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BRYNLEE MERRIMAN

– SPORTS –

'The community is very close, and we are like family': Fairview's Brynlee Merriman reflects on Aggie years
» PAGE 6

Increase in high-speed chases:

Local law enforcement officials weigh in

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Local and area law enforcement have been in an increasing number of high-speed pursuits – and community members are asking why. Questions have intensified because there have been three chases in Cullman in the last few weeks, with a chase on May 24 (from Hartselle to downtown Cullman) leaving a 77-year-old woman dead and her granddaughter critically injured.

Local law enforcement officials expressed their opinions on what's behind the increase.

Cullman County Sheriff's Office Communications Director Chad Whaley and Sheriff Matt Gentry said there are many contributing factors.

"Unfortunately, vehicle pursuits have always been a part of law enforcement," Whaley said. "It does seem as if vehicle pursuits are more prominent now than ever before. For Cullman, it is largely due to » PAGE 8



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Looking south down U.S. Highway 31 in north Cullman

– EXCLUSIVE –

'One of the most ambitious projects in Alabama history'

Phase 1 of Smith Lake destination resort complete



TRIDENT MARINA

Jeff Tolbert, owner of Trident Marina, is moving into the second phase of Alabama's largest economic development project, a one-of-a-kind premier destination resort on Smith Lake.

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CRANE HILL, Ala. — Lewis Smith Lake, with its vast expanse of over 21,000 acres of waters, dotted with beaches and a handful of upscale waterfront restaurants, has long been a beloved summertime haven. It's no surprise that Smith Lake draws in thousands of visitors each year. By 2027, these numbers could soar to new heights.

Jeff Tolbert, Cullman resident and owner of Trident Marina, is in the process of creating a one-of-a-kind premier destination resort, including a 5-star Marriott branded hotel, a conference venue, new boat slips, over 300 home sites, boat rentals and sunset tours, multiple professionally designed golf courses, outdoor hiking trails and offroad trails through a partnership with Polaris, a wedding chapel and guided rainbow trout fishing tours – along with new fine dining options.

"This proposed development on Smith Lake is one of the most ambitious projects in Alabama history. It will have a remarkable positive economic impact on Cullman County," Cullman Economic Development Agency Director Dale Greer said. "No single project in Cullman County is comparable to this planned resort development. It means jobs, sales tax, property tax, lodging tax and significant tourism dollars. I am in awe of the plans and so excited that Cullman is his location of choice."

This ambitious project is a significant undertaking for Tolbert. With phase one, the purchase of the hotel and conference center property is complete.

All four phases of the project are expected to be complete within three years – by 2027. The tourist destination carries a projected cost of over $275 million, but the new resort property can potentially return millions to the economy. The resort and its amenities will require 2,500 acres of land, a substantial task for Tolbert and his team. Phase two, which is around halfway complete, is acquiring land for the resort.

Tolbert shared, "Right now, we have about half of that land commit- » PAGE 2

EMA launches new mass notification system

» PAGE 9

Wallace State promotes Crider to head cross country coach



WSCC

Wallace State has promoted Tony Crider to head coach of the men's and women's cross country teams. » PAGE 9

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Zero accountability'

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Dolly Parton's Imagination Library seeking sponsors

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Dental Arts launches community food drive in partnership with Cullman's Little Pantry

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported May 31

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported May 30, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

May 28

- possession of marijuana; CR 490
- domestic violence; CR 1094
- domestic violence; CR 1527
- criminal mischief; CR 310
- assault; CR 1114
- domestic violence; interference with domestic violence emergency call; CR 1651
- harassment; CR 715
- possession of marijuana; CR 1545
- dog bite; CR 1815
- criminal mischief; Henry Dr.
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 520
- theft of property; CR 1467
- theft of property; CR 703
- domestic violence; CR 209

May 29

- domestic violence; New Hope Rd.
- assault; CR 260
- harassment; CR 223
- possession of drug paraphernalia; 4th St. SW
- domestic violence; CR 1486
- harassing communications; trespassing; CR 1134
- criminal mischief; CR 233
- domestic violence; CR 1114

ARRESTS

May 27-29

Baker, Kenneth B.; 47
- FTA – auto theft

Bauer, Paci C.; 19
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Blackwood, William K.; 29
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- theft-shoplifting, $500-less than $1500
- buying/receiving stolen property, $1500 or more

Boulton, Terri L.; 27
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Copeland, Cameron K.; 25
- FTA – giving false information to law enforcement
- FTA – harassing communications

Davis, Kayla L.; 27
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Deaton, Sean M.; 25
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession stolen property, $1500 or more

Findley, Richo J.; 22
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family
- interference with a domestic violence emergency call

Laney, Gregory H.; 41
- permitting dogs to run at large
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Lang, Adam W.; 42
- non-support-child

Ory, Bradley S.; 36
- assault-domestic-harassment-family

Patterson, Christopher C.; 28
- FTA – obstructing justice using a false identity

Reed, Joshua A.; 39
- possession of marijuana

Rouse, Zachari H.; 38
- FTA – possession of methamphetamine
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA – driving while license suspended
- FTA – switched tag

Rudloff, James C.; 35
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family

Tucker, Matthew W.; 40
- FTA – manufacture, use, sale, etc. of synthetic urine or urine additive

Waldrop, Joshua N.; 45
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- resisting arrest

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

May 29
- identity theft; person
- theft of property-4th degree; Chevron; miscellaneous; $3; 4th St. SW
- leaving the scene of an accident; person; damage to '18 Nissan, '02 Ford F150; $3,000; Hwy. 157

May 30
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Parker Ave. SW
- retail theft of property-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; cards; $61; Olive St. SW

ARRESTS

May 30

Craft, Brandy L.; 41
- GJ – identity theft
- GJ – theft of property-1st degree

Bartlett, Bobby K.; 69
- domestic violence-3rd degree

Key, David T.; 46
- retail theft of property-1st degree

Martinez, Bryann L.; 25
- FTA – public intoxication

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Dental Arts launches community food drive in partnership with Cullman's Little Pantry

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Dental Arts has teamed up with Cullman's Little Pantry to host a community food drive aimed at combating hunger in Cullman. The drive, which runs now through the end of summer, invites residents to donate canned and non-perishable foods to support those in need.

"We are so excited to partner with Cullman's Little Pantry! We will be hosting a communitywide food drive here at Dental Arts to help keep the pantry full all summer long!" the Dental Arts team shared.

Donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday at Dental Arts, located at 205 Fourth Ave. NE in Cullman.

As an added incentive, donors have the chance to win prizes each month throughout the summer. For every five non-perishable items donated, participants will earn one entry into the giveaway.

The goal is to collect 2,000 non-perishable items by the end of August. Dental Arts encourages everyone in the community to get involved.

"Families in our community have been hit hard by rising food costs and other economic pressures.

"With children out for the summer, Cullman's Little Pantry is a way for families to get what they need when needed but is also a place where you can drop your extras and help fight hunger."

Cullman's Little Pantry, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, can also receive cash donations to help replenish non-perishable items. Donations are accepted Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

For more information or questions, contact Dental Arts at 256-739-5533. To stay updated on the progress, follow the Dental Arts page on Facebook.



DENTAL ARTS

Ashley Tankersley stands next to the first items collected for the food drive. The goal is to reach 2,000 donated items to Cullman's Little Pantry.

Projects (from Front)

ted and we hope to have the rest committed and ready by fall."

Living by the motto "Any job worth doing, must be done well," Tolbert said, he's spent the last few months researching and delving into destinations around the country that exemplify the luxury vacation destination he has in mind for the area.

After spending time at popular destination resorts such as Big Cedar Lodge in Missouri, Tolbert and his team are prepared to being that level of economic impact to Cullman County.

"Once it's completed, it will employ over 300 people. It will increase the annual property taxes by several million dollars over what's currently being paid for timber land.

"It's anticipated that it will generate about a million and a half dollars annually in additional lodging taxes coming straight to the Tourism Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce," Tolbert said.

Rumors of the coming attractions have been floating around the community, including murmurs of so-called "party barges," relocating cemetery remains and the construction of a casino. Tolbert said he wanted to lay those unfounded rumors to rest.

"There will be no casino, we will not move buried remains and we definitely aren't having a party barge," Tolbert laughed.

"When I think of a 'party barge,' I think of a pontoon boat on floats with a slide;, not a million-dollar yacht that can serve 50-plus guests a fine dining experience and be sailed by a Coast Guard-approved captain."

Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman, said he believes the addition of the resort property will increase the popularity of Cullman, as well as the state of Alabama. He said the opportunities this brings to the area in the service, hospitality and business industries are unmatched, and the economic impact will benefit the community for years and generations to come.

"I believe this will be an amazing project for the state of Alabama, especially Cullman, Winston and Walker counties that border Smith Lake.

"This project has the opportunity, when it's finished, to be the resort and conference destination for all of the Southeast that will only showcase our local tourist destinations like trout fishing at the dam, our OHV park and our year-round festivals in downtown Cullman," Gudger said.

"I am thankful that we have the chance to land this amazing project on Smith Lake, which will only strengthen our local economies."

Noah Galilee contributed to this story.







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, June 2 - 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.

Baileyton Masonic Lodge Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, June 1, from 6:30-9 a.m. Breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice – or milk for children. Donations only. Proceeds will be used for community projects. Thank you for your support.

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/Pentestar-South.

Cullman Chapter of The National Association of Retired and Active Federal Employees Meeting
Monday, June 10, at 11 a.m. at Golden Corral Buffet in Cullman. Dutch lunch at 11 and meeting at noon. Rita Black is in charge of our meeting agenda of challenging mind games. Members and nonmembers welcome.

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.

Swamp John's at St. Andrews Methodist Church
Tuesday, June 11, from 4-7 p.m. Plates are $15. Proceeds to benefit the Committee for Church Corporation. For more information call Doyle Jones at 901-482-5500.

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

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Get ready for summer reading!

Cullman County Public Library System kick-off event June 5

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Public Library System is gearing up for an exciting start to the 2024 Summer Reading Program, "Adventure Starts at the Library." The kick-off event is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5, beginning at 10 a.m.

This event invites participants of all ages to register for the "Adventure Starts at the Library" Summer Reading Program.

The library will be distributing reading logs for both adults and children, as well as library passports and Youth Writing Contest forms. These materials are designed to encourage and guide participants through a summer filled with reading challenges and literary adventures.

From 10-11a.m., attendees can enjoy complimentary Fro'z Shaved Ice. There will also be a variety of lawn games, including cornhole, giant Jenga and more for visitors to enjoy.

For those unable to attend the kick-off event, reading logs and writing contest forms will still be available at the library's circulation desk throughout the summer.

This event marks the beginning of a summer dedicated to reading and adventure at the Cullman County Public Library. Be sure to visit on June 5 at 10 a.m. to take part in the kick-off festivities and embark on your very own reading journey with the "Adventure Starts at the Library" Summer Reading Program.

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First row: John Sellers, Tommy Griggs, Hilda Still Wright, Hilda Alvis Johnston, Delton Duke, Brenda Smith Drake and Carolyn Kilgo Jones; second row: Marlin Raney, Enoch Morris, Doyle Jones, Frankie Burnham, Clyde Laney, Danny Wallace, Wheeler Daniel, Jean Campbell Blackwood, Melba Blackwood Aris, Alice Pesto, Doys Jones and Bobby Wright. Not pictured: Dale Glover

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JUNE 1, 2024

PREP CHEER

'The community is very close, and we are like family': Fairview's Brynlee Merriman reflects on Aggie years

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. -- Fairview senior cheerleader Brynlee Merriman made a lot of great memories during her cheer career and had a blast getting to spend her team alongside some amazing teammates.

"I would say my most favorite memory had to have been competing at Disney and receiving 10th in the nation. That was a huge milestone for us and Fairview cheer, in general, and I'm so glad we got to make that impact. On the other hand, my favorite little memories would have been just spending time with one another and having to cheer football and basketball games as well. Everyone got so close this season, and every moment was a favorite for me," Merriman said. "It was honestly great. Of course, there were ups and downs we had to get through since we were all together 24/7, but we always found a way to get through and grow stronger from those bumps. Having a team that is also your friends allows you to have a great support system, and I feel like that is so important to have in a sport. You learn to communicate better, be positive, and take time to lift each other up. With that, I feel like we all grew as individuals, while just taking time to listen to one another."

She learned a very important thing during her cheer experience and took away some big things from her coaches.

"I learned a lot of patience. Being a flyer for the team and the captain, I had to realize to take other people's experiences into account. There is no I in team, and I had to understand that. So many people go into one aspect that you all have to work together and get along to make a stunt hit or have a routine look remotely clean," she said. "It helped me a lot to be able to grow as a person. Having coaches that played such a big role in my life for a long period of time gave me some people to look up to. We had some rough patches, but I know it was all out of love, and going through that, they taught me how to stick up for myself in situations and state my opinion when I didn't feel like I was being hard."

Merriman added,

"I learned hard work and drive from my coaches. They pushed me so much to be the best version I could be for the team and in real-life. This helped me be able to reach for my goals that I had set, because they gave me the confidence to try and achieve them knowing I had their full support."

She will remember a very important thing about cheering at Fairview and will deeply miss doing that next year. She talked about her favorite high school memories and what made Fairview a special place to go to.

"I considered us a family, and we were always there for one another. That is something that I will always tend to remember. I will miss the friendships that I have made along the way," she said.

"I would say my favorite high school memories would have to have been homecoming week every year. I like being involved and helping out, while having the chance to dress up with friends.

"We played games and this year, I got to be a part of the homecoming court, which was a great experience. The community is very close, and we are like family. Everyone is there for one another, and I feel like that is a key aspect for a school to grow and be successful."

Brynlee will really miss being an Aggie next year, and she had so many great role models during her cheer career and in the classroom as well.

"I will miss the staff at Fairview. They have all impacted me in some sort of way throughout my years of high school life, and it has made me a better person. They are all supportive and here for the students. I appreciate their dedication to make a relationship with the students," she said. "In cheer, it would have to be my two coaches, Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Sizemore. They taught me so much, and I'm so thankful for them helping me through my cheer career. In school, it would have to be Mrs. Jean. She has always supported me and has been there for me through everything. She has helped me so much, not just with school, but in life as well, and I will always appreciate her for that. She made my high school years fly by with no worries."

She gave advice to those students that will be starting high school in August and talked about her experience in a few clubs that she was in at Fairview.

"Don't stress over the little things. Going into high school, I thought no one would be there for me, but I was so wrong. There is so much support from others and teachers that the stress can be dealt with. We all have our ups and downs, but at the end of the day, you will be okay, and that bad grade will not matter. There is always room to grow and improve, so please don't beat up if you ever get behind," she said.

"I was involved in Student Council, Yearbook Staff, and at the beginning of high school, I was involved in Key Club. As a senior, I was secretary for our class and editor of the yearbook.

"It was great being a part of these clubs, because it taught me leadership and how to work well with others. I am so thankful I got the chance to be a part of making the school better and helping others."

Merriman definitely wants to be remembered for some important things at Fairview and gave some advice to those people that want to be where she's at right now.

"I want people to remember me as a kind person with a good heart. I always tried to be there if anyone needed me," she said. "Nothing's easy, but if you stay driven, anything can happen."



BRYNLEE MERRIMAN

Fairview's Brynlee Merriman

NATIONAL CHAMPS! No. 1 Auburn beats Florida State 3-2 to win men's golf title

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics



AU ATHLETICS

Auburn's Men's Golf Team defeated Florida State 3-2 Wednesday to win the program's first ever national championship.

CARLSBAD, Calif. – The job, at last, is finished.

Throughout No. 1 Auburn's march to the program's first national championship, head coach Nick Clinard reminded his team and its followers after each step that the assignment remained incomplete. There was more to be done and more to be won.

On Wednesday at the Omni La Costa Champions Course in the California hills between San Diego and Los Angeles, the Tigers completed their task, defeating No. 6 Florida State 3-2 to win the 2024 NCAA Championship.

"I've got a great group of young men. We've got six of the best players in the country," Clinard said. "We've got great leadership with Alex Vogelsong. They went out there today and got the job done."

Senior J.M. Butler clinched the match for the Tigers with a par putt on 17 to win 2 & 1.

"Glad we could get it done," Butler said. "I knew we had it in us, all we had to do was go out there and do it and we did. My trust and my confidence were key in me winning today, combined with all the hours of hard work."

"Phenomenal golf," Clinard said of Butler's clutch play from the anchor position. "He hit two clutch shots on 17, a beautiful 3-wood off the tee and a 9-iron that never left the flag and that sealed the victory."

Jackson Koivun chipped in on No. 14 to win his match 5 & 4 to record Auburn's first point.

"I was just happy to be part of it," said Koivun, holding his championship trophy. "I was just trying to make up and down and was lucky enough to hit the flag and go in. It's been a whirlwind of emotions. There's a lot of awards I've collected but this one right here is definitely the biggest one."

Brendan Valdes won his match 4 & 3.

"It means everything," Valdes said. "To get it for guys like J.M. and Vogey, it means the world to see the smile on their faces."

The best season in program history featured Auburn's fifth SEC championship, a second consecutive NCAA Regional title, and Koivun, the freshman phenom, claiming both the Ben Hogan Award and Fred Haskins Award, college golf's highest individual honors.

At long last, after 10 tournament wins including seven straight victories to end the season standing triumphant atop the sport's biggest stage, the job is finished.

Education Notes

Staff Reports
Contributor

Crane Hill's Jordan Moore makes Mississippi College President's List

CLINTON, Miss. - The Mississippi College Office of Academic Affairs releases the President's List after the close of fall and spring semesters each academic year.

To be eligible for the President's List, a student must maintain a 4.0 grade point average, based on a 4.0 system.

The student must take a full course load of at least 12 semester hours of undergraduate credit with all academic courses impacting their grade point average.

Local students who made the list include Jordan Moore of Crane Hill.

Troy University Chancellor's and Provost's Lists

TROY, Ala. - Troy University is pleased to announce students who have been named to the Chancellor's List for the spring semester and Term 4 of the 2023-2024 academic year. Full-time undergraduate students who are registered for at least 12 semester hours and who earn a grade point average of 4.0 qualify for the Chancellor's List..

Local students who made the list include:

- Hannah Dempster of Cullman
- Lily Latham of Vinemont

Troy is pleased to announce students who have been named to the Provost's List for the spring Semester and Term 4 of the 2023-2024 academic year. Full-time undergraduate students who are registered for at least 12 semester hours and who have a grade point average of at least 3.65 qualify for the Provost's List.

Local students named to the list include:

- Lauren Evans of Cullman

Cullman's Jacob Hilb makes Marion Military Institute Dean's List

MARION, Ala. - Jacob Hilb of Cullman, AL, a graduate of Mother of Divine Grace School, completed the Marion Military Institute Spring 2024 semester on the college's Dean's List.

This academic achievement requires a GPA of 3.5 or above.

JSU launching public health degree programs, addressing critical need in Alabama

Kelli J. Holmes
Contributor

JACKSONVILLE, Ala. — Jacksonville State University (Jax State) is set to launch two innovative degree programs within the College of Health Professions and Wellness Department of Kinesiology in the Fall of 2024: a Bachelor of Public Health (BPH) and a Master of Public Health (MPH).

The announcement comes in response to growing demand for public health professionals in Alabama, highlighted by recent reviews indicating a significant shortage in the state.

According to Bureau of Labor and Statistics projections, a 17% increase in demand for public health specialists is expected by 2030, with emphasis on epidemiologists.

Both programs will focus on preparing graduates to take an active role in their communities.

They will be equipped to identify needs, implement solutions, and organize services to address health disparities and improve overall wellness.

The MPH program will offer concentrations in generalist and rural health, providing students with specialized training to address the unique challenges faced by rural communities.

"This is not just about learning, it's about empowering our students to make a real difference in our community," said Dr. Tracey Matthews, dean of the College of Health Professions and Wellness.

"These programs represent a significant milestone in our mission to cultivate compassionate and competent healthcare leaders who will make a lasting impact on the health and wellness of individuals and populations."

Louis A. Bass, president and CEO of the Health Care Authority of the City of Anniston, emphasized the importance of such programs, particularly in light of recent events such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The BSPH and MPH degrees would prepare graduates as working professionals with public health skills, knowledge, and experience to support the public and private community health care workforce," Dr. Bass stated in a letter of support.

Numerous state health professionals have also expressed their support for the new programs, citing the urgent need for a skilled public health workforce.

Jeffrey R. Ryan, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Emergency Management, highlighted the programs' potential to address gaps in healthcare provision and support community resilience.

The addition of these degree programs further solidifies Jax State's commitment to promoting health and wellness in communities across Alabama and beyond. Jax State aims to cultivate a new generation of leaders capable of driving positive change in healthcare delivery and outcomes by providing students with the tools and expertise needed to address pressing public health challenges.

For more information about Jax State's Bachelor of Public Health (BPH) and Master of Public Health (MPH) programs, please visit www.jsu.edu/health/index.html.

WSCC: Registration open for summer career training courses

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Registration is now open for summer career training courses offered through Wallace State Community College's Center for Career and Workforce Development. These short-term programs are designed to provide essential skills and hands-on experience for career advancement, whether you are looking to enter a new field or upskill in a familiar one. The courses will be held at the Workforce Training Center located on the campus of REHAU and the registration fee is $75. Course offerings include Construction, Diesel Technology, Phlebotomy and Welding.

"We're thrilled at the opportunity to offer these trainings at a reduced cost for the community and allow individuals to gain valuable skills to enter the workforce or a new career," said Anna Beard, Diesel by Distance project coordinator.

Course schedule

- Construction: Fridays, June 7-July 28 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

- Diesel Technology: Fridays, June 7- July 26 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

- Phlebotomy: Tuesdays, June 4- July 23 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

- Welding: Fridays, June 7-July 19 from noon-4 p.m.

Registration details

To register for a summer career training course, complete the interest form at https://forms.office.com/r/CXyDf2JP1C. Following the submission of the form, a registration link will be sent by email. Participants must create an account and submit a $75 payment via the secure payment portal to reserve a seat.

Spaces are limited and expected to fill quickly, with 10 spots for Construction, Phlebotomy and Welding, and 20 spots for Diesel Technology.

A mandatory Entry to Career Interest Fair/Onboarding or Orientation session for all registered participants will be held on Monday, June 3, from 2-7 p.m. at the Wallace State Workforce Training Center, located at 1130 24th St. SW, Cullman, AL 35055.

This session will provide an overview of the courses, services available to students, an onboarding assessment and an opportunity to meet with instructors.

For more information, contact Anna Beard at anna.parrish@wallacestate.edu or 256-352-8356.

WSCC Machine Tool Technology students place 2nd in Phillips Machinist Student Competition

Special to The Cullman Tribune

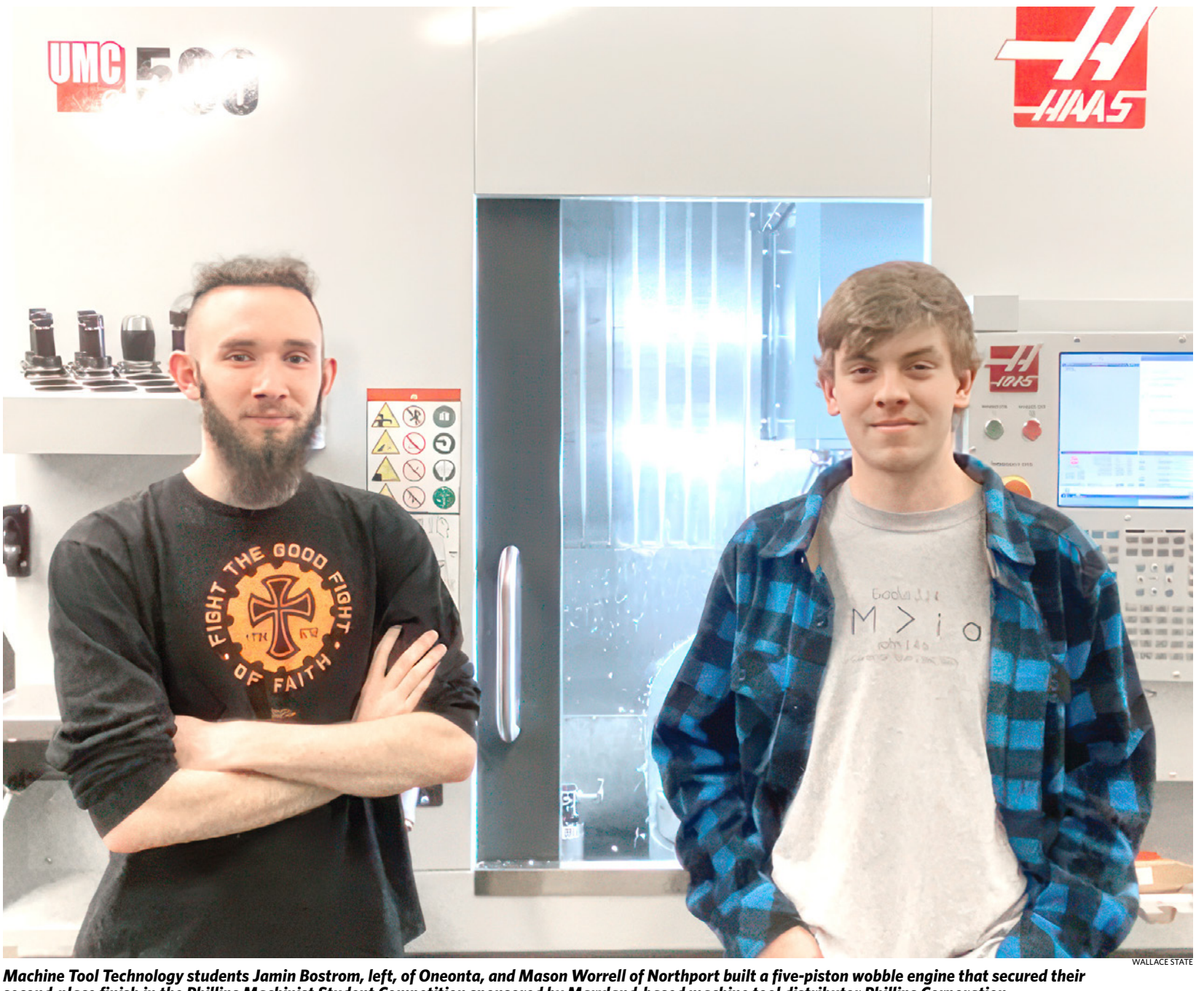
HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Students in Wallace State Community College's Machine Tool Technology program recently won second place in the Phillips Machinist Student Competition sponsored by Maryland-based machine tool distributor Phillips Corporation.

The competition's goal was to encourage innovation within teams of students by taking a manufactured system that already exists and improving a part. The competition guidelines included using a Haas Automation machine to manufacture the part and to utilize calculators and resource materials available through the Phillips Machinist App for project production. The student contest was held virtually, allowing teams to manufacture the project in their school facilities, while judges cast their votes online.

Wallace State competed against schools in Phillips Corporation's market territory, which includes 12 states. Machine Tool Technology students Jamin Bostrom of Oneonta and Mason Worrell of Northport built a five-piston wobble engine that secured their second-place finish.

"I'm excited about this win for our students," said Jerry Murks, dean of Applied Technologies at Wallace State.

"Being able to work as a team to design and construct a fully functional pneumatic engine is an achievement that highlights our Machine Tool Technology program's commitment to excellence and hands-on learning. Their success is a testament to our program's quality and the dedication of both the students and faculty."



WALLACE STATE

Machine Tool Technology students Jamin Bostrom, left, of Oneonta, and Mason Worrell of Northport built a five-piston wobble engine that secured their second-place finish in the Phillips Machinist Student Competition sponsored by Maryland-based machine tool distributor Phillips Corporation.

Chair of the Wallace State Machine Tool Technology department Justin Burnett said the win is exciting, especially for a team of two, as it showcases the hard work that students in the program put forth.

"I am proud of our students who competed. It was a lot of work with just two students on our team, but their dedication and hard work paid off. With our program's strong emphasis on hands-on training and cutting-edge equipment, the Machine Tool Technology program at Wallace State has equipped students with the skills needed to excel in the manufacturing industry," said Burnett.

In addition to taking home second place, the Wallace State Machine Tool Technology department was awarded two Haas Automation control simulators and a $1,500 Haas Automation certificate, which will be used by the department to purchase new tooling equipment. Each student team member was personally awarded a caliper and micrometer produced by Haas Automation. Haas Automation is the largest machine tool builder in the United States, and one of the largest builders of Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machines in the world.

For more information about the Wallace State Machine Tool Technology program, contact Justin Burnett at 256-352-8235 or email machinetool@wallacestate.edu.

Morning of fishing and fellowship: Senior Citizen Fish O' Rama set for June 6

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The City of Hanceville's annual Senior Citizens Fish O' Rama is set to take place on Friday, June 6, at Veterans Park in Hanceville. This annual event aims to provide a wonderful opportunity for seniors to enjoy a morning of fishing and fellowship. Registration will open at 7:30 a.m., and the fishing will kick off at 8.

Participants are encouraged to arrive early to secure their fishing spots.

The pond has been freshly stocked for the event, ensuring plenty of fish for everyone.

The final weigh-in will be at 11, followed by lunch.

This event is a great chance for seniors to engage in a fun, relaxing morning of fishing while spending time outdoors fellowshipping with fellow community members. Don't miss out on the fun at Veterans Park in Hanceville on June 6!

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Chases (from Front)

population growth. Cullman County has grown by approximately 30% over the last 25 years. With an increase of people, there will be an increase of crime; this includes vehicle pursuits."

Whaley also said that across the country, drug use and mental health issues continue to increase.

"These issues, coupled with a general lack of respect for authority most likely play a role in it as well," Whaley said.

"Lastly, vehicle pursuits are more prominent because of technology. In the past, pursuits might occur and the general public would be unaware. Now, primarily due to social media, every pursuit is documented, discussed and shared with everyone. Numbers have definitely gone up, but the coverage amplifies these pursuits and makes them even more prominent than the statistics might show."

Gentry said new legislation has been passed that makes these pursuits a felonies.

"It is our hope that these stiffer penalties may change the mindset of these individuals and help reduce the number of these pursuits," Gentry said.

Cullman Police Chief David Nassetta said he agrees with Whaley that people's attitudes have changed and there is less respect for authority than there used to be.

"I believe that society has been steadily downplaying the accountability and responsibility that the individual has, over the last 10-15 years," Nassetta said.

"When I started in 1996, we chased people because that was our job. It was expected of us to chase those who broke laws and put people's safety in jeopardy. Our community is still, for the most part, supportive of this attitude. However, many communities are not. If you look at many of the larger cities around the nation, not only are police chases severely restricted, but many types of simple theft have also been decriminalized."

According to Nassetta, several cities in California have made shoplifting no longer a crime.

"While homelessness is not a crime, many cities have also allowed the homeless to take over public areas to the extent that they are laying claim to areas that are both publicly and privately owned," Nassetta said.

"While this is not the prevailing mentality in our city, it certainly serves to desensitize people into a sense that people should be able to do anything that they want, and no law should be able to tell them otherwise."

Nassetta also wanted to talk about the last three chases that have happened in as many weeks in Cullman.

"The most recent, which resulted in the death of a completely uninvolved person, began in another jurisdiction," Nassetta said.

"The motivation of that driver is unknown. To my knowledge, he had a current license and no outstanding warrants, but he is an out-of-state resident and I have no information about his history.

"Based on what I was told when he was taken into custody after the crash, he may have been under the influence of narcotics or was having a mental health issue.

"The chase that happened last week that began on Cherokee Avenue and ended with the suspect crashing near the Good Hope rest area on I-65 involved a driver who knew that he had outstanding warrants for attempted murder in Jefferson County.

Going back to the chase where two of our patrol officers were recently injured, they were assisting with a pursuit with a driver that I am comfortable in classifying as a drug dealer, who attempted to throw out the drugs of the vehicle he was driving and was also in possession of a firearm."

Nassetta said around two months ago, the Cullman Police Department began a traffic enforcement initiative to address the fact that Cullman County is No. 3 in the state in number of vehicle crashes.

"We also constantly receive complaints from drivers and residents about people driving recklessly or speeding through neighborhoods," Nassetta said.

"During that time, we have increased the number of traffic contacts and written more citations and warnings. A byproduct of stopping more people is that we now encounter more people who decide to flee from a traffic stop.

"Again, we are attempting to address the bad drivers, and unfortunately, it results in some of those bad drivers not wanting to pull over."

The bottom line, according to Nassetta, is that law enforcement can restrict when they chase vehicles, but he doesn't feel that they need to outlaw all chases, as many in the community are calling for.

"If you make that happen, then you weaken the premise of holding people accountable for their actions," Nassetta said. "Bad choices and actions need accountability."

LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
JANE GREGG BEAVERS, * **CASE NO.: PC2024-164**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to MITCH KORNEGAY, as Administrator of the Estate of JANE GREGG BEAVERS, deceased, on the 30th 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.

MITCH KORNEGAY
Administrator

Sara Doty
Attorney for Administrator
4725 Whitesburg Drive, Suite 202
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

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 *
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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
JACOB WILLIAM KNIGHT, JR., * **CASE NO.: PC2024-195**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to CYNTHIA R. KNIGHT, as Personal Representative of the Estate of JACOB WILLIAM KNIGHT, JR., deceased, on the 30th day of May, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

CYNTHIA R. KNIGHT
Personal Representative

Tonya C. Palmer
Attorney for Personal Representative
Palmer Law Firm, LLC
1939 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256) 246-9600

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 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





LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Zero accountability'

Aubrey Kenneth Fannin
Contributor

(Published without edits)

I used to go to the grocery store with my mama. Warehouse Discount Groceries hasn't changed much in forty years; same comforting aromas of fresh produce and cardboard, same glazed concrete floors, same wood-framed shelves. I'm pretty sure you can still purchase Frosty Morn bologna and the same brand of neon orange pimento cheese from the meat coolers. I used to walk down the cereal aisle to covet the sugared-up boxes of crunchy heaven, always hoping mama would splurge. But every time, the giant box with the cocky rooster was the only one that made it into the buggy. Life was hard in 1984.

But look y'all, if I had even thought about picking up a Globe, Sun, or National Enquirer in the checkout line... well, life would have suddenly become more difficult. Mama did not cater to such trash. So, it is with considerable disappointment that I find an entire county smitten with the Facebook posts of an opportunistic tabloid; one that is severely lacking in both credentials and integrity.

Cullman Daily News. House fires and car crashes and mangled lives. Semi-accurate information mixed with miracles and a longing for the good ole days of Cullman. Hearts and flags and prayer hands. Young entrepreneurs selling lemonade; git'er done! Invitations to Sunday service followed by culture-war grenades lobbed over the fence like flaming bags of dog poo.

To be fair, I've joined in on a few Cullman Daily comment slap-fights thinking I could somehow make a difference, but each time I was helping to keep their content driving forward. More clicks, more comments, more filthy lucre. Zero accountability.

I get it. It is a well known brand with a wide reach. Hey, if they posted a story and pic of my grand-baby's championship game I'd feel the urge to share it with the world. A beautiful Sunday sunrise attributed to the Lord above. What in the world is wrong with "loving" that?

But the hometown pride that CDN sells is an illusion. Its support of law and order is marketing and lip service, at best.

Its patriotic wholesomeness isn't for free. The thoughts and prayers it offers for the critically ill come with a price tag. It is monetized gossip. You know, the same gossip mentioned in Scripture.

I'm not mad, really. CDN is quite good at what it does. But, its content and practices are not in alignment with the moral values that it claims. At the end of the day, Cullman Daily News is not, well... news.

My daddy worked for a couple of newspapers, so don't tell me otherwise. It is certainly not journalism. Heck, it's not even good entertainment. And back in the day your mama would have slapped it out of your hands.

Aubrey Kenneth Fannin
New Market, Alabama

Crider (from Front)

Special to the Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College has promoted Tony Crider to head coach of the men's and women's cross country teams, President Dr. Vicki Karolewics announced today.

"Tony Crider has proven himself in his role as assistant coach to the Wallace State cross country teams. He has been a vital part of the Wallace State family, and we know he will continue to build upon Wallace State's outstanding success in cross country as head coach," Karolewics said.

Crider has served as the assistant coach under retiring head coach Stan Narewski since 2017. He will take over a men's squad that has eight conference championship and a women's squad that has five, including a sweep of the Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) meets in 2020. That year, the Lady Lions had a program-best 6th-place finish in the NJCAA Division II national meet and the men were 8th.

"To me, it's just a great honor to be able to follow a person like Stan and work for such a great administration at Wallace State," Crider said. "I truly enjoy the students and I look forward to getting up every morning to work with them. They are like my children; they keep me young."

Crider's goal is to bring national championship trophies home to Wallace State.

"I'm going to do my best to keep Wallace State winning championships, just like Stan and I have done over years," he said. "Our goal is to win a national championship."

Crider has more than 20 years' experience coaching multiple sports at the high school level, with more than 10 years coaching cross country and track and field at Cold Springs High School. There he was part of four cross country and track and field state championships.

System (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has rolled out its new mass notification system – Everbridge Mass Notification – and is encouraging residents to sign up.

Cullman County EMA Specialist Brent McDonald said users can select severe weather and other desired alerts.

"Everbridge serves numerous counties throughout the United States by delivering timely and direct information to the public when it is most needed," McDonald said.

"Taking this into account, we conducted thorough research while seeking a better solution for the residents of Cullman County."

McDonald said although the EMA understands that change isn't always easy, in this instance, it was necessary.

"We want to clarify why we opted to switch from our previous notification system," McDonald said. "During last winter's severe storm, we encountered difficulties in disseminating urgent alerts to the county. We were informed by our past notification system provider that we had reached our monthly limit for alerts, leaving us unable to send crucial updates when roads were impassable, and accidents were occurring throughout the area.

"This incident prompted us to reassess our requirements and conclude that the old system was no longer viable or safe for our county's residents."

McDonald expanded on the benefits of the new system.

"We have now gained the capability to issue alerts whenever they're deemed necessary, without the risk of being shut down by a third-party service that we're paying to fulfill that very purpose," McDonald said.

"Everbridge offers our citizens a broader range of subscription options, enabling them to customize their alert preferences more effectively. Presently, they can choose to receive customizable weather alerts, notifications from the Cullman County Road Department, the City of Cullman, Cullman EMA, the County Commission and various municipalities that have partnered with us to alert residents in their respective towns," he said.

While it's still new to everyone and a work in progress, McDonald said, through Everbridge, the agency has what it needs to get alerts out when needed most.

"Should anyone have issues with signing up, please contact us at the EMA and we will get you in," McDonald said.

"If you haven't yet registered, sign up by going to the link provided on our Facebook page and follow instructions shown."

Residents can register by visiting https://member.everbridge.net/355009111785876/login.

Although mass notifications are a great resource to have in the event of a natural disaster or community emergency, Cullman County EMA Director Tim Sartin told The Tribune back in April that he believes two ways of receiving information is vital.

Cullman County EMA has an app for tablets and smartphones that can also alert residents in the event of an emergency, and has a plethora of information on storm safety, shelter locations and other helpful information about emergency plans and preparedness.

To download it, search "Cullman County EMA" in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.



THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JUNE 1, 2024

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library seeking sponsors

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a program that puts books into the hands of children from birth to age 5 each month at no cost. Beginning in 1995 in Parton's native Sevier County, Tennessee, the program is now global, operated by local organizations and sponsors. The program is managed by a dedicated team of professionals who ensure that the books are age-appropriate, educational, entertaining and high quality.

Cullman Electric Cooperative Vice President of Member Engagement & Communications Brian Lacy shared his enthusiasm for the program, saying, "Imagination Library is a wonderful program, and we're glad to have played a part in establishing it in Cullman County. The program is free for children and families because the cost is covered by local businesses and organizations."

The Cullman Electric Cooperative since 2021 has partnered with other local organizations and provided resource marketing and outreach, as well as acting as a primary financial sponsor for Cullman's Imagination Library.

"When the idea first came to us in 2021, our marketing and communications team developed a plan to work with The Friends of the Libraries of Cullman County," said Lacy. "The Friends would be the nonprofit hosting organization, and Cullman EC would be a primary financial supporter while also providing promotional support and help in recruiting other business sponsors."

The first businesses and organizations that helped financially sponsor the program alongside the Co-op were RE Garrison, Cullman County Schools, Peoples Bank, the Cullman County Commission and Apel Steel. With the progression of the program, more sponsors came on board to help shoulder the cost of the books. These sponsors have not only contributed to the education and development of over 2,900 children in the community – United Way of Cullman County, Rock the South and the Cullman Realtors Association have pledged their financial support, carrying a bulk of the load.

While the cost of the program is nonexistent to the families of the more than 2,900 children who receive books, for the financial sponsors, the cost of the program has recently increased from $25 to $26 annually per participating child. The growth of the program has surpassed any expectations, and only continues to gain traction. The Friends of the Public Libraries of Cullman County estimates that the need for more financial sponsors will arise in the future to assist the program in moving forward.

"The Friends of the Libraries of Cullman County are in need of two to three more donors over the next year to keep up with the increase in demand for the program in our community, said Lacy."

To learn more or become a sponsor, visit ccimaginationlibrary.com or email friendsofcullmanlibraries@gmail.com. To register to be a part of the program, visit https://ccimaginationlibrary.com/signup.

Obituary Announcements: May 30-31

Irene Morris Netherton, 70
Funeral service for Irene Morris Netherton, age 70, of Vinemont, is Saturday, June 1, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, with Bro. Tim Aris officiating. She will lie in state from noon - 2 p.m., prior to the service. Visitation will be held on Friday, May 31, 2024, from 6-8 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home as well. Interment will be at Bethlehem West Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Irene was born July 6, 1953, to Andrew Dillard Morris, Sr. and Mary Ellen Williamson Morris. She passed from this life on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at her residence, surrounded by her family. She was preceded in death by her parents; son-in-law, Jeremiah Nathaniel Brown. She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Roy Dean Netherton; daughter, Felicia Brown-Hulsey (Derek); brother, Andrew Dillard Morris; sisters, Mary Anita Morris, Janice Lynn Williams (Randy); grandchildren, Kaden Brown, and Kayla Brown; a host of family and friends. Irene was a faithful member of Bethlehem West Baptist Church. She loved her vegetable garden and she loved to can her vegetables. She loved spending time with her grandkids and family. Family describes her as the best wife, mom, and nana there could be. She will be missed by all who loved her. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Barry Lynn Jacobs, 64
Funeral service for Barry Lynn Jacobs, age 64, of Cullman, is Friday, May 31, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, with Pastor Tim Barbee officiating. He will lie in state from noon - 2 p.m., prior to the service. Visitation will be held on Thursday, May 30, 2024, from 6-8 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home as well. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Barry was born Sept. 8, 1959, to Edgar Earl Jacobs and Doris Faye McGriff Jacobs. He passed from this life on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at his residence, surrounded by his family. He was preceded in death by his parents; stepmother, Reba Jacobs; mother and father-in-law, Raymond and Lila Hansen; sister, Jellethia Carden; son-in-law, Brandon Brooks; niece, Stacy Hansen; beloved brother-in-law, Gerald Harper; nephew, Willy Taylor. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Linda Hansen Jacobs; son, Bradley Jacobs (Misty); daughter, Jessica Jacobs; brother, Stanley Jacobs (Betty); special brothers, Paul Hansen and Joe Harper; step-brothers, Eddie Sandlin, Gordon Sandlin; ; sister, Tammy Jenkins (David); special sister, Lisa Sloan (David); grandchildren, Lexi Jacobs (Michael Rickard), Christopher Smith (Mary Andrews), Andrew Jacobs, Brittany Jacobs, Brantley Mitchell; future great-grandchild, Jake Rickard; a host of nieces and nephews and family and friends. Barry served his country bravely in the Army for fifteen years. He loved his family and his dog, Max, very much. He really enjoyed watching NASCAR and Gunsmoke. He will be very missed by all who knew and loved him. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to family by contacting Cullman Funeral Home at 256-734-3144 to help cover funeral expenses. Any help would be much appreciated. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Bryon Dale McNiel, 54
Funeral Service for Bryon Dale McNiel, age 54 of Baileyton, will be at 3 p.m. on Monday, June 3, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Visitation will be from 1-3 p.m. on Monday, June 3, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Mr. McNiel passed away on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at his residence. He was born, March 12, 1970, to Wilton Gay McNiel and Joy McNiel. Survivors include, child, Matthew "Patricia" McNiel; mother, Joy McNiel; father, Wilton McNiel, brother, Arick (Eunsook) McNiel-Cho, sisters, Wiltina (Edward) Robinson and Anita McNiel, Nieces and Nephews, Arick W.R., Vanessa, Adam, Monica, Roseanna, Kayla and Bethany; great nieces and nephew Archer, Andreya, Annessa, Anthony, Aaron, Melana, Jaylem, Rheya, Jacob and Lucas. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

June Claire Pate, 82
June Claire Pate, age 82 of Logan, passed away on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at Hanceville Nursing Home. She was born, June 8, 1941, in Decatur, Alabama, to William "Jack" Pate and Eunice Pate of Decatur, Alabama. In the early 1970s she moved to Cullman, Alabama, where she raised 3 strong daughters. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, William "Bill" Pate; sister, Linda Moore; daughter, Brenda Evans; and granddaughter, Mandy Hale. Survivors include her daughters, Tammy (Holland) West and Allison (Huie) Keller; grandchildren, Chris Jordan, Hannah Moody, Joe Barnes, Van (Jessika) Lee, Sarah (Seth) Abbott, Sari Evans, and Alex Evans; 13 great grandchildren; and one great great grandchild. There are no services at this time.

Irene Alice Zehr, 84
Funeral Service for Irene Alice Zehr, age 84 of Cullman, will be at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 2, 2024, at Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church with Allen Kuykendall and Daryl Ross officiating, burial at Pleasant Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be from 1-3 p.m. on Sunday, June 2, 2024, at Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Mrs. Zehr passed away on Thursday, May 30, 2024, surrounded by her children and grandchildren. She was born Sunday, Aug. 13, 1939, to Howard Ralph Shallcross and Bertha Mae Shallcross. She was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years Don Zehr, Sr.; parents; grandson, Jonathan Smith; sister, Ruth Terwilliger; brothers, Charles Shallcross, Eddie Shallcross and Philip Shallcross. Survivors include her sons, Don (Adonna) Zehr, Jr., and Hank (Lisa) Zehr; daughters, Debbie (Richard) Johnston and Regina (Chip) Johnsey; 10 grandchildren; 22 great grandchildren; 2 great great grandchildren; sister Linetta Ross and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews. She loved her children unconditionally, but her Grands and Great Grands always brought the biggest smile to her face. After her retirement from CRMC working in admissions, she became an avid quilter, making lap blankets for the ederly, volunteering at Parkside School helping children read and list goes on. She enjoyed her time outside watching the birds and taking care of her flowers.

Mildred Ann Marion, 72
Funeral services for Mildred Ann Crawford-Marion, 72, of Cullman will be 2 p.m. Saturday June 1st at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Mountain Grove Baptist Cemetery. Visitation will be prior to the service from noon until 2 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mildred was born Sept. 13, 1951, in Cullman, Alabama to the late William and Marie Boatright-Crawford. She passed away May 30, 2024, in Cullman, Alabama Survivors include her daughter, Tracie Kelsey (Chris); grandchildren, Zoe Ellard (Wes), Michael Kelsey, James Kelsey; siblings, Jerry Crawford, Roberta Starnes, Rickey Crawford; and a host of nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, Mildred was preceded in death by her siblings, Clarence Crawford, Dee Crawford, Monroe Crawford, Olan "Red" Crawford, Johhny Crawford, and Shirley Copeland. Serving as pallbearers will be Michael Kelsey, James Kelsey, Wes Ellard, Chris Kelsey, Jerome Crawford and Marty Crawford.

Melissa Smith Collum, 54
Melissa Smith Collum, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away on the afternoon of May 28, 2024, at the age of 54. Mrs. Collum was born in Georgia, on April 12, 1970. Mrs. Smith and her husband, Michael, were married 34 years. Together they produced a wrestling show and Melissa loved nothing more than to watch her son, Chris, wrestle. She was a loving mother and grandmother, and she extended her love to anyone who needed a second mom. Melissa was kind but she would tell you the truth in love. Melissa's loving and nurturing nature extended to animals, and she adored her miniature chihuahuas. She was an avid Alabama fan and she enjoyed watching birds, particularly hummingbirds, and red birds. Melissa touched many people over the course of her 54 years, and she will be greatly missed. Mrs. Smith is preceded in death by her father, Wilbert Hardin; sister, Lisa Lytle; and grandchildren, Christian and Angel Baby. Those surviving Mrs. Smith includes her husband, Michael Collum; mother, Eva Hardin; son, Chris Collum (Tiffany); daughter, Crystal Ashley (Stephen); brother, Johnny Smith (Theresa); and grandchildren, Zayden, Zayleigh, and Leland. Melissa is also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, and dear friends. Friends are invited to visit with the family on Monday, June 3, 2024, in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel, from 2 p.m. until services begin at 3 p.m. Bret Treptau will officiate. Mrs. Smith will be buried in Concord Cemetery following services. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the Collum family, and our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Dorothy Margaret (Eck) South, 94
Dorothy Margaret (Eck) South, age 94, of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Friday, May 31, 2024. Dorothy was born in Ohio on Aug. 16, 1929. Dorothy is preceded in death by: Daughters: Susan Gossett, Kathleen Marie Quick. Funeral Services will be held on Sunday June 2, 2024, at Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel at 3 p.m. Interment will follow services in Mt. Olive Bible Based Fellowship Church in Simcoe. Survivors are: Sons: Felix Jr. (Myra) Conley of Vinemont, Michael David (Kathy) Conley of Ohio, a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren and other family. Visitation will be on Sunday June 2, 2024, at Moss Funeral Home from 11 a.m. until service time at 3 p.m. Please share condolences and memories with the family at www.mossservicefh.com Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Lee Ann Sutherland, 67
Lee Ann Sutherland, age 67, of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Thursday, May 30, 2024. She is preceded in death by her parents Charlotte Ann Briggs, and Bobby Glenn Sutherland, her sister Diane and her Brother Michael. She is survived by her daughters Tammy (husband Chris) Keys, and Misty Green. Son Robert (wife Heather) Guthrie, brother Jerome Reed, niece Bethany Sutherland, and her granddaughter, Kaylah Keys. She was a loving and true southern Mother, Aunt, Nana and especially, friend. She's gone now but will never be forgotten. Per her request, there are no scheduled services. She will be dearly missed.

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

A southern twister inside the car

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Well, ole Billy Bob has gone and bought himself a new car. He bought another Ford. He drove a Ford Exploder for years, until it finally exploder. Now he driving that little French model Ford...the Ford Escapee'.

These newer vehicles come equipped with everything you need to get on down the road and do so comfortably...well, everything, that is, except an engine. The engines they put in some vehicles these days are so small it's almost like not having one at all. I'm reminded of what Clara Peller used to say on the old Wendy's commercial.

She raised up the bun and said, "Where's the beef." With these new cars, you raise up the hood and say, "Where's the engine." Some come equipped with a three-cylinder, 1.5 liter engine. I buy Coke Zeros in a bottle that are bigger than that! My Coke Zeros, fully caffeinated, of course, may have more horse power too! That 1.5-liter engine barely gets me up a hill, while that Coke Zero, fully caffeinated, will get me out of bed at 2:00 in the morning!

Back in the day we drove cars with real motors. They had 327 cubit-inch motors, or 350, or even 427. Some of those things had well over 300 horsepower.

Billy Bob's new Escape has Shetland Pony power under the hood. Some of those old muscle cars would go zero-to-sixty in under five seconds.

That Escape will do it in under two weeks! I hear they are working on a new engine that is simply a giant rubber band. You just twist it up and let it go!

One good thing about these new cars is that they get unbelievable gas mileage. Ole Billy Bob said he drove his new one all the way to Hawaii and back and only had to stop for gas twice. I'm not sure I believe that because someone told me he stopped at every Buckey's between here and there.

The main thing Billy Bob doesn't like about his new vehicle is the dual heating and air. Each side has its own thermostat, so everybody can be comfortable. They need to warn owners though, because that dual control can be dangerous.

There is no divider between the driver's side and the passenger side. There's nothing to keep the warm air, or cold air, on one side from drifting over on the other side. You know, like your sister used to get over on your side of the back seat, while you were still sitting there, on the way to Grandma's house. Here in the South, we all know what happens when hot air suddenly slams into cold air.

The warm air rises, the cold air drops, and they twist. We listen to James Spann the weatherman all night and sleep in a closet! Those twisters always seem to find mobile homes and cars. Ole Billy Bob said he had a twister right there inside his new Escapee'.

He said Thelma Lou Jean had her side cranked down to Antarctica settings while his was set on Arizonia. He mouthed off something about her IQ caused her to run her AC down that low and the next thing he knew a tornado was right there inside their car and it smacked him right up beside his head.

He never saw it coming, and he didn't even hear a train! Amazingly, Thelma Lou Jean came out totally unharmed and grinning from ear to ear! Billy Bob learned to watch the weather, as well as his mouth! Didn't wise Solomon say something like, "Be not rash with your mouth?"

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

HISTORY

Files from yesteryear: 1918, 1938

From the files of 1918

Doctor C. Stewart is attending court in Huntsville this week.

A dance was enjoyed by the younger set at Quartette Hall, on Friday evening.

Mrs. Annie Kinney has returned from a two-week's stay in Florida.

From the files of 1938

Alabama does note raise enough mules and horses to supply its own needs, says Doctor S. Sugg, Extension Livestock Specialist at Auburn.

"It is estimated that it takes from 30,000 to 35,000 mules and horses annually to provide replacements and 90 to 95 percent of this number is purchased from outside the state. The state could save

$3,500,000 to $4,000,000 annually, by having more brood mares on the farm and raising our own replacements of work stock."

Cullman City Cemetery Decoration will be on May 8th, led by the following: General Committee, S.H. Green, C.S. Biggers, C.C. Sheeuing, J.A. Dunlap and Hugo Buettner.

The Decoration Committee includes: Mrs. H.C. Arnold, Chairman, Mrs. P.G. Hartung, Mrs. E.C. Kinney, Mrs. George Stiefelmeyer, Mrs. Bert Thomas, Mrs. Beulah D. Paddock, H.V. Ruehl, J.E. Pierce, H.M. Windsor, W.W. Newman and Ed J. Buchmann.

The official returns for Cullman County give the following candidates a total amount of votes of:

For Governor
- James H. Arnold 33
- Frank M. Dixon 2276
- R.J. Goode 1388
- D. Hardy Riddle 282
- Chauncey Sparks 638

For Solicitor 8th Judicial Circuit
- Melvin Hutson 2327
- Thos S. (Tobe) Woodroff 1653

For State Senator 3rd Senatorial District
- Bart J. Cowart 360
- W.E. James 2076
- Finis E. St. John, Jr. 1932

For Representative
- M.L. Robertson 2175
- Henry W. White 2167

For Sheriff
- John F. Allgood 516
- E.R. Bain 119
- Carl A. Burke 124
- W.C. Debter 216
- J.G. (Jim) Glasscock 84
- M.R. Heatherly 88
- W. Henry Hill 197
- Loyd W. Lee 981
- J.D. Mitchell 1356
- W.D. Stanley 403
- J.C. Williamson 479
- L.S. Woodard 44

For Tax Collector
- Herbert Alldredge 759
- J.M. Bright 724
- J.W. Bryant 1005
- B.R. Fant 403
- Walter M. Godfrey 152
- T.G. Oden 479
- Birdo Windsor 969

For Tax Assessor
- Ellis Burns 2473
- W.D. Copeland, Jr. 699
- F.C. Patrick 1306

POET'S CORNER

Cardinal | By: Ann Coberley

I hear his song
before I see him,
a jolt of red
among the green shadows
of Mesquite leaves,
scrawny feet clutching
a fragile branch,
singing to the wind.

I recognize his music
from summers past,
the sweet trill that lifts
into a question,
demands a reply.

I pucker and twitter,
listen then smile
at his response,
convincing myself
that we are deep
in conversation.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

JUNE 1

W Y F G Y M S K U L L D I G A P A
M O I A Z I I W A R M E S T R R D
S F L E W R X I K E E N D S A U D
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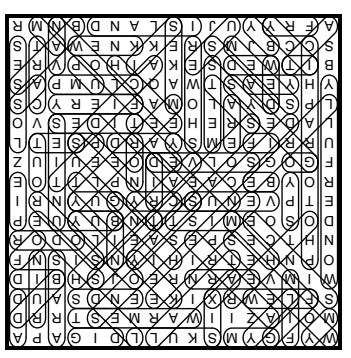
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Types
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CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

JUNE 1

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

ANSWERS:



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

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- ☐ Designer Jewelry



Diamonds
- ☐ Loose & Mounted
- ☐ Damaged
- ☐ Any Size, Color, Styles



Scrap Gold & Silver
- ☐ Gold, Silver & Platinum
- ☐ Dental Gold
- ☐ Old Mountings
- ☐ Class Rings & Fraternal Pins



Coins & Currency
- ☐ Gold & Silver Coins
- ☐ Bullion & Bars
- ☐ Old Paper Money
- ☐ Coin Collections



Watches
- ☐ Wrist Watches & Pocket Watches (Rolex*, Breitling, Patek, Omega, Elgin, Waltham, Illinois, Hamilton, etc.)
- ☐ Any Condition



Sterling Silver

No Need to Polish. No Silver Plate.
- ☐ Flatware & Serving Pieces
- ☐ Jewelry (Turquoise, Southwestern, etc.)
- ☐ Candlesticks & Candelabras



Rarities
- ☐ Military Memorabilia (Uniforms, Daggers, Swords, etc.)
- ☐ Pre-1950 Advertising & Toys
- ☐ Old Photos & Autographs (Tintypes, etc.)



Fine Art & Luxury Goods

We Do Not Buy China or Glassware.
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*A free evaluation will be provided, but there is no obligation to purchase your items. Exclusions Apply. **We are not an authorized Rolex dealer nor are we affiliated or endorsed by Rolex, Rolex USA, or any of its subsidiaries.