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NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Aggies excited to get back on the field in 2024

» PAGE 4

Kerry Watson will not seek re-election to Cullman County Commission

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County Commissioner for District 1, Kerry Watson, announced Tuesday, Aug. 13, that he will not seek re-election in 2026. He made the announcement during the commission meeting.

"I have been very blessed to serve Cullman County and I have enjoyed serving Cullman County. But at this time, I'm announcing that I will not be seeking another term," Watson said.

Elected initially in 2014, Watson won the popular vote over incumbent Darrell Hicks by a slim margin – 51.97% to Hicks' 48.03%.

Watson said he strived to be a hands-on official who was always reachable and relatable. Throughout campaigns and his tenure with the commission, he has been open with his faith, citing a verse from the Proverbs to help him through this transitional phase.

"This morning I was doing my morning devotional. Proverbs 16:9 » PAGE 2

Commissioner Kerry Watson announced at the Cullman County Commission meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 13, that he will not seek re-election in 2026. »



CONTRIBUTED

Cullman police officer recognized for apprehension of wanted suspect



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CPD Officer Josh Spinks (right) is honored by CPD Assistant Chief Brandon Patterson (center) and Sgt. Joey Duncan (left) at Monday evening's Cullman City Council meeting.

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A crowd of Cullman police officers stopped by Cullman City Hall Monday evening as the City honored one of its teammates for a job well done. Assistant Chief Brandon Patterson and Sgt. Joey Duncan recognized Patrol Officer Josh Spinks for the apprehension of Bryann Rodolfo Lucas Martinez, 25, of Albertville, following a foot pursuit on the city's south side.

At the time of the incident, Martinez was out on bond in a pending case of alleged shoplifting and trespassing at the south Cullman Walmart, and was being sought on subsequent charges of escape from custody.

Martinez previously had a Cullman County address near Holly Pond, until he was charged in 2021 with totaling another driver's vehicle as an uninsured driver. When he could not be found to be summoned to court, a default judgment was issued in that case.

According to Mayor Woody Jacobs, Martinez was also suspected of acts of vandalism and theft at parks and recreation facilities in Cullman.

Martinez was located in Cullman on July 31, 2024, when he fled. Spinks caught him and returned him to custody, adding third-degree escape and fourth-degree theft of property (for handcuffs he had taken during his prior escape) to the previous charges, for which his bond was revoked.

Following a notice that the subject was being sought, according to Patterson, "They was all patroling that night, and he (Spinks) seen him at Marktplatz theater. And he located the subject, who had warrants for escape from a prior event, and when he located, when he saw that Spinks was trying to locate him, he took off running. What he didn't know is the fastest guy who chased him down. And Spinks run 150 yards, captured and arrested him. So Spinks did an excellent job, and we commend him on a job well done, and we appreciate him."

1 dead following incident at Rusken Packaging

» PAGE 6

Commission approves purchase of road equipment

» PAGE 7

Cullman City Council holds water, sewer, sanitation rates steady for 2nd year



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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Cullman City Schools among best in Alabama in state rankings

» PAGE 4

PET OF THE WEEK

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» PAGE 4

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Aug. 14

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Aug. 14, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

No arrests or incidents reported.

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Aug. 12

• criminal mischief-3rd degree; person; damaged door; $100; Oak Manor Dr. SW

ARRESTS

Aug. 12-13

Graves, Damon K.; 31

• theft of property-4th degree

Dean, Bradley A.; 38

• public intoxication

Sharp Jr., Michael A.; 18

• FTA – driving while license suspended

Fanning, Nathan D.; 40

• FTA – public intoxication (3 counts)
• FTA – disorderly conduct
• FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Good Hope City Council adopts 4 new Resolutions, reports successful Back-to-School Bash

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE, Ala. — Good Hope's City Council held its first August meeting at Good Hope City Hall Monday night and adopted four new resolutions.

Resolution No: 017-2024 was the annual resolution to adopt the transportation plan pursuant to the Rebuild Alabama Act and Resolution No: 018-2024 authorized the city to enter into a contract for architectural services for the new multi-use storm shelter project.

Resolution No: 019-2024 will allow the city to enter into a professional service agreement with Waggoner Engineering, Inc. for Site Civil, Stormwater, Ingress-Egress, Parking Design & Construction Support Services at the multi-use storm shelter/community center and Resolution No: 020-2024 authorized the city to execute contracts for professional engineering services for an extension of Daystar Drive.

In addition to the new resolutions, the council also discussed this year's Back-to-School Bash and was happy to report the highest turnout they've ever had for the event.

Around 400 people attended this year's event to enjoy a petting zoo, free haircuts, food, door prizes, free back-to school photos and more.

The Council also announced that the City of Good Hope and the City of Cullman will be working together to pave the portion of Industrial Park Rd. from Stephanie Dr. to Lindsey Rd.

The Good Hope City Council will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting Monday, Aug. 26 at 6:30 p.m. at Good Hope City Hall.

Long-Lewis acquires Cullman's Eckenrod Ford Lincoln

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. - The Long-Lewis Automotive Group, effective Aug. 12, 2024, acquired Eckenrod Ford Lincoln in Cullman. The official name of the dealership is Long-Lewis Ford Lincoln of Cullman.

Long-Lewis purchased all assets, including the real estate, and will also retain all Eckenrod employees. This adds about 50 additional employees to the Long-Lewis Automotive Group, bringing the total employee count to approximately 900. Long-Lewis now has 11 dealerships in eight cities across the state – four Fords, three Lincolns, Chevrolet, Volkswagen, Mitsubishi and a Pre-Owned Vehicle and Ford Parts & Service Center.

"We are very excited about this opportunity," said Wade Bentley, dealer principal, Long-Lewis Ford Lincoln of Cullman.

"Rest assured that it will be anything but business as usual. Long-Lewis is by far the largest automotive retailer in the state, and has a deep history of customer and employee satisfaction. I am most impressed with our exceptionally strong dedication to the community."

This is evidenced by its strong legacy of giving back through the Long-Lewis Foundation, a private foundation setup to support local evangelical causes and to help people in the community with medical and emotional needs.

"We fully expect this location to immediately double its current volume by employing the Long-Lewis way of doing business," Bentley continued.

"Long-Lewis' approach to automotive sales is absolutely mind blowing, but it is obviously what today's customers demand."

Long-Lewis recently celebrated its 137th anniversary and announced additional plans to strategically expand throughout the state of Alabama.

The Cullman dealership is located along Alabama Highway 157, near the U.S. Highway 31 intersection.

Watson (from Front)

says, 'A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord plans his steps,'" an emotional Watson said. "So at this time, I'd like to thank everybody for allowing me to serve in this position and I look forward to being involved in Cullman County somewhere down the line."

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

"Christmas In September" Sale
Sacred Heart Altar Society and Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a "Christmas In September" Sale on Saturday, Sept. 21, beginning at 7 a.m. in the Sacred Heart Family Life Center. Proceeds will benefit the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry in Cullman. Currently, the groups are taking donations of gently used decorations for the sale. They will accept any items used to decorate homes for any season or holiday. Deadline to donate is Thursday, Sept. 19. Donations may dropped off at the Sacred Heart Church Office in the Altar Society Office. If you have a larger contribution, please call or text Vevyette Crane at 256-682-6960 to make arrangements. For more information, contact Vevyette Crane, Altar Society coordinator at the number listed above, or Dan Crane, K of C coordinator at 256-520-6095.

The Crossing Food Bank
The Crossing is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3:30 p.m. We are located at 1503 Second St. SW, Cullman, AL 35055 (in the Housing Authority).

Cullman Low Vision Support Group Meetings
Third Tuesday of every month, from 10-11:30 a.m., at the Alabama Career Center, 1201 Katherine St. NW in Cullman. Contact Olivia Wade, case manager, at 256-389-2502. The August meeting is Aug. 20.

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.
- Friday, Aug. 16 - Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hangups are a part of everyone's life. Come and see how to overcome these and more! Bring a dish, dessert or drink for a potluck meal at 5:45 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30. Childcare provided.
- Saturday, Aug. 17 - Food bank
- Sunday, Aug. 18 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area. Call Betty Hays at 930-9680 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 the Donald E. Green Adult Active Center, 1625 Cleveland Ave. SW. 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.

Holly Pond Lions Club Pancake Breakfast
Join us as we serve you all the pancakes you can eat with a side of bacon and sausage and your choice of coffee, water or juice for a donation only. Invite your friends and have a fun morning on Aug. 17, from 6-9 a.m. at the Lions Club Building in Holly Pond near the ballfields. Donations benefit Lions Club special projects such as sight and juvenile diabetes. Thank you for your support.

Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Singing
Sunday, Aug. 18, at 5 p.m., with "Children of the Promise." The church is located on U.S. Highway 278, approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond on the left. Everyone is invited. For more information call 256-796-5986 or 256-338-9202.

Cheeseball Tasting Tea at Grace Episcopal Church - Place Your Holiday Order Early!
The Grace Episcopal Church Women will be hosting a Cheeseball Tasting Tea on Sunday, Aug. 25, from 1-3 p.m. at The Arnold House - 305 Arnold St. NE, Cullman. We are offering eight cheeseball flavors for your tasting pleasure. You will have the opportunity to order your cheeseballs early, and they will be ready for pickup on Thursday, Nov. 14, in time for the holidays. We look forward to having you join us!

Save the Date: Little Pink Dress Benefit
Tuesday, Oct. 1, from 6-9 p.m. at The Venue at Cotton Creek. Handicapped parking at north entrance. Doors open at 5:30. A night of fun with dinner included, Active Adult Senior Kickers, Wallace State Jazz Band, live and silent auctions, door prizes and much more! Ticket are $60. Tickets available through Stefani Nelson at 256-708-3191 or snelson@alfains.com or Judy Grissom at Options at 256-347-5993 or options5993@gmail.com and www.CullmanBosomBuddies.com.

Sacred Heart Oktoberfest Dinner
This year's dinner will be held in the church's Family Life Center on Wednesday, Oct. 2, beginning at 4 p.m. The dinners are available for dining in or drive through/take out and the cost of the dinner is $15. The dinner features a traditional German menu of bratwurst, German potato salad, sauerkraut, green beans, applesauce, bread and a homemade dessert. The meat used in the dinner comes from Brickyard Meats in Cullman, which is owned by a family of parishioners.

Peinhardt Farm Days
Saturday, Oct. 19, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 20, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Gates will close one hour before the event ends. Hands-on activities will be demonstrated over 40 acres of the farm. Farm Days are free for ages 2 and younger, and $10 for all others, cash only. Please leave your pets at home; only service animals are allowed. This is a walking tour with limited accessibility. Peinhardt Living History Farm is located at 1711 Talley Ho St. in Cullman. Find out more at www.peinhardtfarm.com or on Facebook/Peinhardt Living History Farm.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
AUGUST 15, 2024

PREP FOOTBALL

Aggies excited to get back on the field in 2024

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — Football season is nearly upon us once again and in Fairview, that means it's nearly time for the Aggies to hit the field and take another run at the state playoffs. Fairview has punched its ticket to the postseason for five consecutive seasons, but head coach George Redding knows they'll have a host of new challenges to overcome if they want to make it back in 2024. The Aggies have some big contributors returning at key positions as well as some new faces stepping into new roles and Redding has been watching to see how they all fit together throughout the summer and the preseason.

"We've got about five or six guys coming back on both sides of the ball. We have some really good players coming back that we're excited about. We also lost some really good players from last year. You hate losing players to graduation and each year you kind of have to go back to the drawing board and try to find some new faces that can step into those roles and learn the things that they can do," Redding said. "So, we're really excited about those new faces, and I think the real key for ones who are coming back is to build leadership and chemistry on this team. We have a small senior class, we only have seven seniors this year and we do have 14 juniors, 14 sophomores and 11 freshmen right now. So, the biggest thing for us right now is really focusing on leadership and team chemistry and trying to mesh all the new faces together."

The Aggies will have to prepare for some changes and new faces with some of their regional opponents this season as well.

"We are familiar with a lot of our opponents having been in that same region. We've played Priceville over the years as well. The thing is, four of the seven schools in our region have new head coaches so with that being the case, we know we're going to have our work cut out for us because there will be some changes. Even though we feel like we have a good idea on some personnel, we know that for a lot of those teams some of the scheme is going to change and as a staff we'll have to work hard to try and figure that out to give our kids the things that they need to be successful."

Developing leadership has been a priority for Redding and his staff this offseason. He's been proud to see several players embrace those roles and set an example for the younger members of the team.

"I definitely thing we're getting there. That's been the focus of a lot of our conversations. We had a conversation with some of the older guys after one of our summer workouts about how important that is. I think these guys understand that they won't be successful without the guys below them. Just like with some of our other teams in past years, it took these guys helping those older guys. So, the younger guys have got to be able to do their part for us to be successful, but it takes leadership in order to get there," Redding said. "You don't have to be a senior to be a leader, that's for sure, but the good teams have good senior leadership. We've talked about what's expected of these guys and they understand what it takes to win. They've been part of some really good teams and they've been leaders in the past. I think the transition happens when you've been maybe a second leader or a guy that was saying things from behind because there were others already out in front, and we've had a lot of those on the last couple teams that we've had but now these guys have to be that up front voice and I think that's what we're transitioning to."

One of this year's seniors, Blake Rickard, has seen the team's leadership grow together throughout the offseason and wants to see it continue to build as the season approaches.

"I think at the beginning we probably started out a little slow on leadership but as we played the 7-on-7s and have had more practices I think we're growing together a lot better. We started out slowly but we're getting there," Rickard said. "It's more about the little things, not just the big things. It's helping someone else when they don't know what to do or just asking someone if they need help and it's things like that that we're piecing together."

Redding is excited to have a lot of players returning on the offensive side of the ball this season, but he and his staff are still working to fill some holes on the defensive end.

"I know right out of the gate the noticeable thing is we have both of our running backs back. Our quarterback is back and two of our linemen are back too. We lost a really good lineman from last year but we played multiple linemen last year so we have some guys that might be somewhat new faces this year that are battle tested. The receiver position is where we lost some seniors so we're moving some guys into those roles, and we're excited about seeing what they can do," Redding said. "They've really come on this spring and summer. We got into some competitions this summer and they showed some really good things so we're excited about what those guys can do. Defensively, we lost some guys at stack linebacker. Cale (Foster) and Eric (Gonzalez) were a tremendous presence when they were out there, and we lost some guys at the safety position too, so we've got some holes that we've got to fill but we've got some guys that we're excited about coming in. Depth is another concern for us so anytime you have new faces and low depth behind that, it can be a problem so it's very important for us to get everybody up to speed."

The Aggies have goals to stack the win column and return to the state playoffs this season but Redding is proud that no matter what happens under the lights this fall, his team is full of young men that will be successful after football is over.

"I think the biggest thing for is just everybody learning what it takes to be successful on a Friday night," Redding said. "We can't wait until Friday night to figure those things out or we'll be in trouble but I'm excited about this group. I love this group and I think they can do good things. I think they'll do more things than just football, that's the biggest thing for me."



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Fairview Aggies will kick off the 2024 regular season against Pisgah on Aug. 23.

2024 Fairview Aggies Football Schedule

- Aug. 23 – vs. Pisgah
- Aug. 30 - @ Springville
- Sept. 6 – vs. West Point*
- Sept. 13 - @ Ardmore*
- Sept. 20 - @ Lawrence County*
- Oct. 4 - @ Russellville*
- Oct. 11 – vs. Priceville*
- Oct. 18 – vs. Sardis
- Oct. 25 – vs. East Limestone*
- Nov. 1 - @ Good Hope

*region game

PREP FOOTBALL

Cold Springs ready to hit the field this fall

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. — August is here, which means schools is back in session, fall weather is on the way and all of our local football teams are gearing up for yet another season under the lights.

Brendan Voce will be going into his third season as head coach of the Cold Springs Eagles. Cold Springs finished with a 4-6 record last season, and coach Voce has got a lot of experience coming back on both sides of the ball. He's proud of the work his team put in during this year's summer program and how the roster has come together for fall camp.

"We've got nine kids returning on offense for us. We've got about eight or nine kids that are returning on defense. We've got a lot of kids returning this season, so we're super excited about that. It's going to be one of the biggest teams that we've had in a long time. In my first year, we had one junior, and this year, we're sitting with seven seniors. We've got about seven juniors. We'll dress in the mid-30s this season, so it's going to be a bigger group for us. We're super excited about that opportunity," Voce said.

"I really feel like our summer program has been much better this year than it was last season. I think we had success two years ago. We won a few ball games, and we lost focus of competing. We talked more about winning, and when we did that, I think that really set us back a little bit. This team has put their eye more to we're going to try to compete every Friday night. If you do that, everything else will fall into place. I think we've had a really good summer so far."

The Eagles will open the season on the road against the Hanceville Bulldogs on Aug. 23 and Voce is looking forward to kicking things off against a county rival.

"Playing the county games is something that's special to the kids and to the county to get to play each other. The first game's going to mean a lot to these kids. For the seniors, it'll be their only opportunity to get a county win," Voce said. "I've talked to coach Estes a few times, and I think he's doing a great job over there. It's going to be a very exciting game, and I'm sure they'll be pumped up to get the opportunity to play their first one for him. It's going to be a very big ball game for us."

Senior Matt Williams and junior Trey Bailey are two of the leaders on this year's team and it's important to them to lead by example and help bring the younger players along.

"We added seven groups into our weight program, so each leader got to step up and show us what to do." Williams said. "Our goal is just to compete."

"Every one of our seniors that we have on the football team have all stepped up a whole lot and showed a whole lot of leadership to every underclassmen, all of the JV kids and the middle school kids. Everybody came to workouts, and the seniors showed them how it's done and what they're supposed to do," Bailey said. "Our goals are to compete, get stronger in the weight room, and get closer to God. Coach Voce has encouraged us with a devotion every day in our weightlifting groups, so that's helped us a lot."

All of the spots on the team are open, and coach Voce wants everyone to fight for their job. There are a few changes to the region schedule for Cold Springs this season and Voce is excited to see what his team handles the new challenges.

"It's always open. That's what I tell our kids. Every week, you're fighting for your job. I don't care what grade you're in. The kid that steps up is the kid that's going to get the opportunity to play," Voce said. "It's a lot different than what we've had. Travel-wise, it's going to be a lot more comfortable. Our travel's going to be a lot better. I thought we were in a very tough region before. I think the region we're in this time is going to be equally as tough.

"You've got some really good football teams in it. Coosa Christian comes to mind. They played for the state title last year, but I think it's a region that these kids are excited to have the opportunity to compete in."



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cold Springs Eagles will kick off the 2024 season at Hanceville on Aug. 23.

2024 Cold Springs Eagles Football Schedule

- Aug. 23 - @ Hanceville
- Aug. 30 - @ Curry
- Sept. 6 – vs. Susan Moore*
- Sept. 13 - @ Cleveland*
- Sept. 20 – vs. Winston County
- Sept. 27 – vs. Lynn
- Oct. 4 - @ West End Walnut Grove*
- Oct. 11 - @ Coosa Christian*
- Oct. 18 – vs. Southeastern*
- Oct. 25 – vs. Falkville*

*region game

Sable (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Meet the beautiful, elegant and sweet Sable, The Cullman Tribune's Pet of the Week. She is a shepherd mix who is approximately 5-6 months old.

Sable is sharp girl who loves being in the company of others. She is a medium-energy pup and always stays close as you navigate the yard, making for a perfect companion.

Sable looks to you for encouragement; when new challenges like the kiddie pool arise...trust us, she's perfect!

She thrives on learning new things and is the perfect therapy/companion/hiking dog!

Come meet sweet Sable and the rest of the wonderful pets seeking their forever homes!

Are you ready to meet Sable? Head over to Cullman County Animal Shelter at 935 Convent Road NE, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for a meet and greet.

Her adoption fee includes spay, DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet and microchip.

Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or cullmananimalshelter@co.cullman.al.us.

Rankings (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — According to state testing in English/Language Arts, Math and Science from the 2023-2024 school year, Cullman City Schools remains in the Top 10 academically compared to the more than 100 districts across the state. The rankings and results factor in student performance in tests such as the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP), ACT and Alternative Assessment.

Cullman City Schools had the fourth highest scores in the state with 77.8% of students proficient or advanced in English/Language Arts; eighth highest in the state with 60.5% of students proficient or advanced in Mathematics; and fifth highest in the state with 69% of students proficient or advanced in Science.

For the sake of comparison, the Alabama state proficiency average for English/Language Arts was 52.8%; the state proficiency average for Mathematics was 31.2%; and the state proficiency average for Science was 39%.

"I am pleased with our results," Cullman City Schools Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff said.

"In order to perform at a high level academically, you have to have eager students, supportive families and dedicated teachers.

"In Cullman, we are fortunate to have all three of these factors."

Though Cullman remains among the best-performing districts in Alabama, Kallhoff said educators will not be resting on their laurels.

Instead, they'll be working to continue to improve in 2024-2025 and beyond.

"We are going to celebrate where we grew as a system and find solutions in the areas where there are opportunities for improvement," he added.

"We feel like our school system should be in the Top 5 academically every year.

"That is our target and that should be the expectation of our community."

West Point High School Class of 1974 celebrates 50 years

Staff Reports
Contributor

WEST POINT, Ala. — The West Point High School Class of 1974 recently celebrated its 50-year class reunion at The Barn at Lake Catoma.

Attending classmates were:
Back row, left to right, David Hale, Michael Campbell, Mike Floyd, Darrell Fell, Matt Smith, Buford Shedd, Keith Penn, Ken Cornelius, Ranney Steele, Tim Martin, Billy Rigsby, Scott Scruggs, Benton Thompson, Donnie Pirkle, Stanley Sandlin, Keith Yarbrough, Randy Tucker and Ricky Cornelius.

Middle row, left to right, Jane Sterling Lowery, Myra Page Fell, Patsy Skinner Lee, Karen Burgess Wilkins, Debra Conn Preiss, Deborah Harbison Oldacre, Joyce Abbott Wilhite, Linda Brown Sams, Sheila Laney Whitlock, Phyllis Anita Johnson Parker, Katherine Johnson Barfield and Debbie Harbison Lewis.

Front row, left to right, Rose Ann Burnham Thompson, Vickie Cornelius Dawson, Pam McKay Lovvorn, Shela White, Diane Ergle Lolley, Pat Sellers Floyd, Kathy Young Lee, Teresa Harbison Jennings and Denise Jones Latty.



CONTRIBUTED

Alpha Nutrition and The Garage hosting cash prize unsanctioned powerlifting meet Aug. 24

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. - Alpha Nutrition and The Garage are teaming up to host an in-house, unsanctioned powerlifting meet with cash prizes. The meet is set for Saturday, Aug. 24, from 4 p.m. until the last athlete has completed his or her lift. Competing athletes are required to weigh in on Friday, Aug. 23, from 4-7 p.m. The meet will be held at The Garage, a local gym located at 4330 County Road 703 in Cullman.

The meet will cover the three primary lifts in a traditional powerlifting meet: the squat, deadlift and bench press. Lifters will get three attempts at each lift, with judges determining a clean lift from a failed lift. A singlet is required. The meet will be raw with no wraps and will be using WRPF standards on all lifts. DOTS score will determine the best male and female lifter of the event.

The competition will have an 80-lifter cap with a $100 buy-in per lifter. Dues are required to be paid by Aug. 17.

The top female and male winners will walk away with a quarter of the total pot each, with the remainder going to cover expenses for The Garage and Alpha Nutrition. This will be an unsanctioned meet available to lifters in all categories.

Zack Gordon, owner of Cullman Barbell and organizer of the meet, shared why this meet is different than the others available to the public. "It's different because it's an opportunity to get paid for your hard work," he said. "Not a cheap medal or piece of paper. Real money."

With The Garage hosting the meet, attendees can expect a loud and intense atmosphere similar to the "My Bloody Valentine" powerlifting meet hosted earlier this year.

For those seeking to encourage and hype up athletes in their element, The Garage will be the place to be.

Admission is $10 a person for those wanting to come out and watch the event. Mrs. Macias will set up shop at The Garage and offer her homemade tamales, tacos and drinks.

Gordon offered encouraging words for those considering participating for the first time, saying, "My advice to a newbie would be to come on, and have fun. If we knew who was going to win, there'd be no reason to compete.

"It's like any other sport in that any given day you could find yourself a winner or loser. It's also an incredibly encouraging and inspiring community. Everyone will be happy to see them try."

Those interested in competing can contact Cullman Barbell at 256-590-6371 or search for "Unsanctioned Cash Powerlifting Meet" on Facebook. For more information on The Garage, call 256-962-0463 from 4-8 p.m.



TAYLOR MARIE CROWDER

The unsanctioned cash powerlifting meet hosted by Alpha Nutrition and the Garage will take place on Saturday, Aug. 24, starting at 4 p.m. Competing athletes are required to weigh in on Friday anytime from 4-7 p.m. Admission is $10 for spectators.

St. Paul's inaugural golf tournament set for Sept. 14

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — St. Paul's Lutheran School will host its inaugural golf tournament Saturday, Sept. 14, at Cross Creek Golf Course.

Golfers and teams are welcomed to the course to register for the tournament prior to the 8 a.m. tee-time. Registration will begin at 7 alongside a complimentary morning fill-up by way of a provided breakfast for each registered golfer.

The cost to compete in the tournament is $100 per player and $25 per mulligan (with a limit of two per player). Single players or teams of less than four will be placed into teams of four through a player scramble. Breakfast and lunch are included.

Amanda Lee, a volunteer with St. Paul's, said, "We will have door prizes and cash prizes for winning teams."

Also worked into the cost of the fundraising tournament is the benefit to the students of St. Paul's. Tournament entry fees will assist the school in beginning much-needed upgrades to its facilities.

"The proceeds will benefit classroom and building upgrades at St. Paul's," shared Lee. "We are also in need of a new gym floor."

Sponsors are also welcomed. Five levels of sponsorships are available for the school's event.

- Hole sponsor: Sponsor name on one hole for a donation of $100 or three for $250
- Golf Cart Sponsor: Sponsor name and logo on one golf cart for a $250 donation
- Silver sponsor: Includes one hole sign, a vendor slot and name on promotional materials for a $500 donation
- Gold sponsor: Includes one four-person team, a vendor slot, one large sponsor sign and name on all promotional materials and ads for a donation of $1,000
- Platinum sponsor: Includes one four-person team, vendor slot, one hole sign, one large sponsor sign and name on all promotional materials and ads for a donation of $2,000

To become a sponsor, email fundraising@stpaulscullman.com or visit stpaulscullman.com for registration information.

Rates (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City Council voted on Monday to hold the city's water, sewer and sanitation rates at their current levels for residential customers.

"For the second year in a row, we are going to be able to waive the inflation adjustment, so there'll be no increase in water or sewer, sanitation for residential customers this coming year," said Councilman and Utilities Committee Chairman David Moss.

The council also approved resolutions to:

- Renew a three-year lease agreement with United Way of Cullman County for a property at 104 Austin Ave. SW near Art Park; United Way previously occupied the old Cullman Depot
- Renew its contract with Air Evac for City employees and their families
- Apply for matching Alabama Department of Transportation grant funds for the hangar taxi lane rehabilitation project at Cullman Regional Airport
- Adopt the transportation plan pursuant to the Rebuild Alabama Act for FY2025. The resolution estimated that the City's allocation from the Rebuild Alabama Act fund for the first fiscal year will be approximately $112,328.51, with increasing allocations for each fiscal year after that. The resolution listed, but according to the council was not limited to, "any of the following listed projects:"
- Daisy Street Northwest
- Pecan Avenue Northwest
- Edgewood Street Northwest
- Edgewood Drive Northwest
- Woodland Street Northwest
- David Drive Northwest
- Shelia Avenue Northwest
- Rose Street Northwest
- Manor Drive Northeast
- Brentwood Drive Northeast
- Brentwood Court Northeast
- Chateau Drive Northeast
- Briarcliff Road Northeast
- Larkwood Drive Northeast
- Larkwood Court Northeast

Additionally, the council approved special event requests:

- From Dawn Beard of Destiny Church to hold a Cullman County Youth Prayer Event at Depot Park on Sept. 11, at 6 p.m.
- From Keith Ellard of Sacred Heart Church to hold a 150th Anniversary Celebration Parish Picnic Oct. 19–20, 2024, at 6 p.m.

The Cullman City Council meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month in the Cullman City Hall auditorium. The public is invited to attend.



Incident (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — One person died at Rusken Packaging early Wednesday evening.

Just before 5, calls went out to dispatch regarding a possible medical emergency at the facility, located at 64 Walnut St. NW, in the city of Cullman. Cullman County Coroner Jeremy Kilpatrick confirmed to The Tribune the call was placed at 4:59 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 14. Kilpatrick said the original 911 call stated, "a forklift driver had hit (sic) head and passed out."

Once on scene, paramedics worked on the unnamed driver until the person was pronounced deceased at the scene. Kilpatrick stated that once family has been notified, he will provide the name and age of the individual.

Rusken Packaging has, according to its website, locations throughout the United States – 19 facilities in 10 states. It is headquartered in Cullman.

Check www.CullmanTribune.com for the latest.



LEGALS

EST. 1873
CULLMAN
ALABAMA

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

201 2nd Avenue NE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

256.775.7203
www.CullmanAl.gov

City of Cullman
Zoning Board of Adjustments

On Monday, August 19th, 2024, at Cullman City Hall Auditorium at 5:30 P.M., at the regular meeting of the City of Cullman Zoning Board of Adjustments, a public hearing will be held to allow affected parties to voice their concerns related to the following items:

1. Variance request for setbacks on 2nd Way NE for a duplex

For further information, contact Brian Landreth or Amber Duke at the City of Cullman Building Department at 256-775-7203.

LEGALS

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF MELBA KAY PIGG, Deceased. * **CASE NO.: PC 2024-249**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to Gordon Dennis Pigg, Jr., Personal Representative of the Estate of Melba Kay Pigg, deceased, on the 6th day of August, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate.

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

Gordon Dennis Pigg, Jr.
Personal Representative

Attorney for Petitioner:
J. Bradley Wilson
BAGGETT & WILSON, LLC
206 Ninth Street Southwest, Suite 102
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

THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF: LEVI BENJAMIN LAWRENCE — CASE NO: PC-2024-223

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to ROBBIN LAWRENCE, as personal Representative of the Estate of LEVI BENJAMIN LAWRENCE, deceased, on the 12th day of August, 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.

ROBBIN LAWRENCE
Personal Representative

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

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 ZELDA ROSE LINDSEY, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC2024-161

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to MELANIE ALENA RUSSELL, as Personal Representative, of the ESTATE OF ZELDA ROSE LINDSEY, deceased, on the 12th day of August, 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.

Melanie Alena Russell
Personal Representative

Joseph T. Ritchey
Dentons Sirote PC
2311 Highland Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35205

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 12th day of August, 2024.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLE

Pursuant to the provisions of the Alabama Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, Section 32-13-I, et seq. Code of Alabama, 1975, notice is hereby given to the owners, lienholders and other interested parties, the following described vehicle, to wit:

2012 Infiniti QX 56, Vin. #JN8AZ2NE2C9017459.

Abandoned date 05/28/24, was taken into possession and will be sold to the highest bidder for cash at the following address: 1073 County Road 1488, Cullman, Alabama, 35058 on August 27, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. The seller shall have the right to reject any all bids.

Brenda Chastain
C/O Shay Persall Law, L.L.C.
611 7th Street SW
Cullman, AL 35055

Town of Dodge City
Advertisement for Bids

Sealed bids for the Town of Dodge City will be received until 2:00 p.m. on September 9, 2024, at the Dodge City Town Hall, 130 Howard Circle, Hanceville, Alabama 35077.

Project for repaving County Road 223 which includes asphalt paving, binder, tack coat, striping, traffic control, milling and removing. Project covers 2 miles of asphalt for 112,980 sq. ft., along with 2 inches of binder for 10,000 sq. ft.

A cashier's check or bid bond payable to the Town of Dodge City in an amount not less than 5% of the amount of the bid, but in no event more than $10,000, must accompany the bidder's proposal. Performance and Payment Bonds and evidence of insurance required in the bid documents will be required at the signing of contract.

Bid documents may be obtained at the Town Hall of the Town of Dodge City, Alabama.

Bids must be submitted on proposal forms furnished by the Town of Dodge City or copies thereof. All bidders must be licensed under the provisions of Title 34, Sec. 8, Code of Alabama 1975, and must show evidence of license before bidding or bid will not be received or considered by the Town of Dodge City; the bidder shall show such evidence by clearly displaying his or her current license number on the outside of the sealed envelope in which the proposal is delivered. The Town of Dodge City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive technical errors if, in the Town's judgment, the best interests of the Town will thereby be promoted. All bidders must submit with his or her bid, a statement identifying the drawings and/or addendums encompassed by the bid amount.

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2024-274

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF IRENE ALICE ZEHR, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Hank Zehr on the 30th day of July, 2024, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Hank Zehr
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

Please publish the above notice three successive weeks in said newspaper.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of TED WAGNON, Deceased. * CASE NO. PC 2024 - 283

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE: Letters Testamentary having been granted to Dawn Wagnon as Personal Representative of the Estate of Ted Wagnon, deceased, on the 6th day August, 2024, all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Dawn Wagnon
Personal Representative

Shay Persall

Attorney for Personal Representative

SHAY PERSALL LAW, LLC
611 Seventh Street Southwest
Cullman, AL 35055
Telephone: (256) 841-7800

TO: The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune:

Please publish the foregoing 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

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made of the terms of the loan documents secured by that certain mortgage executed by Damien Shane Moore And Brooklyn Leigh Preston-Moore , Husband And Wife to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Assurance Financial Group, LLC. , its successors and assigns dated April 14, 2023; said mortgage being recorded on April 17, 2023, in Book 2047, Page 230 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC by assignment recorded in Deed Book 393, Page 527 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, ALABAMA.

The undersigned, AmeriHome Mortgage Company, LLC, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on the 19th day of September, 2024 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

Commence at the southeast corner of the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 23, Township 11 South, Range 4 West; thence North 01°26'39" West 298.84 feet to an existing iron; thence North 89°43'02" West 207.24 feet to a set 1/2" capped iron and the point of beginning; thence South 01°38'27" West 122.96 feet to a set 1/2" capped iron; thence South 89°27'46" West 359.47 feet to a set 1/2" capped iron on the east right of way of a paved county road; thence North 13°23'12" West 131.81 feet to an existing axle on said right of way; thence South 89°43'02" East 393.50 feet to a set 1/2" capped iron, back to the point of beginning. Said land lying in the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 23, Township 11 South, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama.

LESS AND EXCEPT any part of the above described property lying within the following described property: A parcel of land being situated in the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 23, Township 11 South, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama, and being more particularly described as follows: Commence at a found bar accepted as the southeast corner of the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of said section and having an NAD 83 Alabama west zone coordinate value of N. 1479559.08, E. 2143052.32; thence run North 00°26'02" East along the accepted east line of said quarter-quarter for a basis of bearing (state plane NAD 83 Alabama west zone) a distance of 178.96 feet to a set rebar marked "Conn-17831" and the point of beginning; thence run North 89°23'18" West a distance of 215.92 feet to a found rebar marked LS-11845; thence run North 02°56'44" East a distance of 123.21 feet to a found 1/2" rebar; thence run N 88°35'51" West a distance of 392.80 feet to a found axle at the east right-of-way of Cullman County Road Number 813; thence run North 12°49'24" West along the east right-of-way of said County Road Number 813 a distance of 15.47 feet; thence South 88°35'51" East a distance of 394.55 feet to a set rebar marked "Conn-17831"; thence run North 06°24'37" West a distance of 119.06 feet to a set rebar marked "Conn-17831"; thence run North 77°49'11" East a distance of 232.11 feet to a set rebar marked "Conn-17831" on the accepted east line of said quarter-quarter; thence South 00°26'02" West a distance of 307.70 feet to the point of beginning.

SUBJECT TO a 25 foot right of way, the centerline being described as follows: Commence at the SE corner of the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 23, Township 11 South, Range 4 West; thence North 01°26'39" West 298.84 feet to an existing iron; thence North 89°43'02" West 207.24 feet to a point; thence South 01°38'27" West 30 feet to the point of beginning of the centerline; thence North 84°43'02" West 183.49 feet; thence South 80°57'08" West 201.32 feet to the point of ending of said centerline of right of way. Situated, lying and being in Cullman County, Alabama.

SUBJECT TO easement as set forth in instrument recorded in Deed Book 484, Page 185 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

Said property is commonly known as 10403 County Road 813, Cullman, AL 35057.

Should a conflict arise between the property address and the legal description the legal description will control.

Said property will be sold subject to any outstanding ad valorem taxes (including taxes which are a lien, but not yet due and payable), the right of redemption of any taxing authority, all outstanding liens for public utilities which constitute liens upon the property, any matters which might be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property, any assessments, liens, encumbrances, easements, rights-of-way, zoning ordinances, restrictions, special assessments, covenants, the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law, and any matters of record including, but not limited to, those superior to said Mortgage first set out above. Said property will be sold on an "as-is" basis without any representation, warranty or recourse against the above-named or the undersigned. The successful bidder must present certified funds in the amount of the winning bid at the time and place of sale.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

The sale will be conducted subject (1) to confirmation that the sale is not prohibited under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and (2) to final confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the holder of the Mortgage.

AMERIHOME MORTGAGE COMPANY, LLC
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC
505 20th Street North, Suite 1775
Birmingham, AL 35203
(205) 216-4238
FT21@mccalla.com
File No. 24-06153AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Cullman Tribune
08/01/2024,08/08/2024,08/15/2024

Equipment (from Front)

Cheyenne Sharp
cheyenne@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — At its August meeting, the Cullman County Commission ended months of discussions surrounding the Cullman County Road Department and its aged and deteriorating equipment.

As discussed at its July meeting, the road department has been in need of major equipment upgrades including shoulder machines, tractors and other various machinery. At that time, the commission chose to table the needs until further discussion and research could be done.

In the July meeting, Cullman County Engineer Philip Widner said, "Some of the equipment we have is 25, some of it is 30 years old. So, they're getting to the end of their life and its starting to be a hindrance in the roads we need done."

Previously, County Administrator John Bullard advised the commission the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds must be allocated or spent before Dec. 31, 2024. The money was formerly earmarked for the renovation of the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center, now set to begin in 2025.

On Tuesday, Aug. 13, the commission agreed to officially allocate nearly $1 million in ARPA funds to securing the needed equipment.

The commission approved Resolutions 2024-37, 2024-38 and 2024-39, allocating ARPA funds for the purchase of a paving machine, a shoulder widener and three tractors.

In other business, the commission:

• Approved Resolution 2024-36: Apply for matching ALDOT grant funds for the airport hangar taxi lane rehabilitation project

• Authorized Chairman to sign change order from Stateline Mechanical for the Cullman County Courthouse HVAC upgrades in the amount of $12,583

• Authorized JMB Holding, LLC to finalize grading for sod and top dress for the Pandemic Response Center in the amount of $19,715

• Authorized the purchase of a 2019 John Deere Compact Loader from Ft. Payne Water Authority for the Road Department in the amount of $58,000

• Approved FY 2025 County Transportation Plan

• Approved to buy-out of CAT Financial leases for two hydraulic excavators in the amount of $81,901.29

• Approved outdoor light agreement and right-of way easement with Cullman Electric Cooperative for power supply at Smith Lake Park and authorized Chairman to sign all related paperwork

• Approved Vector Security for services to existing fire alarm system at the Economic Development and Sales Tax building in the amount of $13,975

• Approved payment to ServPro for remediation at the County Board of Education building in the amount of $ 19,144.18

• Approved Commissioner Watson and Commission Duke's nominee, Terry Bentley, for reappointment to the E-911 Board for four-year term to expire 9/1/28

• Approved Commissioner Marchman and Commissioner Freeman's nominee, Samuel Tucker, for reappointment to the E-911 Board for a four-year term to expire 9/1/28

• Approved City of Cullman's nominee, Brian Bradberry, to the E-911 Board to replace Dana Phillips for a four-year term to expire 9/1/28

• Approved Commission's nominee, Kenneth Cornelius, to the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association for a two-year term to expire 9/30/26

• Approved the renewal of stop-loss insurance with Lloyd's of London and increasing Specific deductible to $150,000; renewal effective Oct. 1, 2024. Estimated annual premium is $685,318, a 1% increase in annual costs

• Approved the renewal of air ambulance service with AirMedCare which covers all active Cullman County employees eligible for employee benefits. Renewal effective Oct. 1, 2024. Estimated annual premium is $32,500 for FY 2025

• Ratified the purchase of a Ford F600 Super Duty Sanitation Truck from Sourcewell Bid for sanitation in the amount of $164,601

• Approved the surplus of the following items from the Road Department to be auctioned on Gov Deals or by any means necessary

  • 1991 International 4900
  • 2003 Ford F-150
  • 2007 Ford F-150
  • 1999 International 8100
  • 2008-2011 John Deere
  • 2006 Massey Ferguson Model MF5465 2019 Wacker Neuson ST31

• Approved the surplus of the following items from Cullman County Parks to be auctioned on Gov Deals or by any means necessary

  • One air-up slide
  • Two air-up bounce houses
  • 2006 Turf Golf Cart
  • 2008 Club Car Golf Cart
  • One Green Bridge-36 ft X7 ft
  • One Yellow Bridge-36 ft X 7 ft
  • One Yellow Bridge-36 ft X5 ft
  • 13 7-foot aluminum ladders
  • One Morse Drum Handler

• Approved proposed preliminary plat resubdivide of Broadway/Eva Subdivision. A minor subdivision containing two Lots in Commission District one. The subdivision is located on County Road 1435, a quarter mile north of the intersection of Highway 157 and County Road 1435

• Approved preliminary plat Catalina Crest Subdivision. A major subdivision containing 12 Lots in Commission District four. The subdivision is located on County Road 287, approximately 1.5 miles West of the intersection of County Road 437 and County Road 287

• Approved preliminary plat resubdivide of Green Acres Subdivision. A minor subdivision containing six lots in Commission District Two. The subdivision is located on County Road 1223 at the Morgan County Line

• Approved preliminary plat The Reserve Retirement Village Subdivision. A major subdivision containing 12 Lots in Commission District three. The subdivision is located on County Road 717, approximately 800 feet West of the entrance to Stonebridge Farms Event Venue

• Approved preliminary plat Chaney Branch Farms Subdivision. A major subdivision containing 18 Lots in Commission District 2. The subdivision is located on the corner of County Road 1191 and County Road 1196, a quarter mile East of Missionary Grove Church on County Road 119

• Approved to extend Bid #1443: Jail Supplies - jail supplies and chemicals to North Alabama Chemical. Central Paper for the laundry and kitchen chemicals and to Apeiro Solutions for the Fogging Machine Chemicals for one year

• Approved to Bid # 1444: Service of the Sheriff's Office and other various County Vehicles to Berco Inc; DBA Havoline Express Lube for one year

• Approved to award Bid # 1468: for Pest Control to Wayne's Pest Control

• Approved request from Attorney for Executive Session Under Section seven of Act No. 2005-40

The next commission work session will be Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 4 p.m. in the commission meeting room with the meeting beginning at 6.

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Obituary Announcements: Aug. 13-14

Rita Louise Blakely, 75 Rita Louise Blakely, age 75 of Cullman, Alabama passed away on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024. Rita is survived by her sisters Valerie Thomley and Edna Earl Boddie, brother Wade Alston; her stepdaughter Jennifer Lynn Darnell & Daughter Anna Elizabeth Blakely, stepson Robert Alton Franklin Blakely, son-in-law Daniel Derek Nelson, grandchildren Morgan Christlean Darnell, Savannah Lyn Woods, Avery Michael Darnell and Malaki Robert Blakely and great grandchildren Dyson Alexander Willette and Alara Veronica Willette. Rita was preceded in death by her parents Icy Mae Alston and Earl Alston and grandson Sean Alexander Darnell. A celebration of life for Rita will be held Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024, with a visitation from 10 a.m. until the service time at 11 a.m. at Addison Church of God, 31331 U.S. Highway 278, Addison, AL 35540. Rita will be laid to rest in Meek Cemetery, 6920 County Road 41, Arley, AL.

Garry Levon Rodgers, 70 Funeral Service for Gary Rodgers, age 70 of Falkville, will be at 10 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 16, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Buddy Perkins officiating; burial at New Ground Fellowship Ministry Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Rodgers passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2024, at Princeton Baptist Medical Center. He was born, May 27, 1954, to Verlie Rodgers and Mary Lee Campbell Brewer. He was preceded in death by his parents, stepfather, O.D. Brewer and sister, Quanita Calvert. Survivors include his wife, Regina Rodgers; daughter, Donna Skinner; son, Chris Brannan; granddaughter, Shawna (James Bell) Brock; grandsons, Jordin (Julia) Skinner, Tristin Skinner; great grandsons, Rhett Skinner and River Skinner; great granddaughter, Aurora Bell; nieces, Cherri Rodgers (Delton) Gregory and Natasha (Eric) Rylant; brother, Othel Brewer.

Euldean Cagle Allen, 93 Euldean Allen, age 93, passed away peacefully at her residence surrounded by loved ones on Monday, Aug. 12, 2024, and entered into her heavenly home to be with the Lord. She was born on June 20, 1931, to her parents, Henry Arva Cagle and Eunice Cagle in Brilliant, Alabama. She was a loving and devoted housewife, mother, grandmother and friend. She will be greatly missed by everyone who knew and loved her. She was a kind-hearted woman of great faith, which was evident in the Christian beliefs and values she lived by and shared with others in her daily life. She was a long-time faithful member of First Freewill Baptist Church of Cullman. She enjoyed cooking and sewing for her family and spending time with them. She also liked to work outdoors in her flower beds and garden. In her leisure time she enjoyed listening to Christian music, reading her Bible, doing word search and jigsaw puzzles and walking in the park with her daughter. She is preceded in death by; her parents; husband; Toy R. Allen, brothers; Orville Cagle, Kermit Cagle, R.H. Cagle, sisters; Ivadell Taylor, Olivia Taylor, Vera Carrao, daughter-in-law; Laura Jean Allen. She is survived by; daughter; Brenda (Billy) Burgess; sons; Lee Allen, Sr., James Herman (Marlene) Allen, Jimmy C. Allen, grandchildren; Ginger Culver, Sabrina Pugh, Stephanie Allen, Lee Allen, Jr., Sherman (Connie) Allen, James Christopher Allen, Jason Allen, Joshua (Ginny) Allen, Micheal (Jessica) Burgess; 17 great grandchildren, 11 great-great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, other family members and friends. A special thank you to Gentiva Hospice for their compassionate and loving care they provided during her long illness. Also, a special thank you to Maci Howell and Britney Roberts for their wonderful care, friendship, and support, as well as Jason Allen for his help during this difficult time. Visitation will be at Moss Service Funeral Home on Thursday, August 15, 2024, from 5-8 p.m. Funeral services will be Friday, Aug. 16 at 11 a.m. in the Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow at Jones Chapel Cemetery. Rev. Shannon Black and Rev. Brandon Stripling Officiating. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Bill Ballew, 49 Funeral Service for Bill Ballew, age 49 of Cullman, will be at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 16, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Bro. David Chambers officiating; burial at Antioch Baptist Cemetery- Fairview. Visitation will be from 1-3 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 16, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Ballew passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2024, at his residence. He was born Feb. 15, 1975, to Herbert Ballew and Judy Ballew. He was preceded in death by Father, Herbert Ballew and wife, Krysta Ballew Survivors include his daughter, Adeline Ballew; mother, Judy Ballew; a host of aunt, uncles, cousins, family and friends and his family of Brindlee Mountain High School.

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