that was really my only other place I thought wasn't getting a lot of fishing pressure."

While Lee lifting a trophy (or, in this case, a belt) has become a common sight at the highest level of tournament fishing, he'll remember this win for how he pulled it off.

"I'm really just blown away how good it was to me this week, catching them one of my favorite ways, fishing this heavy hydrilla," Lee said. "I grew up fishing like this. I was really comfortable when I found this bite. And it was just a special bite. It got tougher as the week went on, but I stayed patient, and man, it was just awesome."



MLF
Cullman's Jordan Lee reeled in seven bass weighing 27 pounds, 14 ounces Thursday to win this second Heavy Hitters title.

The top 10 pros at the General Tire Heavy Hitters 2024 Presented by Bass Pro Shops on the Kissimmee Chain finished:

- 1st: Jordan Lee, Cullman, Ala., seven bass, 27-14, $110,000
- 2nd: Keith Poche, Pike Road, Ala., five bass, 23-10, $25,000
- 3rd: Matt Becker, Ten Mile, Tenn., five bass, 19-4, $20,000
- 4th: Kevin VanDam, Kalamazoo, Mich., four bass, 18-14, $118,000
- 5th: Brandon Coulter, Knoxville, Tenn., three bass, 12-5, $20,000
- 6th: Bryan Thrift, Shelby, N.C., two bass, 8-7, $44,500
- 7th: Todd Faircloth, Jasper, Texas, two bass, 8-1, $13,500
- 8th: Brent Ehrler, Redlands, Calif., one bass, 7-0, $17,500
- 9th: Dakota Ebare, Brookeland, Texas, two bass, 6-12, $11,000
- 10th: Alton Jones, Jr., Waco, Texas, zero bass, 0-0, $8,000

Full results can be found at MajorLeagueFishing.com.

Overall, there were 31 scorable bass weighing 132 pounds, 3 ounces caught by the final 10 pros in Thursday's Championship Round.

A bass had to weigh at least 3 pounds to be deemed scorable in the Championship Round.

The six-day General Tire Heavy Hitters Presented by Bass Pro Shops at the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes was hosted by Experience Kissimmee and showcased the top 30 pros that qualified via the Bass Pro Tour competing in a no-entry fee tournament for massive daily Big Bass Bonuses and a payout of $100,000 to the winner.

The 15 Anglers in Group A competed in their two-day qualifying round on Saturday and Monday – the 15 anglers in Group B on Sunday and Tuesday. After each two-day qualifying round was complete, the top eight anglers from both groups advanced to Wednesday's Knockout Round.

In the Knockout Round weights were zeroed, and the remaining 16 anglers competed to finish in the top 10 to advance to the Championship Round.

In Thursday's final-day Championship Round, weights were zeroed, and the highest one-day total won the top prize of $100,000.

Curry hired as Wallace State Head Softball Coach, Cesepedes as Assistant

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community has hired former Birmingham-Southern College (BSC) softball coach Megan Curry to lead the Lions softball team, President Dr. Vicki Karolewics announced today. Sarah Cespedes has been hired as assistant coach.

"Wallace State sets a high bar for Lions Softball and we are excited to add Coaches Curry and Cespedes to the Lions coaching staff to continue our winning tradition," said Karolewics.

Curry joins the Lions as the team completes an Alabama Community College Conference Championship season. The Lions' ACCC title was the program's fourth straight and 16th overall, followed by its 16th National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Softball World Series appearance. Wallace State softball has won two NJCAA Division I national championships.

"I am very excited to be at Wallace State. It's a blessing to be a part of such a winning culture and great success rate. I just want to continue that," Curry said.

Her coaching philosophy is person first, player second.

"We're just trying to grow young women and prepare them for what's next," she said. "If we can do both of those things a lot of greatness will come."

Curry comes to Wallace State after a successful first season at BSC, where she was named the Southern Athletic Association (SAA) Coach of the Year.

She led the Panthers to a 24-17 overall record and earned conference runner-up, with a 13-5 regular season SAA record.

Before her stint at Birmingham-Southern, Curry served as head coach at Asbury University and as assistant softball coach at Mercer University and her alma mater, Samford University, where in 2023 she was inducted into the Samford Sports Hall of Fame.

As a player at Samford, she was on the 2016 NCAA Division I Southern Conference Softball Championship team. She was named the 2016 Southern Conference Softball Player of the Year and to the 2016 NFCA All-Regional South Softball Team (First Team).

In three consecutive years from 2014-2016 she was named to the Southern Conference, All-Conference Team (First Team). Curry broke the Samford softball single-season records for hits, batting average, at-bats, doubles, and stolen bases. In her career, she broke records for hits, at-bats, and triples.

She graduated from Samford in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in sports administration and from Asbury University in 2024 with a master's degree in business administration, specializing in sports management.

A native of Louisville, Ky., and raised in Paducah, she moved to Fairhope in 2006, graduating from Fairhope High School in 2012. Her husband, Parker Curry, formerly played in the Los Angeles Dodgers organization and is now on the UAB baseball staff. They have one daughter.

Cespedes brings with her a specialty in coaching softball pitchers. She also served as assistant coach under Curry at Birmingham-Southern and provided key support for that program's success.

"I'm just so excited to continue the championship legacy that Wallace State always had and to do it alongside Megan," Cespedes said. "I'm excited to see what things are in store for us next."

Prior to joining the BSC coaching staff, Cespedes played for five years at UAB, pitching 401.2 innings with a 3.33 career ERA. She recorded 294 strikeouts, including 87 her senior year.

Cespedes has roots in the area. Her grandfather Fred Cespedes, a retired executive at American Proteins, is credited with helping Wallace State establish its poultry science partnership with Auburn University.


WSCC
Wallace State has hired Megan Curry (left) as its new head softball coach and Sarah Cespedes (right) as an assistant.





BOOK REVIEW

‘The Women’ by Kristin Hannah

Cathy Lay Mayor
Tribune Contributor

Kristin Hannah’s latest book is historical fiction set in 1966 during the Vietnam War. The first part of the book takes place in Vietnam. The second part is about the return home to the United States.

Frances “Frankie” McGrath has just completed nursing school. Her golden boy brother, Finley, has graduated from the Naval Academy and is headed to Vietnam. At Finley’s going away party, one of his friends tells Frankie that women can be heroes, too. Predictably, Finley is killed in a helicopter crash. As a way to deal with her grief, Frankie joins the Army and is sent to a field hospital in Vietnam. Before she can unpack, a helicopter loaded with wounded soldiers arrives. Frankie is frozen with fear and shock at the sight of the bloody men. A doctor shouts at her to get over it and scrub in for surgery.

She soon becomes a talented surgical nurse. Frankie’s bunk mates Barb and Ethel provide a support structure for her. Until then, Frankie has not smoked cigarettes or drank alcohol. That soon changes as the Officers Club provides a place to forget the horrors the doctors and nurses see daily. The description of the wounded soldiers and sometimes the Vietnamese are gory to say the least. It is almost too descriptive to read. I found myself tempted to skip over the soldiers’ wounds.

After Frankie serves two tours of duty in Vietnam, she returns home. She is shocked by her reception in the United States.

She is greeted with hostility and disgust. Even her parents are ashamed of her participation in the war. She, like most the nurses stationed in Vietnam, suffers from PTSD. It is hard to receive mental health care because therapists are unaware that women were serving in Vietnam. Another thing that hindered Frankie’s return home was the way hospitals treated her. They did not give her credit for being a highly skilled medical professional. She is assigned menial jobs and criticized for attempts to do more for her patients.

Last fall, my husband and I visited Washington, D.C. We were surprised to see the memorial for the nurses who served in Vietnam.

I wanted to learn more about them. The Vietnam Memorial was unveiled in 1982. It took 11 years for the women’s memorial to be unveiled. Diane Carlson Evans, a nurse in Vietnam, worked tirelessly to make sure the memorial was erected.

The memorial honors the Army nurses and other women who served in Vietnam. Nearly 10,000 women served in Vietnam during the war. Seven-thousand were nurses. Many had just graduated from nursing school. A typical shift was 12 hours a day, six days a week.

But many times they worked around the clock. The nurses did whatever was needed, directing triage, assisting with tracheotomies and amputations.

Many times they worked in the dark while the hospitals were being attacked. PTSD was the norm among the nurses, who suffered from the stress of the number of patients they saw, the anger they felt seeing how young the soldiers were and their inability to save them all.

Kristin Hannah is the award-winning and best-selling author of more than 20 novels. Read more about her and her work at www.kristinhannah.com.

Cathy Lay Mayor grew up in Cullman and graduated from Cullman High School in 1976. She says when she writes book reviews, she tries to remember what Mrs. Gilbert taught her in 11th-grade English. She lived in Dothan for more than 30 years and is married with three adult children and six grandchildren. She retired to Panama City, but still calls Alabama home.

COLUMN

Fishin’ and cheatin’ – caught lead handed!

Joe Hobby
Contributor

I just read an article about a man who was disqualified from a fishing tournament for cheating. Y’all, I think Jesus is coming soon. Fishing is a sport that has long been known for its liars. Ever heard the term “fish story?” But when people start cheating in fishing tournaments, well that has to mean that this world has become so bad that only Jesus can fix it – and don’t forget, His disciples were fishermen.

Look, I don’t fish much – just don’t have the patience – but this story got my interest. So I looked around on the internet and to my surprise, I discovered that cheating does indeed go on during fishing contests. In fact, many of them require the winner to take a lie detector test before they award the prize money. I suppose it’s like anything else; when big bucks are involved, bad people are drawn to it – just like politics. In fact, maybe we should require our elected officials to take polygraphs on a regular basis. On the other hand, lie detectors probably wouldn’t work on politicians. Most of those clowns have lied so much that they actually believe they’re telling the truth.

There are several ways to cheat at fishing. One of the most common scams is to add weight to your catch via lead fishing weights, or ball bearings. Another more complicated method is to have a hidden well in the boat that is loaded with fish they will add to the total catch the contestants turn in at the tournament. Either way is despicable.

Look, I’m not naive. Cheating goes on in other sports. Anyone who has played in a golf tournament knows about “sandbaggers,” a term given to players who claim they are worse than they are to get extra shots, or to be flighted with inferior players. Golfers joke about it, but it’s cheating, nonetheless. However, in my mind, there is something especially bad about adding weight to a fish in order to win prize money. It’s sneaky, it’s preplanned and it just seems worse to me.

I’m not the only one. A court in Ohio sentenced two men to 10 days in jail for cheating in a fishing tournament. They got busted when one of the contest officials thought one of their fish was too heavy for its length. So, they cut it open and discovered that it was stuffed with lead weights and fish fillets to make it heavier. These guys, who had pocketed over $100,000 in prize money at other fishing tournaments, had put 8 pounds of illegal weight in their catch. They were caught lead handed.

It makes me wonder – at that point did these guys go ahead and ‘fess up, or did they try to come up with a lame lie?

”Well, whatta you know! I had no idea fish ate that kind of thing. Talk about a bottom feeder.”

Once they went to court, the judge lowered the boom. In addition to jail time, he decreed that the men forfeit a very expensive fishing boat. They also lost their fishing licenses for three years, paid a fine and made a donation to a fishing charity. Sounds like Your Honor was the guy who finished in second place. About the only thing he didn’t do was give them 200 hours of community service at a Captain D’s. And I would’ve been fine with that.

And what are those guys gonna say when the other inmates ask what crime they committed to land them in the lock-up?

“Umm, well, I cheated in a fishing tournament.” That’s not gonna impress anybody in the joint. It may even get you beat up. If it were me, I would look them straight in the eye and say, “I got busted for filling a fish full of lead.” That might sound enough like shooting someone that they may leave you alone.

If not, I would just tell them that I’m a politician.

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.





Honey Baked Ham coming to Cullman



WWW.HONEYBAKED.COM/PRESS

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Honey Baked Ham Company this week announced it has signed an agreement with existing franchisee, Andy Gaghagen, to bring the store to Cullman.

Having been a Honey Baked owner for over 10 years, Gaghagen has enjoyed building relationships with the communities across his other locations in Georgia and Alabama, the company said in a press release. He now has seven locations. "He prides himself in being a hands-on owner, working closely with managers and staff, in addition to his participation in the local Chamber of Commerce and volunteer opportunities," the release said.

"Over the past decade, I have been contributing to the growth of Honey Baked and am thrilled to continue expanding alongside the brand," said Gaghagen.

"I am deeply committed to upholding the tradition of excellence that defines the brand and look forward to expanding the Honey Baked name into these two key cities in Alabama.

"My existing stores continue to thrive in their respected communities and I anticipate similar success at these upcoming locations."

"Andy has been an exceptional franchisee who truly embodies what our brand stands for," said Jim Hannan, SVP of operations at Honey Baked.

"These additional locations in Cullman and Dothan are in great hands, and I'm eager to see the positive impact they bring to the community.

It has been a pleasure to watch Andy grow within our franchisee network and we're confident these new stores will be successful under his ownership."

The Tribune has reached out for specific location details, but has not heard back.

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Obituary Announcements: May 23-24

Arno 'Trey' Lamb, 40

Arno "Trey" Lamb, of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Monday, May 20, 2024. Trey was born in Hawaii on Sept. 14, 1983, to Arno C. Lamb Jr. and Phyllis Ann Klaiber. Survivors are: Wife, Melissa Fowler; Daughters: Lacey Lamb of Murphy, North Carolina, Braelynn Lamb of Sutersville, Pennsylvania; Sons: Matthew Lee of Nahunta, Georgia, Alexander Lamb of Cullman, Alabama; Mother, Phyllis Ann Klaiber of Hartselle, Alabama; Father, Arno C. Lamb of Key Largo, Florida; Sisters: Amanda (Jason) Sanford of Somerville, Alabama and Meagan Lamb of Key Largo, Florida along with several nieces, nephews, and cousins. Visitation will be on Saturday, May 24, 2024, at 1 p.m. and the funeral service to begin at 2 p.m. with a reception in Trey's honor to follow at Moss Service Funeral Home.

Norma Gail Quick, 89

Norma Purvis Quick, age 89 of Crane Hill, AL passed away on May 22, 2024. Norma is preceded in death by her husband, James Euell Quick; her parents, John Sparks Purvis and Ollie Mae Olice Purvis; Sisters: Juanita (Yerb) Glaze, Brunelle (Norman) Sexton, and Betty Joyce (Bert) Roberts; Brothers: John S. (Kathryn) Purvis, Melvin (Francis) Purvis, Daniel (Martha) Purvis, Donald (Betty) Purvis, Jimmy (Janice) Purvis, and Gerald (Hazel) Purvis. Norma worked as the secretary to Dental Service of UAB for approximately 15 years and was a member of Five Mile Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama for 64 years. She was an avid watcher of Fox News for the later part of her life, she loved reading, listening to music, gardening, and adored living at her home on Smith Lake since 2001. Norma is survived by her daughters: Teri (Randy) Braden and Jami (Wade) Payne; Grandchildren: Karli (Pete) Maloney and Casey (Matt) Helms, as well as 6 Great Grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews.

Gloria Jeanette Miller, 61

Visitation for Gloria Jeanette Miller age 61 of Cullman, will be from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, May 26, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Mrs. Miller passed away on Friday, May 24, 2024, at her residence. She was born Wednesday, July 11, 1962, to Calvin and Geleen Sears. She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her husband, Tilford "Dickie" Miller; son, Kevin (Taylor) Miller; granddaughter, Lillian Miller, best friends, Donna Roberts, Lynda Crumbley, Brenda Landers. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Michael Dewitt Yeager, 63

Funeral services for Michael Yeager, 63, of Simcoe will be 2 p.m. Sunday, May 26, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Center Hill Cemetery. Scott Cooper and Dr. Jade Noland will be officiating. Visitation will be from 5:30-8 p.m. Saturday May 25 at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mr. Yeager was born May 9, 1961, to the late Grady and Dean Yeager. He passed away May 23, 2024, at his residence. Mr. Yeager is survived by his children, Tobie Yeager, Michael Brockway (Robin), and Dakota Scott (Chelsea); grandchildren, Tristin Wilson, Tyler Hughes, Tatum Wilson Yeager, Madison Yeager, Collin Brockway, River Scott and Robbie Scott; siblings, Teresa Cooper (Scott) and Dewayne Yeager; nephew, Justin Yeager, ex-wife, Sandra Scott; and a host of many friends. Mr. Yeager was preceded in death by his daughter, Madison Yeager; son, Joseph Yeager; and parents, Grady and Dean (Peterson) Yeager. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Yeager Family.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

A day we can't forget

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



All of us have probably forgotten some days that we should have remembered. Special days like birthdays or anniversaries. I doubt any of us forgot our wedding day, on the day of our wedding, but I do know of a couple of pastors who forgot about a wedding they were to perform.

No doubt, we've probably had those days that we would like to forget. Last Saturday started out to be one of those days for me. I had been invited to be part of the lineup of musicians and gospel singers to perform for a benefit outing in Jacksonville, Alabama. I, as my Bro Billy Bob character, was to be the comic relief in the middle of some serious gospel singing. As it turned out, nobody was laughing Saturday, including me.

I had my instruments all tuned up and ready, including my newest two-stringed canjo made from a Quaker State motor oil can and my newly built tin-can howler. I even bought a new pair of white jeans for the outing, because the ones I wore before my heart surgery are now too big. If I could have found my suspenders, I probably could have worn them, but without suspenders I was afraid my program might accidently become adult rated. At best, that might have been funny, and at worst it would have been frightening! I also missed an opportunity to attend a family reunion and cook out to be there.

We made the two-hour trip to Jacksonville with no problem. Last year's event had been cancelled due to rain. Once I arrived there, I discovered this year's event had been too, but the difference was I was notified last year. It turns out that the event coordinator had called my old work number and not my cell phone. After I sent him a text, he called to explain what he had done and profusely apologized.

Well, what do you do when life give you lemons? You make lemonade! I wanted to pitch a fit. I wanted to give somebody a piece of my mind, but I knew I didn't have enough left to make the sacrifice! Even though our plans abruptly changed, it turned out to a lovely day that I no longer want to forget. Jean and I love to stroll through antique stores and malls and find stuff that we don't need. We often find items we can repurpose and sell in our booth. I found some cool old tin cans that I can use to make more canjos or howlers. We also enjoyed a scrumptious lunch at a new café in Wedowee that we had never stopped at. We got back home in time to have coffee on our back porch with friends who came over. We would not have had time to do any of those things if the program had gone on as planned.

This coming weekend is a long-holiday weekend that we must not ever forget. Next Monday is Memorial Day. That is an annual national holiday to help us remember those who sacrificed their lives for our country. Our nation was born out of sacrifice as 4,435 Americans died fighting in the American Revolution for freedom from England. Since that beginning, hundreds of thousands have died for our country, including over a half million in the Civil War and over 400,000 in World War II. On at least one day of each year, may we never forget those who gave their all so we all might have liberty! Happy Memorial Day and please don't forget those who died for our nation.

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

HISTORY

Files from yesteryear: 1902

From the files of 1902

The old building on the corner of Second Avenue and Fourth Street East is now being removed preparatory to the erection of a large brick bank by a company of gentleman who will "incorporate" with a capital stock of $25,000.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Mackentepe were considerably bruised up Monday enroute to Decatur when an engine ran out of a siding and hit the accommodation on which they were riding. George Allen was slightly injured in jumping from the engine.

Miss Nettie Karter of Cullman and Walter Gazin of New Orleans were married in Bessemer on Tuesday.

John Sutterer was elected chairman and Doctor L. Hays secretary of the Cullman County Republicans at a mass meeting last week. Organized committee included W.A. Heck, M.H. Bogue, Fred Buichmann, W.J. Williford and F.W.H. Speegle. The resolutions committee included George Beyer, J.J. Curtis, A. Dreher, Senior, Peter Grover and Joseph Hagerman.

Willie, the son of John Nigg of Garden City, had four fingers cut off at a shingle mill several days ago.

Quite a number of young ladies have entered school at Hanceville for the first time in years. Some of them are grown and have never finished geography.

Miss Ida Carroll and Henry Glasscock were married last Monday.

Miss Bertha McGlawn is ill with typhoid fever.

Iron Bridge baseball team defeated Logan, 28-13 on Saturday.

The Grand Jury for court which will convene September 15 includes J.J. Childs, James Childers, J.T. Ponder, Robert A. Collins, J.D. Tankersley, John M. Goodwin, W.T. Kemp, George Beyer, R.D. Dunlap, W.H. Wood, J.M. Crutchfield, J.W. Baggett, J.W. Rasco, Isaac H. Skinner, R.C. Livingston, John Arndt, John H. Arwood and T.J. Callahan.

POET'S CORNER

Me and My Friend | By: Evelyn Haynes Ellis, 1930-2012

The sun is rising,
so I'll go home,
All the night I've walked

Through the silent woods I've been,
Me and Jesus talked,
and we laughed, and cried.
And sung silently into the wind.

Then I prayed, while He listened,
and I listened, while He talked.
It was just me and my Jesus,
under the moon and the stars.

It was just me and my friend.
Me and Jesus.
Me and God.

New day will dawn,
but I won't walk there alone.
There's a love inside me,
that will always carry me on.

See I'll laugh,
And I'll cry, and sing silently
into the wind.

Then I'll pray while He listens,
And I'll listen while He talks.
It's just me and my Jesus.
It's just me and my friend.

Me and Jesus.
Me and God.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

MAY 25

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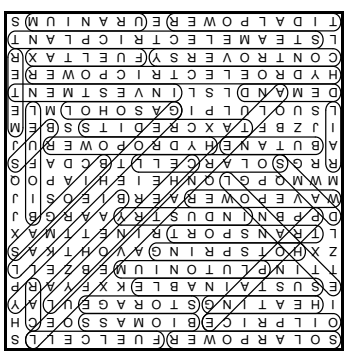
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Tidal Power
Transport
Uranium
Wave Power

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

MAY 25

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7			2			5	6	
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ANSWERS:



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

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