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Cullman County woman receives 2 life sentences for 2019 murders of her children

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Cullman County woman on Thursday, June 20, received two life sentences for the brutal 2019 murders of her children.

Sara Tapia-Franco, 37, according to court records, pleaded guilty to two counts of capital murder. It was back on Oct. 12, 2019, that her sons, 3-year-old Alvaro Garcia and 9-year-old Taylor Garcia, were found murdered at a residence along the 4000 block of County Road 1718 near Baileyton.

Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry said at the time, "When deputies arrived, we set up a perimeter, and in that perimeter search we deployed our K-9. Our K-9 led us through an open field that adjoined the house, there's some neighboring farms, in the field we were able to locate one Sara Tapia, which is the mother of the children and the person that we have in custody. We did locate a knife and there were multiple self-inflicted » PAGE 4



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sara Tapia-Franco

Miss Wallace State representative Savannah Lynn to compete for Miss Alabama title



SAVANNAH LYNN

Miss Wallace State representative Savannah Lynn will head to Samford University June 26-29, 2024, to compete in the Miss Alabama Pageant.

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Miss Wallace State representative Savannah Lynn is headed to Birmingham June 26-29, to compete in the statewide pageant and Miss America qualifier, Miss Alabama.

It was an unexpected turn of events for Lynn, a seasoned pageant contestant. On Sept 10, 2023, she was not named Miss Wallace State, nor the first runner-up. Instead, she was selected as the pageant's second runner-up, leaving her third in line to make it to the statewide circuit. However, due to scheduling conflicts for the winner and first runner-up, Lynn was next in line and bravely stepped up to the challenge.

Said Lynn, "I remember right after that phone call, the first thing I did was pray. I was so nervous and excited at the same time and all I wanted to do, was thank God for this amazing opportunity."

For Lynn, preparing for the pageant was more than just a routine; it was a part of her family's legacy. Her two great-aunts, Sonya and Regina White, own the local pageant wear staple, Avenue Bridals. Lynn's connection to the pageant world was established long before she could even walk, thanks to her glamorous great- » PAGE 4

2 arrested following string of retail thefts



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Rosanna Imelda Bita, left, and Ana Maria Larisa Bita, right

» PAGE 8

CCBOE recognized nationally for Community Report publication

» PAGE 8

All Steak's Dueling Pianos a hit

» PAGE 8

Veteran and educator George Brady takes to the skies with Wallace State Aviation degree

» PAGE 9

The Link's monthly community meal set for June 27

» PAGE 8

WildWater Cullman joins World's Largest Swimming Lesson to promote water safety

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94 71
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
SUNNY

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NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

'Holly Pond will always have a special place in my heart': Kollin Brown recaps Bronco career

» PAGE 6

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported June 21

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported June 21, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

June 13
- burglary; CR 566
- domestic violence; CR 437
- passing forged instrument; US. 31
- harassment; CR 109
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of methamphetamine; possession of drug paraphernalia

June 14
- domestic violence; CR 222
- possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 1082
- domestic violence; CR 735
- harassment; Chad Dr.
- sell/distribute - drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69N
- theft of property; CR 134
- violation of protection order; CR 566

June 15
- violation of protection order; CR 941
- assault; Chad Dr.
- doxing; CR 1518
- possession of dangerous drugs; Hwy. 69S
- indecent exposure; CR 490

June 16
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 747
- domestic violence; Lick Creek Rd.
- theft of property; CR 386
- theft of property; CR 1629
- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 1635
- permitting dogs to run at large; CR 1212

June 17
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of methamphetamine; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 278W
- menacing; 165 MM 312
- harassing communications; CR 1492
- theft of property; CR 557
- theft of property; CR 518
- unlawful breaking and entering motor vehicle; 165SB MM 314
- possession of methamphetamine; 2nd Ave. NW
- harassing communications; CR 1516

June 18
- possession of dangerous drugs; Hwy. 278E
- domestic violence; CR 436
- theft of services; Freeman Rd.
- burglary; CR 818
- theft of property; CR 1082
- assault; CR 1760
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of methamphetamine; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 30
- theft of services; Pine LN. SE

June 19
- criminal mischief; CR 1498
- burglary; CR 557
- violation of protection order; CR 1114
- theft of property; 715
- theft of property; 1209
- possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 69S

ARRESTS

June 17-19

Adams, Clayton D.; 36
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Alexander, Natosha J.; 41
- FTA - possession of methamphetamine
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA - possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Barnett, Loyd J.; 48
- FTA - driving while suspended, revoked, or cancelled

Buzbee, Heather M.; 46
- FTA - possession of methamphetamine
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA - possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Cable, Stacy R.; 40
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- attempting to elude a police officer
- public intoxication

Campbell, Charnessa L.; 45
- drug trafficking

Cavanaugh, Candice M.; 41
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA - possession of dangerous drugs

Cobble, Kenneth K.; 47
- FTA - possession of methamphetamine
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia

Coker, Michael J.; 49
- FTA - attempting to elude a police officer - serious injury or death - speed exceeds 20 mph over limit
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA - possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA - reckless endangerment
- FTA - driving while license suspended

Doss, Andy M.; 65
- FTA - driving while suspended, revoked, or cancelled

Eddy, Bradley D.; 45
- causing of delinquency, dependency or need of supervision of children

Enos, Courtney N.; 32
- GJ - auto theft

Garrett, Wesley N.; 42
- possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- possession of dangerous drugs
- buying/receiving stolen property
- auto theft
- unauthorized use of a vehicle

Garrison, Tina M.; 33
- failure to immunize dog/cat for rabies
- driving without driver's license

Glenn, Kevin A.; 47
- drug trafficking

Hale Jr, Kenneth R.; 35
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Hancock Jr., James E.; 44
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA - possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Hancock, Matthew J.; 35
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA - possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Jones, Austin A.; 29
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA - possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA - attempting to elude a police officer
- FTA - driving while suspended, revoked, or cancelled
- FTA – weapons-license required
- FTA – Ex-felon in possession of a firearm

Jones, Marlana L.; 35
- GJ - drug trafficking
- GJ - illegal possession of prescription drugs
- GJ - possession of drug paraphernalia

Madden, James W.; 45
- indecent exposure

Mavers, Wendy D.; 43
- causing of delinquency, dependency or need of supervision of children

Mendoza, Victoria M.; 39
- FTA - negotiating worthless instrument

Morton, Alexander S.; 25
- possession of methamphetamine
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA - possession of dangerous drugs

Murphey, Heather L.; 33
- FTA - operating vehicle without insurance

Payne, Stewart D.; 44
- FTA - shoplifting, $500-less than $1500

Rudolph, Eddie L.; 48
- failure of adult sex offender to register with local law enforcement and/or comply with residency restrictions

Salter, Timothy A.; 58
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA - possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA - possession of dangerous drugs

Schwitz, Chad I.; 47
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Scott, John P.L.; 29
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Sellers, Jacob D.; 38
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA - possession of dangerous drugs

Stone, Ted; 44
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia-1st offense
- FTA - possession of dangerous drugs

Traweek, Becky L.; 49
- FTA - driving while suspended, revoked, or cancelled

Wilson, Wayne T. Jr.; 48
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- causing of delinquency, dependency or need of supervision of children

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

June 16
- theft of property-4th degree; K & M Electric; miscellaneous; $100; Main Ave. SW

June 18
- theft of property-2nd degree; person; miscellaneous; $2,500; 8th St. SE

June 19
- harassment; person; Bower Dr. SE
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '18 Honda Civic; $700; Schneider Rd. SE
- theft of property-3rd degree; person; miscellaneous; $550; Brunner St. NW
- theft of property-4th degree; person; clothing; $90; Brunner St. NW

June 20
- harassment; person
- forgery; EvaBank; forged check
- theft by deception-2nd degree; Fantasy CBD & Vape; cash
- unlawful breaking and entering a motor vehicle; person; weed eater, leaf blower; $950; Ridge St. NW

ARRESTS

June 19-20

Burnette, William J.; 58
- public intoxication

Record, James R.; 68
- theft of property-4th degree
- criminal trespass-3rd degree

Uselton, Adam L.; 34
- FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree
- FTA – theft of property-4th degree
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – driving while suspended

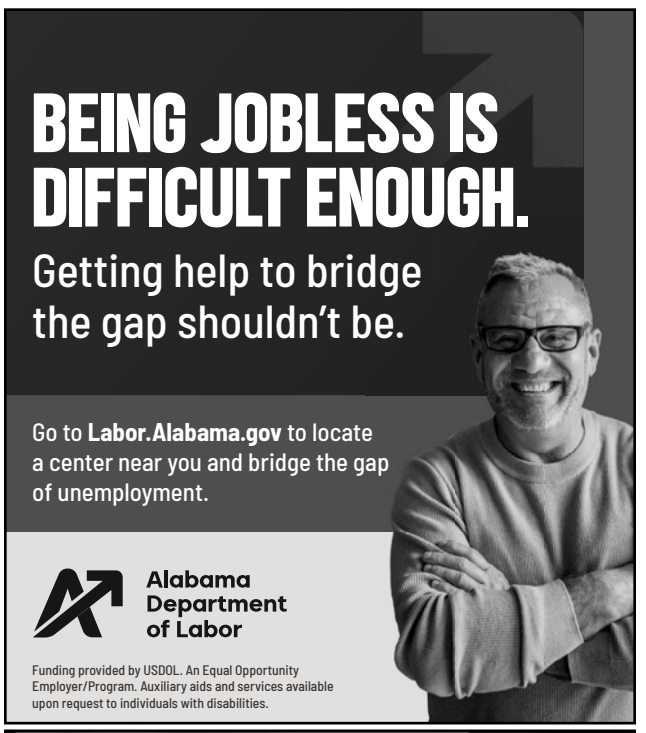
HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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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, June 23 - 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 Al-Anon Meetings

The Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of friends and family whose lives have been affected by alcoholism. The Cullman Serenity Al-Anon 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 Al-Anon 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.

Beans and Greens Feast

Saturday, June 22, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Corinth West Methodist Church, 5130 County Road 1101, Vinemont, 35179. Menu - pinto beans, green beans, Great Northern beans, turnip greens, cornbread, dessert and more! $8.

Speegle Family Reunion

Sunday, July 14, at the Speegle Family Point (334 County Rd 321, Crane Hill, AL 35053) beginning around 10:30 a.m. Please join us and bring a covered dish for lunch at noon. Contact Judy Shannon (256-338-0676) or Terry Phillips (256-656-3327) if you need additional information. Come eat and enjoy the day with us at the beautiful Speegle Family Point.

Rock the South

July 18-20, at York Farms. Get tickets and more info at www.rockthesouth.com.

Cullman County Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet

Saturday, July 20, at Stone Bridge Farms. Tickets can be purchased at First Southern Financial, 1622 Second Ave. SW, Cullman, phone 256-737-5120 or call Jackie Satterfield at 256-636-4445. Tickets are $20 each and no tickets will be sold after July 17.

West Point Class of 1962 Reunion

The West Point High School class of 1962 will have their 52nd reunion on Saturday, July 27, at 11:30 a.m. at the Brandin Iron Restaurant in West Point. For more information call Linda at 256-747-6883.

Swamp John's Dinner at the Center Hill Community Center

Friday, Aug. 2, at the Center Hill Community Center, from 4-7 p.m. $15 per plate includes dessert and drink. For directions or more information please call 256-708-2218.

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LEGALS

Case# PC2024-112
PB WIL Book:124 Page:302
Recorded in Above Book and P
06/20/2024 8:54AM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
EMILEEN P TOLBERT, * CASE NO.: PC2024-112
Deceased *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to Lisa Tolbert Lathan on or about 19th day of June, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County.

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

LISA TOLBERT LATHAN
Personal Representative/Executor

C. Blake West, Attorney for Petitioner
417 4th Ave SW STE 270,
Cullman, AL 35055

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF *
WILLIAM CARL PEINHARDT, * **CASE NO.: PC2024-194**
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to ALVIN PEINHARDT and MARY JO LAKIN, as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of WILLIAM CARL PEINHARDT, deceased, on the 10th day of June, 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.

ALVIN PEINHARDT and MARY JO LAKIN
Co-Personal Representatives

G. Edward Coey
Attorney for Co-Personal Representatives
Post Office Box 834
Hanceville, Alabama 35077
256-352-2090

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

Case# PC2024-194
PB WIL Book:124 Page:145
Recorded in Above Book and Page
6/6/2024 3:44:10 PM
Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate
Cullman County, AL
1 Page(s)

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF:
THE ESTATE OF SHARON KAY SIMS, DECEASED

CASE NO. PC 2024-156

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration have been granted to ZACHARY STARNES as Personal Representative of the Estate of SHARON KAY SIMS, deceased, on the 20th day of June, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge of Cullman County, Alabama.

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

s/ ZACHARY STARNES
Personal Representative
Post Office Box 2688
Decatur, Alabama 35602-2688

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

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

Woman (from Front)

wounds on her."

Facing two counts of capital murder and one count of capital murder of two or more persons, Tapia-Franco was booked into the Cullman County Detention Center 16 days after the murder.

She was indicted in 2020 on three capital murder charges (one, capital murder of two or more persons, was dismissed, according to court records).

According to her attorneys, she has a history of mental illness.

In July 2021, she was ordered to be transferred from state mental health facility Bryce Hospital to the Cullman County Detention Center for a competency hearing.

After her guilty pleas and sentencing on June 20, 2024, Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker said in a statement, "There is no amount of punishment that would be enough or harsh enough for Sarah Tapia-Franco. I am confident that she will never see the light of day again."

Cullman County Circuit Judge Martha Williams presided over the sentencing hearing.

Lynn (from Front)

aunts and their stunning outfits that always stole the show.

"I have participated in pageants since before I could walk, Lynn smiled. " Growing up with a family who owned a pageant dress store was such a cool thing to me. I mean, how could I not participate in pageants? I have so much love for the pageant industry and it will forever hold a special place in my heart."

While moving through the ranks of the pageant sphere and advancing her skills and on-stage performance, Lynn held those familial ties close to her heart. She said her mother, Heather Lynn, has been her biggest supporter through the hours of practice, rehearsing and countless tears, instilling a strong faith and sense of self in the young woman, no matter how tough the criticism or circumstances.

"I wouldn't even be competing if it wasn't for her. She has always been my biggest supporter in everything that I do and I'll forever be thankful for her," Lynn said emotionally.

Her mother's and aunts' support are what led Lynn to find her philanthropic platform, Back to Business. The platform hopes to bring awareness to and incorporate business skills in STEM courses in public education. Lynn is now next in line to run Avenue Bridals, keeping the storefront in the family. Her passion for business skills in STEM education blossoms from those familial ties and the needs she said she has seen for upcoming owners of small, local and family owned businesses that have lasted decades.

"We are the next generation to take over these small businesses one day," she said. "I want students to feel prepared and excited about becoming business owners and working in the business industry."

Lynn will compete in the Miss Alabama Pageant beginning at 7 p.m. on June 26 in the Samford University Wright Center. The pageant will not be broadcast publicly; however, tickets can be purchased online at Missalabama.com.

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WildWater Cullman joins World's Largest Swimming Lesson to promote water safety

Special to The Cullman Tribune

CULLMAN, Ala. — WildWater Cullman on Thursday, June 20, participated in the 15th annual World's Largest Swimming Lesson (WLSL). The global event, organized by the World Waterpark Association, aims to raise awareness about the critical importance of teaching children to swim as a vital life-saving skill.

The WLSL is a coordinated effort involving waterparks, pools and aquatic facilities worldwide. The event underscores the message that "swimming lessons save lives," addressing the alarming statistic that drowning is the second leading cause of unintended, injury-related death for children ages 1-14.

Michael Schwitek, general manager of WildWater Cullman, shared, "At WildWater Cullman, our top priority is ensuring the safety of all our guests.

"We are passionate about providing a safe and enjoyable environment for families. Participating in the World's Largest Swimming Lesson allows us to emphasize the importance of water safety and the need for every child to learn to swim. This skill is not just about fun; it is a crucial tool in preventing drowning and saving lives."

The event at WildWater featured a comprehensive swimming lesson led by experienced lifeguards and instructors.

The lesson was designed to teach essential swimming skills and water safety practices to children of all ages. Participants received commemorative wristbands to mark the occasion.

Nathan Anderson, executive director of Cullman Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism, said, "WildWater Cullman is a cornerstone of our sports district and community, and events like the World's Largest Swimming Lesson help us promote a culture of safety and wellness. We are thrilled to host this event and contribute to a global effort that makes a real difference in children's lives."

For more information about the WLSL and to find local swim lesson providers, visit WLSL.org.



CULLMAN PARKS, RECREATION & SPORTS TOURISM

WildWater Cullman on Thursday, June 20, 2024, participated in the 15th annual World's Largest Swimming Lesson.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JUNE 22, 2024

PREP SPORTS

'Holly Pond will always have a special place in my heart': Kollin Brown recaps Bronco career

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND, Ala. — Holly Pond senior Kollin Brown accomplished so much during his high school sports career and in this interview, he shared some of his favorite memories playing alongside his teammates.

"My favorite memory is winning area my 11th grade year. My favorite award that I won is the Joe Shults award that I received this past year," Brown said. "I feel like I played with a lot of great players at Holly Pond. I think great players are dedicated to the game and dedicated to winning. In order to win, you have to have a team full of great players that are willing to give it their all to win. My teammates definitely helped make my job easier, and I always felt like if I was ever having a bad game, they would pick me up, and we would find ways to win games. I love all my teammates, and I wouldn't trade them for any other team. I learned that a team is not made up of one person, and that everyone has to play together in order to win. I learned to trust my teammates and trust that they will make the right plays at the right times in order for us to win."

Brown enjoyed playing for all of his coaches at Holly Pond and will deeply miss being a Bronco next year.

"I've had a lot of great coaches during my time at Holly Pond. They all have contributed to help me become the person I am now and the player I was. My first coaches at Holly Pond were Mitch and Griffin Morris. Although I was on JV, they both taught me a lot and helped prepare me for the varsity level. My first two years on varsity was under Cory Glasscock and Tyler Yearwood. With those years being my first on the varsity, I feel like I learned the most during those years. The biggest thing they helped me with was not only my skill or decision making, but my attitude and how I handled myself on the court. Although they moved on to different positions, I still have close relationships with both of them. Hopefully, I can end up coaching alongside one of them in the future."

He added, "My senior season, I was blessed to play for such a great coach and an even better man in Tim Willoughby. Through all of the difficulties we faced this past season, we still made a good run, but more than that, we formed a bond that will last a lifetime. Coach Willoughby could possibly be the most dedicated and knowledgeable man I will ever meet. He loves the game of basketball more than anyone I know. All these men have helped me develop on and off the court, and I want to thank them for that."

Brown got to play in a lot of great games during his career and made some great memories in the classroom as well.

"While I was at Holly Pond, I made so many memories. I will definitely remember the team camps and the times the team just got together and had fun. I will miss playing with my friends and hanging out with all of my teammates. I will probably miss playing in front of a crowd the most. There is nothing like playing in front of a packed crowd, and I couldn't ask for a better school and town to play in front of," Brown said. "The first game that comes to mind is the area championship game my 11th grade year. It was a packed gym and a close game all the way through, and we just found a way to win it in the end. The county tournament games this past season are two of my favorite games of my career as well. They were both very tough games and although we didn't come out on top in one of them, they were both very memorable games, and I will never forget them. I will also never forget when I broke the single-game scoring record with 51 points against West End. I made the most memories in Mr. Roden's AG class. We were always doing something in that class, whether it was a wood project, welding, or playing around when there was nothing to do. I also really enjoyed when our senior class went to the lake for senior skip day. I made so many great memories at Holly Pond and am so thankful for all the people that makes Holly Pond the place it is."

Holly Pond will always hold a special place in Brown's heart and he'll never forget the great times he had there.

"What made Holly Pond a special place to go to is the tradition, because generations of my family have graduated from there. It was awesome getting to play on the baseball field named after my great grandfather, Chunk Yeager. I love the town of Holly Pond, because it is a very tight-knit community, and everyone knows everyone. Holly Pond will always have a special place in my heart, and I wouldn't have chosen any other place to grow up," he said. "I will definitely miss playing sports and wearing the green and white. I will always remember the times that me and my teammates spent together, as well as the adults that have encouraged and impacted my life. When it comes to the school side of things, I will miss two of my favorite teachers, Mrs. P and Mrs. Graham, and spending time with them. I will also miss all of my friends and remember all the great memories we made at Holly Pond."

Brown talked about a special role model in his life and gave some advice to those students that will be starting high school in August.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Holly Pond's Kollin Brown

"I would say for school and sports, my role model is coach Willoughby. People that only see him on the court probably think he's just a crazy, old man, but he is one of the best men I know and one of the biggest role models in my life. Seeing how good of a man he is makes me want to always be better and act the right way. He is always so generous and always puts others before himself. He has taught me so many things in just the one year I have known him, and I am so glad that I had the opportunity to be one of his players. He truly is one of the best coaches I know and an even better man."

He added, "I would tell them that it seems like it's going to last a lifetime, but you will be graduating before you know it. So, don't take all the time that you get to spend with your friends and teachers for granted. Another thing I would tell them is to get out of your comfort zone and go and try new things. Even if you think you are going to be bad at it, go try it, and maybe you will end up being good at something you never imagined doing."

Brown participated in some clubs at Holly Pond as well and in addition to his academic achievements, he received a handful of basketball scholarship offers.

"I was a part of FFA and the Key Club. I feel like everyone should be a part of clubs. With Key Club, I got to help with the Veteran's Day program, and with FFA, I got to be a part of the AG construction team. It feels good being able to help out the school, and it's always fun going to the AG convention and meeting new people," he said.

"I have scholarships from Reinhardt University, Jacksonville State, University of Montevallo, Talladega University, and Barry University. It felt really good. It felt like a lot of my hard work had paid off."

He gave some advice to those people that want to get to where he's at right now, and talked about how he wants to be remembered.

"If you want to go anywhere in life, you are going to have to work hard. Other than work hard, I would say you will have to learn to be a good listener, and don't be afraid to get advice from people, because it will help you a lot in the long run. You have to be mentally and physically strong to be good at anything.

"In sports, don't let one play define the game or season. Just like life, don't let one problem ruin your day, month, or year. You will get past that problem, and it will only make you a stronger person," he said.

"I hope people remember me as a good athlete, but more than that, I hope they remember me as a good person that always tried to do the right thing. I tried really hard to be nice and always put others before myself."

UNA breaks ground on Bank Independent Stadium

UNA Athletics
Contributor

FLORENCE, Ala. — After more than 50 years of planning, hoping and dreaming, the Bank Independent Stadium project at the University of North Alabama got a big step closer to fruition as members of the UNA Board of Trustees, campus administration and Bank Independent representatives gathered Friday afternoon at the site of the on-campus stadium to break ground.

The event came just a few hours after members of the Board unanimously approved a resolution authorizing and supporting Bank Independent Stadium design and overall budgetary approach, which paved the way for moving the project into its third and final phase.

"Today's groundbreaking further solidifies our Board's commitment to fund this capital project," said Will Trapp, President Pro Tempore of UNA's Board. "As with most things here at UNA, it takes everyone doing their part and working together for these opportunities to make the most impact. We have received great support from alumni and friends, community organizations, and, of course, from our naming rights partner, Bank Independent.

"That base of funding will be supplemented by enhancements in athletic revenue from having our own stadium. We also view this investment in UNA Athletics as one for the Shoals community as well. Our hope is that it will be a place for people to come together in support of this University and make memories that will join them to us and to each other. We need to invest in things that bring us together. Our students asked for this years ago, and it's exciting to see it finally happening."

The launch of the historic Shine On, Gold comprehensive campaign to raise $100 million for UNA has helped propel this project forward.

"The fundraising success we have experienced this far – and less than a full year into the Shine On, Gold comprehensive campaign – indicates that we have tremendous support and momentum for Bank Independent Stadium as well as for the other priorities that are part of the campaign," said UNA President Dr. Ken Kitts. "It is gratifying to witness the great excitement for this project and to note how it compliments the growth and academic success of the institution as we approach our third century of offering educational excellence."

Representatives from Bank Independent were also on hand for the groundbreaking, including Bank Independent President Macke Mauldin.

"Bank Independent is proud to be part of this historic project at the University of North Alabama," he said. "As a community bank, we are deeply committed to investing in initiatives that make a positive difference in the lives of our friends and neighbors. Whether it's a football or baseball game, a soccer match, a concert or community gathering, Bank Independent Stadium will provide a state-of-the-art facility for all of north Alabama. This facility will not only bring excitement and pride but also a significant economic impact, acting as a catalyst for growth in our region."

The Bank Independent Stadium has a base cost of approximately $65 million. To date, total fundraising for the stadium has soared to $25 million, and officials expect to add significantly to that figure once work on the project begins. The UNA Board has authorized the institution to borrow up to $35 million toward the cost of construction. Additionally, the UNA Department of Athletics reserved funds for this project during the planning process and will make those available for construction. Stadium proceeds in areas such as concessions, parking, signage, sponsorships and ticket sales will help as well. Officials note that they have options and enhancements ready to incorporate into the project should additional donors give in significant ways.

As fundraising via the Shine On, Gold comprehensive campaign continues, the design approved by the Board includes capacity for more than 10,000 Lions fans as well as other amenities, including the ability for future expansion, a premium tower featuring a new weight room, 13 spacious suites, a multipurpose stadium club, outdoor gathering areas, and multiple seating options with new fan amenities. Construction is expected to begin immediately with a goal of full project completion in Fall 2026.

"The vision, leadership, and generosity of our donors is truly remarkable," said Kevin Haslam, Vice President for Advancement. "We are here today because of them and their desire to make a profound positive impact not only at UNA and in the Shoals but across all of northwest Alabama. This is a very special place, these are very special people, and, together, we are doing transformational things."

With the start of construction, North Alabama Athletic Director Dr. Josh Looney said he is eager to see the next phase begin.

"Our hope is, of course, that we are in Bank Independent Stadium and ready to play our first home football game during the 2026 season," he said. "Our plan to be at this point – this historic groundbreaking – just one year after we announced Bank Independent Stadium is on track, and it is super exciting to see how the UNA campus and the greater Shoals community have come together to create and support this incredible opportunity."

Concurrent with construction on Bank Independent Stadium, work will also be taking place at the baseball field adjacent to the stadium and at the UNA Spring Sports Complex at Cox Creek.

The location will include a multi-purpose turf field and track that will be available for academic, athletic, intramural and community use. UNA's football and soccer teams will use the multipurpose field during construction. In 2026-2027, as Bank Independent Stadium prepares to open, the Marching Pride will become the primary tenant of the Spors Complex at Cox Creek; this will give them a dedicated practice facility that mirrors that of other Division I programs. Florence-based Carbine Construction was selected as general contractors for the Cox Creek project.

UNA Baseball will enjoy a reimagined space for the 2025 season that will include a new state-of-the-art playing surface, an all-chairback seating concourse, a video board, and a unique outfield wall that resembles Fenway Park's historic "Green Monster."

While site construction will continue into 2026, the majority of baseball's team and fan amenities are targeted to come online in 2025.

"We are working to ensure baseball's space will be as complete as possible to host practices in January, followed by home competition in March 2025," said Dr. Looney. "While we will address logistics to host baseball competition through the construction process, we plan for baseball to play its 2025 season on campus and believe fans will enjoy some of the new experiences we will be integrating as part of the space."

During the last 12 months, UNA has partnered with Hoar Project Management (HPM) and Davis Architects, both based in Birmingham, to begin the initial work on Bank Independent Stadium. Mammoth Sports Construction partnered with Davis Architects, and Birmingham-based Jim Cooper Construction was awarded the Phase One construction bid to include baseball construction and stadium site groundwork. Representatives from HPM, Davis, Mammoth, and Cooper were on hand for the groundbreaking.

"The start of construction of Bank Independent Stadium signifies a new chapter for UNA's athletic program and the City of Florence, and HPM is ecstatic to be part of this dynamic project," said Ben Henson, Vice President of Program Development at HPM.

"Bank Independent Stadium will be a transformative addition to the University, ushering in a new era of growth for the school and bringing best-in-class recreational and entertainment offerings to the community."

In 2018, when the Student Government Association passed a resolution in favor of an on-campus stadium, the document indicated the willingness of students to shoulder a fee as part of making the dream a reality. Just six years later, and as the project becomes a reality, University officials are clear: There is no plan now or in the future to assess a student fee in order to build or operate Bank Independent Stadium.

In fact, at the Board meeting authorizing and supporting Bank Independent Stadium, the Board also unanimously approved the 2024-2025 tuition schedule, which includes no increases for undergraduate students for a second consecutive year.

Cullman Swim Team wins Cullman Challenge over Guntersville, Florence, Jasper

Sara Hughes
Cullman Swim Team

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman Swim Team defeated Guntersville, Florence and Jasper in Tuesday night's Cullman Challenge swim meet.



CST

The Cullman Swim Team defeated Guntersville, Florence and Jasper in Tuesday night's Cullman Challenge swim meet.

CULLMAN CHALLENGE 2024 RESULTS

Girls 6 & Under

- 25 Free - 1. Emri Lackey (20.29); 3. Audrey Smith (25.38); 4. Evie Stidham (26.43); 5. Mary Doss Amuso (26.73)
- 25 Back - 1. Emri Lackey (23.91); 4. Mary Doss Amuso (31.43); 5. Audrey Smith (32.08)
- 100 Free Relay - 1. Audrey Smith, Mary Doss Amuso, Evie Stidham, Emri Lackey (1:39.71); 2. Savannah Aaron, Audrey Caffey, Ellie Grace Thigpen, Malia Swidecki (2:19.18)

Boys 6 & Under

- 25 Back - 2. John Branscomb (33.31)
- 100 Free Relay - 1. Mason Heim, Jack Berryhill, Charlie Tucker, John Branscomb (3:30.58)

Girls 8 & Under

- 100 IM - 1. Hannah Thigpen (1:51.10)
- 25 Free - 4. Amelia Powell (22.92)
- 25 Breast - 1. Hannah Thigpen (27.26)
- 25 Back - 1. Hannah Thigpen (23.97)
- 25 Fly - 1. Emri Lackey (21.65)
- 100 Medley Relay - 2. Emri Lackey, Hannah Thigpen, Maggie Randall, Audrey Smith (1:54.23); 4. Everly Berryhill, Amelia Powell, Brittan Bentley, Mary Doss Amuso (2:03.88)
- 100 Free Relay - 2. Amelia Powell, Everly Berryhill, Brittan Bentley, Hannah Thigpen (1:39.20); 4. Violet Smith, Maggie Randall, Kennedy Bardill, Whitley Lewis (2:08.27)

Boys 8 & Under

- 100 IM - 1. Ezra Basch (1:34.73); 5. CJ Curry (1:47.76)
- 25 Free - 2. Ezra Basch (18.27); 3. Keith Swidecki (18.90); 5. Caleb Halstead (20.29)
- 25 Breast - 2. CJ Curry (27.07); 3. Keith Swidecki (28.95)
- 25 Back - 5. Lincoln LaRue (27.04)
- 25 Fly - 4. Ezra Basch (24.35); 5. CJ Curry (24.57)
- 100 Medley Relay - 1. Ezra Basch, Keith Swidecki, CJ Curry, Will Amuso (1:33.31); 2. Lincoln LaRue, Gabe Lance, Samuel Branscomb, Caleb Halstead (1:55.14)
- 100 Free Relay - 1. Keith Swidecki, CJ Curry, Will Amuso, Ezra Basch (1:23.73); 2. Samuel Branscomb, Gabe Lance, Collin Hodges, Caleb Halstead (1:30.67); 5. James Halstead, Bransyn Tucker, Cooper Rodriguez, Lincoln LaRue (1:49.87)

Girls 9-10

- 100 IM - 2. Lauren Hughes (1:22.11); 3. Harper Rodriguez (1:26.95); 4. Faith Peek (1:36.67)
- 50 Free - 1. Faith Peek (33.58); 4. Harper Rodriguez (36.30)
- 50 Breast - 1. Lauren Hughes (41.54); 2. Jesslyn Davis (52.13); 3. Gemma Swidecki (52.35)
- 50 Back - 1. Lauren Hughes (38.43); 3. Clara Peek (43.38); 5. Remi VanMaanen (47.16)
- 50 Fly - 1. Harper Rodriguez (38.94); 3. Paisley Caldwell (43.07); 4. Faith Peek (43.87); 5. Emma Grace Tidwell (47.91)
- 200 Medley Relay - 1. Clara Peek, Lauren Hughes, Harper Rodriguez, Faith Peek (2:41.48); 2. Gemma Swidecki, Jesslyn Davis, Paisley Caldwell, Emma Grace Tidwell (3:00.56); 3. Maci Hays, Linley Bagwell, Remi VanMaanen, Lili Garcia (3:37.83)
- 200 Free Relay - 1. Faith Peek, Harper Rodriguez, Paisley Caldwell, Lauren Hughes (2:24.05); 3. Jesslyn Davis, Clara Peek, Emma Grace Tidwell, Gemma Swidecki (2:49.17); 4. Lili Garcia, Maci Hays, Linley Bagwell, Remi VanMaanen (3:11.65)

Boys 9-10

- 100 IM - 2. Abram Lackey (1:19.84); 3. Guy Caffey V (1:34.79)
- 50 Free - 2. Jaxon Curry (32.93); 4. Nolan Ferrara (37.34); 5. Barrett Lewis (39.14)
- 50 Breast - 1. Guy Caffey V (45.61); 2. Jaxon Curry (45.94); 3. Nolan Ferrara (51.41); 4. Asa Powell (52.45); 5. Luke Forester (53.73)
- 50 Back - 1. Abram Lackey (37.33); 2. Jaxon Curry (38.64); 3. Rhodes Bentley (46.70); 5. Luke Forester (49.00)
- 50 Fly - 1. Abram Lackey (36.10); 3. Nolan Ferrara (44.12); 4. Guy Caffey V (47.08)
- 200 Medley Relay - 1. Jaxon Curry, Guy Caffey V, Abram Lackey, Nolan Ferrara (2:41.51); 2. Luke Forester, Asa Powell, Barrett Lewis, Rhodes Bentley (3:18.97)
- 200 Free Relay - 1. Abram Lackey, Guy Caffey V, Nolan Ferrara, Jaxon Curry (2:23.57); 2. Rhodes Bentley, Luke Forester, Asa Powell, Barrett Lewis (2:53.83); 4. Henry Tucker, Jaden Gray, Stephen Hagewood, Liam Bardill (4:20.78)

Girls 11-12

- 100 IM - 1. Georgia Dowdy (1:13.21); 3. Sophia Saho (1:19.14); 4. Sophia Aaron (1:19.95)
- 50 Free - 2. Sophia Aaron (32.06); 4. Preslie Basch (33.58); 5. Catherine Hughes (34.07)
- 50 Breast - 1. Sophia Saho (39.71); 2. Catherine Hughes (40.01); 5. Preslie Basch (42.88)
- 50 Back - 1. Georgia Dowdy (34.42); 3. Reese Swidecki (41.26); 4. Preslie Basch (42.00)
- 50 Fly - 1. Georgia Dowdy (32.14); 2. Sophia Saho (34.28); 4. Sophia Aaron (35.50)
- 200 Medley Relay - 1. Georgia Dowdy, Catherine Hughes, Sophia Saho, Sophia Aaron (2:19.17); 3. Reese Swidecki, Aurellia Powell, Preslie Basch, Ellie Forester (2:35.72)
- 200 Free Relay - 1. Sophia Aaron, Sophia Saho, Catherine Hughes, Georgia Dowdy (2:08.83); 4. Reese Swidecki, Ellie Forester, Aurellia Powell, Preslie Basch (2:25.16)

Boys 11-12

- 100 IM - 2. Briar Lackey (1:12.15); 4. Griffin Berryhill (1:14.98)
- 50 Free - *Tie: 1. Briar Lackey and Tate Tysinger (29.07)
- 50 Breast - 1. Tate Tysinger (36.37); 3. Briar Lackey (39.47)
- 50 Back - 1. Griffin Berryhill (34.39); 3. Karson Corliss (38.90)
- 50 Fly - 1. Griffin Berryhill (31.98); 3. Tate Tysinger (32.77); 4. Karson Corliss (36.62)
- 200 Medley Relay - 1. Griffin Berryhill, Tate Tysinger, Karson Corliss, Briar Lackey (2:14.78)
- 200 Free Relay - 1. Tate Tysinger, Griffin Berryhill, Karson Corliss, Briar Lackey (2:01.47)

Girls 13-14

- 100 IM - 2. Madeline Dowdy (1:09.71); 3. Edie Hudson (1:12.03); 4. Tori Rees (1:15.02)
- 50 Free - 2. Mika Lackey (27.33); 3. Madeline Dowdy (27.90); 5. Edie Hudson (29.32)
- 50 Breast - 1. Mika Lackey (34.24); 2. Edie Hudson (34.76); 5. Tori Rees (39.35)
- 50 Back - 2. Mika Lackey (30.64); 4. Elizabeth Hughes (36.63)
- 50 Fly - 1. Madeline Dowdy (30.61); 5. Tori Rees (34.29)
- 200 Medley Relay - 1. Mika Lackey, Edie Hudson, Madeline Dowdy, Tori Rees (2:01.25)
- 200 Free Relay - 1. Mika Lackey, Edie Hudson, Elizabeth Hughes, Madeline Dowdy (1:52.77)

Boys 13-14

- 100 IM - 1. Magnus Mann (1:00.13); 3. Gunner Stracener (1:09.64)
- 50 Free - 4. Gunner Stracener (28.84); 5. Anakin Powell (29.18)
- 50 Breast - 4. Anakin Powell (38.63); 5. Abram Powell (43.26)
- 50 Back - 1. Magnus Mann (27.30); 3. Griffin Cole (36.26)
- 50 Fly - 1. Magnus Mann (26.56); 4. Gunner Stracener (31.06)
- 200 Medley Relay - 1. Griffin Cole, Magnus Mann, Gunner Stracener, Anakin Powell (2:02.34)
- 200 Free Relay - 1. Anakin Powell, Gunner Stracener, Griffin Cole, Magnus Mann (1:52.23); 3. Brooks Bentley, Ethan Thomas, Tytus Stracener, Abram Powell (3:06.17)

Girls 15-18

- 100 IM - 3. Ella Cupp (1:10.92); 5. Sofi Velez (1:12.41)
- 50 Free - 1. Morgan Fuller (27.36)
- 50 Breast - 3. Sofi Velez (37.13); 4. Karlie Guthrie (38.50)
- 50 Back - 1. Morgan Fuller (31.53); 3. Ella Cupp (32.46)
- 50 Fly - 2. Morgan Fuller (30.31); 4. Sofi Velez (31.00)
- 200 Medley Relay - 2. Ella Cupp, Sofi Velez, Morgan Fuller, Elizabeth Hughes (2:07.19)
- 200 Free Relay - 1. Tori Rees, Sofi Velez, Ella Cupp, Morgan Fuller (1:54.69)

Boys 15-18

- 100 IM - 3. Chase Duncan (1:02.01); 4. Grayson Randall (1:04.31); 5. Camp Smith (1:07.00)
- 50 Free - 1. Chase Duncan (23.27); 5. Camp Smith (25.48)
- 50 Breast - 2. Grayson Randall (32.04); 4. Rhett Tysinger (35.64)
- 50 Back - 2. Chase Duncan (27.07); 5. Troy Mann (31.77)
- 50 Fly - 2. Camp Smith (26.86); 3. Grayson Randall (27.45); 5. Troy Mann (28.72)
- 200 Medley Relay - 1. Chase Duncan, Grayson Randall, Camp Smith, Hilson Cole (1:50.60)
- 200 Free Relay - 1. Troy Mann, Hilson Cole, Grayson Randall, Chase Duncan (1:36.91)



Thefts (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Two women were arrested June 13, following a string of thefts at CVS stores across the state.

According to the Cullman Police Department, Rosanna Imelda Bita and Ana Maria Larisa Bita are each charged with two counts of organized retail theft and face numerous charges in other counties across Alabama.

"On June 12, 2024, two females entered both CVS stores in Cullman and proceeded to steal approximately $4,330 in merchandise. CPD Investigators Watkins, Riddlesperger, and Sgt Higginbotham began gathering evidence and were able to determine that the females also had committed other thefts in neighboring jurisdictions. A vehicle description and license plate number were obtained and a Regional BOLO was sent out to locate the vehicle," a CPD social media post stated.



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Photo shows stolen items allegedly recovered from the suspects' vehicle.

The CPD said that late June 13, the Homewood Police Department located the vehicle, and the suspects were detained. CPD investigators traveled to Homewood and arrested the suspects.

"After the execution of a search warrant on the suspect vehicle, it was determined that the females had committed thefts at twelve different CVS stores across Alabama and had stolen approximately $34,300 in merchandise from CVS during those thefts. A large portion of the stolen property was recovered from the suspect vehicle," the post continued.

"A special thanks to Homewood PD and other assisting agencies, as well as the Cullman County District Attorney's Office and District Attorney Champ Crocker for their help with this case," the post said. "The Cullman Police Department would like to commend all officers and investigators involved in the arrest of these two suspects. Thank you for your hard work!"



CCBOE recognized nationally for Community Report publication

Special to The Cullman Tribune

CULLMAN, Ala. — The National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) on Friday, June 21, 2024, recognized Cullman County Schools for its recent Community Report publication.

The report showcases the school system and highlights each school in the district. It can be viewed at ccboe.org/community.

"This Community Report is a snapshot of the great things our school system has to offer," said Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette.

"I am so proud of how our system has moved from being good to being an excellent school system that our community can be proud of and our students can feel like they belong while preparing for the future."

NSPRA's Publications and Digital Media Excellence Awards recognize outstanding education publications, e-newsletters, digital media programs, radio/TV/video programs, social media, infographics, blogs and websites.

Honors are awarded according to publication or digital media type, and organization type and size.

Entries are judged on their overall excellence, as well as quality as compared to other entries in the category.



CULLMAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

The Link's monthly community meal set for June 27

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Link of Cullman County recently announced that its Master's Hand Food Pantry will be closed until July 6 for much-needed updates, renovations and employee and volunteer training. However, its free monthly community meal will still take place, happening Thursday, June 27, at 6 p.m. Only this time, it will be a drive-through meal.

Each month, around 100 community members line up at The Link to enjoy a warm meal, generously sponsored, prepared and served by various local churches, organizations and volunteers.

"We are so thankful to partner with Daystar Church for this community meal.

This month, we are doing a drive-through because of our food pantry reset." said Julie Hall, director of programs at The Link.

For these monthly meals, the food is purchased by the night's sponsors, who prepare the meal off-site and serve it to guests. Normally, guests dine inside, with everyone dining together.

In July, normal interior seating for the monthly meal will resume.

Added Hall, "We are thankful for the willingness of Daystar to accommodate this change."

Beginning at 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 27, guests can drive to the east parking area of The Link, located at 708 Ninth St. SE, and receive a free grilled hotdog meal, complete with chips, dessert and a drink, compliments of Daystar Church and The Link of Cullman County.



GOOGLE

The Link of Cullman County will host its monthly community meal on Thursday, June 27, beginning at 6 p.m. in the east parking lot.

All Steak's Dueling Pianos a hit

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Known across the state for its orange rolls, longtime Cullman staple All Steak held the first in a new series of public events with Dueling Pianos on Thursday, June 20. The banquet room of the popular steakhouse was bustling with laughter and live music.

"Overall, the night went really well," said All Steak General Manager Garrett Masters. "We easily had 150 people come and go throughout the night just for the event."

The restaurant's first Dueling Pianos event was a hit. Two pianists, Wes Graham and Brian Kirk, collected song requests and wishes from the crowd, and without prior knowledge of the chosen songs, the artists were expected to play – and sing – each song as it came through the queue. For a cool $20, guests could skip the long line of requests and have the pianists play their choice next, however wild and crazy it might be. The featured genres were almost as diverse as the packed group of attendees.

"It's kind of like karaoke on pianos," said guest Tanya Douglas. "They have no clue what the next song they're going to play is."

As the tunes played on, team members bustled about the room as guests were invited to order off of a special appetizer menu, curated for the evening by Executive Chef Anthony Barnes. It included marinated olives, Alabama blue crab claws and the ever popular Southern charcuterie with its spread of handmade pimento cheese, seared Conecuh Sausage and a savory bacon jam.

Masters shared, "The special appetizer menu went over well. We sold an overwhelming amount of Southern charcuterie boards."

After reviewing the night with his team later, Masters made notes for possible improvements for future events, saying "Hindsight, though, we would have liked to have offered some dinner options as well."

The restaurant touted a cash bar, and bartenders Wes Douglas, Erica Rennenberg and MaKayla Wilson kept the spirits flowing, not only with beverages and cocktails, but also with smiles, jokes and the occasional belted line of a featured song.

Reflecting on the event as a whole, Masters said there are some kinks to be worked out; however, the success tastes sweet for the team.

"We are still digesting the night and there are a few kinks that we need ironed out, but we're looking at doing this more often," he smiled.

"This just gives everyone the opportunity to keep an eye on our social media."

The All Steak is located at 323 Third Ave. NE. Future events will be announced on the restaurant's official Facebook page.



CHEYENNE SHARP/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Wes Douglas mans the cash bar at All Steak's night of Dueling Pianos.





Veteran and educator George Brady takes to the skies with Wallace State Aviation degree

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. – George Brady is a 70-year-old retired veteran from Ensley who has lived a life marked by a dedication to service and a passion for educating others. Since he was a young man, Brady has been intrigued by airplanes and always wanted to obtain his pilot's license. After a distinguished military career and over a decade spent in classrooms as an educator, Brady chose to enroll in the Aviation/Flight Technology Program at Wallace State Community College, proving that it is never too late to follow your dreams. During the college's Spring Commencement Ceremony, he graduated with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Commercial Airplane.

"I chose to look into the program here at Wallace State, as they have a great program that offered everything I was looking for. I decided to go for the full degree because I'm older, and even though I got my private pilot's license at the beginning of the program, I wanted to go the full nine yards to get as much training as I could," said Brady. "Everybody at Wallace State was so warm and inviting when I first started exploring the program, and they helped explain all the options made available to me. From the start, I just knew that it would be a great experience."

For most of his career, Brady served in the United States Army and the Alabama Army National Guard until he retired in 1999 at the age of 46. Following the attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, he was placed on the retiree recall list.

"After 9/11, I was recalled and went to Afghanistan in 2004 and then once again in 2010. I spent one year over there each time," said Brady. "I already had a degree, so when the military started sending me information about the Post-9/11 GI Bill, I sort of blew it off at first, but then they sent a letter telling me I could use it for aviation. I had accumulated 24 months' worth of academic credit hours by that time, so like a lot of my fellow veterans, I used my Post-9/11 GI Bill to go back to school and study aviation."

Before enrolling in the Aviation/Flight Technology program at Wallace State, Brady furthered his education and obtained three degrees with plans to teach college courses as an adjunct professor.

He received a bachelor's degree in mathematics with a minor in history from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Years later, while stationed in Montgomery, he earned a Master of Liberal Arts degree with a dual instructorship in English and Sociology from Auburn University at Montgomery. Following his retirement from the United States Army, Brady received a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Teaching Social Sciences via the School of Education at Auburn University, but as he was finishing his dissertation, he was notified that he would be recalled and deployed to Afghanistan.

"It took me a bit longer than I expected to write my dissertation, and when I was wrapping up my studies at Auburn, I got the notification that I was going to be recalled. I was able to finish right before I was deployed to Afghanistan," said Brady. "I came home, got a little rest and found some teaching jobs until I was recalled once again. Following my second return home, I began teaching online courses."

After his two recall deployments to Afghanistan, Brady devoted himself to being an educator. During his teaching career, Brady taught mathematics, history and sociology at three different colleges and universities.

Brady worked as an adjunct professor of mathematics at Virginia College from 2006 to 2009. During this time, he also taught history at UAB from 2007 to 2010. Starting in 2009 and following his second recall in 2010, he taught history and sociology at the University of Phoenix Online until 2018, before setting his sights on the Wallace State Aviation program.

Brady said the Wallace State Aviation/Flight Technology program laid a solid foundation for all he needed to become a pilot, ensuring that he not only obtained appropriate instructional training, but that he also had plenty of practical flight hours under his belt.

"I would have to say my favorite aspect of Wallace State was the excellent flight instruction and training I received. With all the practical coursework, the program prepares students to go out into the field.

"It is a good starting point as student pilots can get all three forms of aviation licensure, including their private, commercial and instrument rating," said Brady. "I think it set me up nicely, especially if I wanted to go further into commercial aviation."

Brady said he enjoyed every moment he was seated in the cockpit, but his favorite trips were the long cross-country flights required to obtain commercial pilot certification.



WALLACE STATE

George Brady receives his diploma from Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics at the 2024 graduation ceremony at Wallace State Community College.

"In the Aviation program, you must complete cross-country, solo and dual flights, as there are a certain number of flight hours required for different licenses. Some of the trips are dual with an instructor, but when you get into commercial, it's mostly on your own.

"Some flights are short, and some are longer, with a minimum of 50 miles from the airport for most of them," said Brady. "A long cross-county flight requires a minimum of 300 miles, and they certainly were one of my favorite parts of the program."

The one trip that sticks out most in Brady's mind was a long cross-country flight he took from the Cullman Regional Airport in Vinemont to Arkansas.

"For their cross-country flights, a lot of people like to fly to the Gulf Coast, but when I planned to head down there, we were having bad storms, and I didn't feel comfortable making the trip, as storms and small planes don't really mix," said Brady.

"Instead, I ended up going on one of my favorite trips which was a long cross-country flight to Pine Bluff, Arkansas. I loved getting to fly over the Mississippi River and see the Delta region, and it was kind of peaceful being all by myself, so high up that I could see everything.

"I know a lot of people love to fly over the big cities, but I have always preferred the countryside. I got to see the rains and the storms off in the distance, and it was just so beautiful."

Brady said he enjoyed learning from the Aviation/Flight Technology instructors and that their diligent teaching methods impacted him.

"All of my instructors in the Aviation program at Wallace State were very, very good, and I truly enjoyed getting to learn from them. The faculty and staff members were all very helpful, and the Aviation program at Wallace State does a good job of teaching students the basics of flying," said Brady.

Bert Mackentepe, department chair for the Aviation/Flight Technology program at Wallace State, said Brady stood out not only in his desire to excel in his studies, but also in how he interacted with his peers in the program.

"When it comes to taking on new opportunities, he is wide open and can do just about anything he decides to do.

"He went through our program from start to finish and got his private, instrument and commercial ratings. He is a good pilot who was always prepared, knew what he needed to do and took instructions very well. They don't just give away pilot certificates, you have to earn them, and he certainly put a lot of work and effort into all he did here," said Mackentepe.

"He is humble and jovial, and it really was a joy to have him come through the Aviation program. In fact, he was a mentor to some of the younger students. A lot of times, we don't see many older adults that are interested in learning how to fly, so he acted as a beacon to people that did want to come in and learn. He is a very unique individual, but I believe if there were more people in the world like George, there would be fewer problems," said Mackentepe.

In addition to the required flight hours and the connections he made with instructors and classmates in the Aviation/Flight Technology program, Brady said he enjoyed getting to spend time in classes on Wallace State's Hanceville campus.

"For me, it is hard to pick a favorite course during my time at Wallace State as I really did enjoy it all, but as far as my favorite non-aviation class, I most enjoyed my time in a Speech class called Fundamentals of Oral Communication.

"Halfway through the semester, the class got cut short due to COVID when we had to stop in-person studies, but I still enjoyed it. The instructor, Gayle Ledbetter-Crocker, was a great teacher. She was very good, very dynamic and the kind of instructor I would want to be," said Brady.

Outside of flying planes, learning new things and teaching others, Brady enjoys taking on various projects around the house.

"In my free time, I like to build things. My wife, Deborah Jean, and I live on the river, and we built a lot of our house ourselves. Not too long ago, we built an outdoor pavilion and enclosed it. In fact, I was bringing in an air conditioner to install in our new pavilion earlier today," said Brady. "We are water folks besides air folks, so Deb and I also have a sailboat at Lake Guntersville and really love to sail. My wife has been a huge help in my life and has helped me do all these things."

Now that he has received his degree, Brady still flies regularly to continue practicing and stay current as a pilot. He encourages anyone that is interested in pursuing their dreams to take the first step and not look back.

"Go for it, because you really can do it. I was 46 when I retired from the military, and I was going to have to find something else to do or I would have driven my wife crazy. I decided to teach once I retired, and that's why I finished my master's and Ph.D., but while I had planned to teach all along, I believe you can even change your original path like I did with aviation. In some cases, it may be very easy," said Brady.

"People do it every day. I watched five of my good friends retire at the same time as me – some younger, some my age and some older – who went forth and did the things that they set their minds to. I say go for it because I truly do believe that you can do it."

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JUNE 22, 2024

Summer learning: Cullman City Schools summer camp bridges gap

Special to The Cullman Tribune

CULLMAN, Ala. — It might be summer vacation, but the learning never really stops at Cullman City Schools.

The district's summer learning camp ran from June 3-20, with more than 120 students attending at the West Elementary School campus, making it the largest summer camp Cullman City Schools has hosted to date.

"This year's Summer Camp has provided students with an opportunity to close learning gaps in reading and math, participate daily in STEM activities and form new friendships," West Elementary Math Coach Sashari Caretti said. "It's been a positive experience not only for the students but for the teachers as well."

The program is part of a state initiative via the Alabama Literacy Act, offering extra opportunities for math and reading instruction for students during the summer season.

Students participated in several different experiences as part of the summer camp, with groups like the North Alabama Agriplex and Cullman Power Board providing learning programs and events throughout the summer.

"We have tried to create an environment that engages students' interest while still providing explicit lessons focused on students' deficiency areas. Bugs in the Garden, presented by the Agriplex, was a huge success our first week of camp. Students went on bug hunts, learned about the importance of pollination and discovered that some bugs are beneficial to your gardens while others can be detrimental," Cullman City Schools Elementary Curriculum and Federal Programs Coordinator Emily Hines said.

"The Cullman Power Board presented on electrical safety and were able to answer many questions asked by the students. The students enjoyed the Powertown table that the linemen used because it provided them with a visual learning experience."

A total of 21 teachers, two instructional assistants, two nurses, two Child Nutrition Program (CNP) employees and CNP Director Leslie Dawson all played a huge role in making this camp so successful this year. Free breakfast and lunch were also provided for all students attending the camp this summer.

"This year we have had a great turnout at summer camp. It's amazing to see the growth in reading and math through the intensive instruction we have been able to provide over the course of three weeks," Second-Grade Teacher Mary Beth Cleveland noted.

Teachers engaged students in reading, writing, math and STEM lessons throughout the camp. For example, after reading "Cinderella" in Melony Edwards' first-grade class, her students completed a STEM challenge to build a carriage out of Legos that could transport a Lego person from one place to another.

Students tested their carriages on a concrete ramp outside and discovered the carriage that had more weight went faster down the ramp. Students then discussed how they could modify their design to make it quicker and sturdier.

"We have enjoyed the activities planned through the Agriplex and the Power Board as well. We love how our community comes together to provide fun and engaging activities for our students," fellow Second-Grade Teacher Tayler Davis added.

Third-Grade Teacher Rachel Carden noted summer reading and math camps are an amazing and enriching experience for students, as well as teachers.

"Students are eager to learn more and do better," she said. "They come in with good attitudes and are excited to see when they reach a goal."

Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff said the program's success is a testament to the hard work of the educators and employees who make up Cullman City Schools.

"We have amazing teachers and leaders in Cullman who are doing a great job making summer learning fun," he said.

"On behalf of our Board of Education, I appreciate them spending their June with us and making a tremendous impact on our students who are attending our summer programs."

Students have also raved about the camp, noting it's been one of their favorite summer activities and they've learned things that will help prepare them for the upcoming school year this fall.

"I have enjoyed the book we have been reading in Mrs. White's room called 'Holes,'" fifth grader Angie Benfield said. "She leaves us with cliffhangers and I like that we have to try and figure out what is going to happen next. It makes me want to keep reading."

First grader John Henry Stiff added, "My favorite part was when I saw the electricity connect from the stick to the power generator. It was interesting how we saw what looked like a real lightning bolt. I learned a lesson, a big one, to never touch power lines."



CULLMAN CITY SCHOOLS

Some local students are spending this summer getting a leg up on the next school year, attending a summer camp at Cullman City Schools featuring hands-on learning stations.

Obituary Announcements: June 20-21

Joseph Chandler Jernigan, 37
Joseph Chandler Jernigan, age 37, of Cullman, passed from this life on Tuesday, June 18, 2024. There are no services planned at this time. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mr. Chandler was born on April 12, 1987, to Martha Pack Webb and Keith Allen Jernigan. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, William Joseph Page Jr, Ruth Young Page and Lois Jernigan. He is survived by his mother, Martha Webb (James); father, Keith Jernigan; sister; Ashley Barnett (Brandon); step-brother, Robert Webb (Ashley); daughter, Charlee Gray Jernigan; two special nephews, whom he adored, J.K. and Landry; a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and family. The family remembers Chandler as having a very sweet and kind heart and he loved his family very much. He was an avid Auburn football fan. He will be missed by all those who knew and loved him. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Kelly Douglas Cook, 67
Funeral services for Kelly Douglas Cook, 67, of Hayden, will be 11 a.m. Saturday, June 22, at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Reverend Randall Waldrep will be officiating. Burial will follow the service at Bangor Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday, June 21, from 6-8 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mr. Cook was born Oct. 18, 1956, in Cullman, Alabama, to the late George and Levonia "Bonnie" Cook. He passed away June 19, 2024, at his residence in Bangor, Alabama. Mr. Cook is survived by his brothers, David Cook (Tammie), Richard Cook (Shelly); nephews, Austin Cook, Dallas Kretzschmar, Josh Cook, B.J. Graves, Caleb Robertson; nieces, Maddy Cook, Antalie Cook and Jennifer Graves. In addition to his parents, Mr. Cook was preceded in death by his brother, Artis Cook.

Anna Marie Maddox, 85
Anna Marie Maddox, age 85, of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Monday, June 17, 2024. Anna was a devout Christian and attend church faithfully until her health began to decline, even though unable to attend services she continued to read her Bible every night. She enjoyed Gardening in all of its forms she is remembered for having large vegetable gardens and beautiful flowers. She found great joy quilting, knitting and crocheting. Even though Anna had no children of her own she shared her home with many Nieces and Nephews over the years and has been a mother figure to them the Children and grandchildren. Her great, great niece had these memories to share as she reflected over her life spent with Anna "Throughout my life, Anna has been the most positive role model for me. Growing up right next door to her, she was a special grandmother figure. Despite not having children of her own, she treated everyone as if they were hers. Anna loved deeply and always wore a big smile, no matter the circumstances. Her life was filled with valuable lessons, the most important being to trust in God. Having grown up beside her, she was a constant presence in my life. I cherish countless memories with her, and her absence has left an indescribable emptiness. My love and respect for her are beyond words. Anna had a beautiful soul that touched everyone around her. Every person needs a woman like her in their life. Forever in my heart, Aunt Ann, I will love you always." Anna is survived by her nieces & caregivers Pam Stead, Carol Sandlin and nephew Chris Odachowski. Anna was preceded in death by her brothers Edward Schmuck, Louis Schmuck, Theodore Schmuck, Martin Schmuck, Frank Schmuck, Benjamin Schmuck, James Schmuck and Charles Schmuck, and her sisters Dorothy Schmuck Beasley & Theresa Schmuck Hoenig. A celebration of life visitation for Anna will be held Sunday, June 23, 2024, from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. A celebration of life funeral service will be held Monday, June 24, 2024, at 11 a.m. at New Prospect Baptist Church, 5625 County Road 38, Cullman, AL 35057. Anna will lie-in-state from 10 a.m. until the time of the service. Anna will be laid to rest in New Prospect Baptist Church Cemetery, 5625 County Road 38, Cullman, AL 35057. Mrs. Maddox's Family would like to express their sincere thanks to Dr. Joe Johnson and the Staff of Southern Care New Beacon Hospice for their excellent care of Anna.

Larry Eugene Lucas, 70
Larry Eugene Lucas of Vinemont, Alabama departed from our earthly plane on June 17, 2024. Mr. Lucas is preceded in death by his beloved sister, Debbie L. McMasters, and is survived by his caring wife: Laurie Lucas, daughter: Kelsey "Zachary" Bauer, and grandchildren: Makenna and Truett Bauer and Colton Drake. Mr. Lucas's grandchildren were the light of his life and he was well known and loved greatly for his abundant generosity and witty sense of humor. Mr. Lucas was loved by all, and will be greatly missed. There are no services to be announced at this time.

Euel 'Skip' Gregory, 93
Euel "Skip" Gregory, age 93, of Cullman, passed away Thursday, June 20, 2024. A Graveside service will be held for him at Center Grove Baptist Cemetery on Monday, June 24, 2024, at 11 a.m. with Bro. Jason Vinson officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Skip was born on April 18, 1931, to Charlie Gregory, and Nannie Dyer Gregory. He is preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Madge Whisenant, and Georgie Gene Gregory; brothers, Lonnie "Buddy" Gregory, and Johnnie Gregory; son-in-law, Larry Black. He is survived by his wife of 73 years, Flora "Dean" Gregory; daughters; Connie Black (Charlie Rogers) and Rebecca Stevens (Dan); sister, I.V. Williams; grandchildren, Jason Black (Shannon), Matt Black (Amber), Josh Black (Kalena), Jesse Black (Crystal), Savannah Black, Valeri Cowart, Michele Bryant (Jody); 22 great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, friends and family. Pallbearers will be Jody Bryant, Cody Darnell, Parker Black, Mason Black, Dayne Black and Gannon Black. Skip's family said his favorite past-times were fishing, hunting, and golfing. He got the honor of teeing off the family golf tournament at Chelsey Oaks Golf Course on Father's Day two years ago, and left a wonderful memory for his family, in doing so. He loved his family dearly and he will be missed by all those that knew and loved him. In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations to be made to Center Grove Baptist Church. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com to sign the online guestbook.

Martha A. Morefield, 60
Funeral Service for Martha A Morefield, age 60 of Bremen, will be at 1 p.m. on Monday, June 24, 2024, at Kinney Grove Missionary Baptist Church with Bro. Tim Aris officiating, burial at Kinney Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Monday, June 24, 2024, at Kinney Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Morefield passed away on Thursday, June 20, 2024, at her residence. She was born Tuesday, Oct. 22, 1963, to Noah Freeman and Sara Juanita Hendrix. She was preceded in death by her parents; Stepfather, Von Ray Hendrix and stepbrother, Terry Hendrix. Survivors include her husband, Randy Morefield; daughter, Lacey (Wes) Kilpatrick; stepdaughters, Brittany (Steven) King and Taylor Morefield; stepsons, Matthew (Brittany) Morefield and Hunter Morefield; grandchildren Gatlin & Gage Kilpatrick; step grandchildren, Colton & Raleigh King, Hagan Morefield, Emerson and Wrenlee Morefield; Sisters, Sue Jones, Wanda Holley, Benita Freeman, Kathy Freeman and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Geneva Thornton Overton, 87
Geneva Thornton Overton, age 87, of Mount Olive, Alabama passed away on Thursday, June 20, 2024. A visitation will be held at noon at Moss Service Funeral Home up until the time of the funeral service at 1 p.m. in the Chapel, Tuesday, June 25th, 2024, at Moss Service Funeral Home in Cullman, AL. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery County Road 2, Double Springs, AL 35553. To leave condolences for the family please visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home Directing.

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BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

The bicycle man

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Last Sunday, we honored our fathers. When I was a young teenager, mine died suddenly at the age of 54. That was now 54 years ago. A few years after my father's death, Jean and I began dating. A couple year after that she became my wife. When we married, I gained another father...father-in-law, that is.

At first, Jean had me scared to death of her dad. Because he worked a night shift job at the time, Jean and I had dated for a while before ever saw him. He was a hard-working man who rarely ever missed a day of work, but eventually we did meet. Even as a teenager, I was taller than him, but I noticed that his arms were bigger than mine. That was because he had worked out for several years. No, he didn't work out in a gym pumping iron. He worked out on a linen truck throwing linen-filled bags on top of his truck. That will build biceps, and his were built. I knew I didn't want to have a boxing match with him, and I never did.

He turned out to be a pretty-good guy, good father-in-law, and a friend. Like me, he grew up on Sand Mountain. He also, like me, grew up pumping peddles on a bicycle. I used to love to hear his stories about where all he had ridden his bike. He rode that bicycle all over the mountain. He even rode if off the mountain on several occasions (no, not off the side of the mountain, but down the highway). The road down one side led to Fort Payne and on the other side to Scottsboro. He rode to both. I asked him once if riding down the mountain was hard. With his often-present sense of humor, he replied, "No, riding down wasn't the hard part!" Jean asked once if he ever had to get off and push it back up. He answered, "You don't push a bicycle, you ride it!" I guess his answer was no. He and a buddy of his rode all the way to Chattanooga once. That was over 100-miles round trip. His bike was not a modern-day one with multiply gears to make that kind of trip easier.

When the time came, he taught his children how to ride their bikes as well. As fathers often do, he ran along behind Jean holding up her bike while she peddled. Finally, one day when she hollered, "Don't turn loose," she discovered he already had, and she was riding on her own!

When Jean was growing up, her dad read to her. One of their favorites was the Sunday newspaper. They especially loved the comics, or the funnies, as he called them. Sometimes on Sunday mornings, early in the morning, he rode his bike over to Norrell's Store to buy their weekly copy. That trek was several miles, but that was no problem for a seasoned rider like him.

He rode until he was in his late 60s, maybe even 70s. Even at that age he used to say, "I'm going to ride around the block." In his country community of Pleasant Hill there were no blocks. His block was a big loop that was several miles long. He had a big white dog named Hercules that often accompanied him. Since Herc couldn't ride a bike, he just tagged along on all fours!

If they have bicycles in heaven, Thomas Willis is riding one on the streets of gold now. Six-years ago, at the age of 90, he rode out of here for his final trip.

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

HISTORY

Files from yesteryear: 1952

From the files of 1952

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reverend Virgil Sizemore preached at Enon last Sunday.

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

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

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

Betsy Bridgesand and Virgil Fowler were spotted on Sunday afternoon.

Bill Rasco has been on a trip to Texas.

POET'S CORNER

To a Childhood Friend | By: Randy C. Hale

Listen and come again,
my childhood friend.
And we will play in fields
of brown and green.
Lift rocks to see
what crawls beneath
and run wherever we wish
until-

Mother calls, suppertime.
Her kitchen has the same
old things,
but familiar happiness
it brings.
I wish to go there, and spend
a spell.
Ride our bikes down the hill,
knowing that old feeling.

If dreams reverse to what
used to be,
then you will be there
with me.

CULLMAN TRIBUNE WORD SEARCH

JUNE 22

A	S	K	L	E	P	T	A	G	Z	Y	R	U	N	S
H	C	I	N	A	E	H	U	M	O	R	O	U	S	G
W	O	I	N	M	G	L	M	J	U	G	G	M	L	U
E	N	S	D	T	P	R	E	C	I	S	E	L	Y	K
A	G	E	E	M	A	K	E	B	E	L	I	E	V	E
D	R	V	Y	O	L	K	R	E	A	R	N	C	R	Y
E	A	E	S	N	I	B	A	S	D	N	V	P	A	M
C	T	R	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	O	E	U	I	F
K	U	S	F	H	R	C	B	T	B	D	N	R	S	G
R	L	B	L	P	A	A	E	M	A	Y	T	E	O	N
K	A	A	O	E	L	S	N	L	B	D	C	F	R	S
I	T	C	C	A	D	E	D	G	Y	N	I	A	A	I
L	E	K	K	K	R	G	A	L	E	E	W	D	L	T
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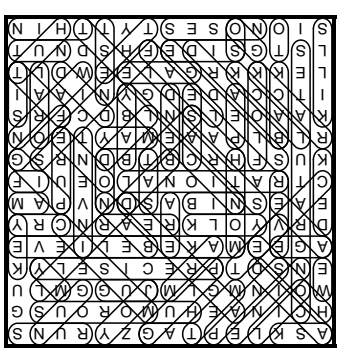
Acid
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Precisely
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Rational
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Sat
Set
Side
Sit
Sledge
Snap
So
Strangest
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To
Vet
Warn
We
Yolk

CULLMAN TRIBUNE SUDOKU

JUNE 22

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

ANSWERS:



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

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MON-TUES-THURS-FRIDAY 8:00-5:30
WEDS 8-12 | SAT 8:00-2:00
256-352-2221

...IN THAT WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS CHRIST DIED FOR US. ROMANS 5:8

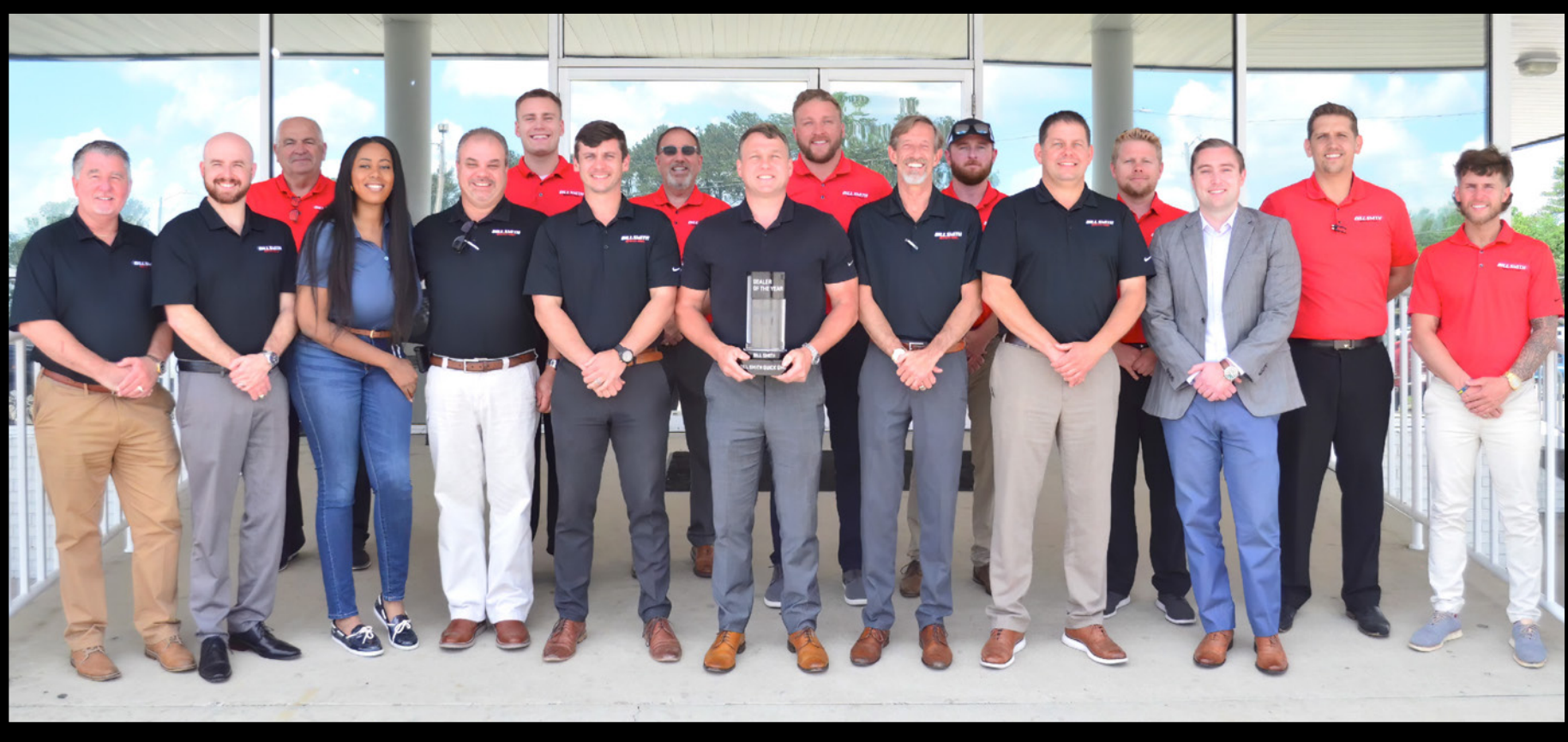
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