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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OBITUARIES

Jung Hee Suh, Ellis Dean Hopkins, Robert Albert Jochum, Joanna Hodge Freeman, Willie Ruth Bishop, Barbara Ann Steele, Bobby Gene Arrington, Susan Catherine Cantrell, Sharon K. Pigg

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WEATHER

82 52

SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV

SUNNY



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Cold Springs Eagles, Lady Eagles win 21st, 19th consecutive county championships; Fairview's England, Cold Springs' Whitlow claim individual titles

» PAGE 4

7 93888 98541 4

Karolewics chosen for the Aspen Institute's Presidents Fellowship

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program (Aspen) on Tuesday, Oct. 22, announced that Dr. Vicki Karolewics, president of Wallace State Community College is one of 25 innovative leaders selected from across the country to participate in the second cohort of the Aspen Presidents Fellowship, sponsored by JPMorgan Chase. The fellows will engage in a unique year-long professional development experience that will help them refine and enact a reform agenda to help more of their students succeed both during and after college.

"Community colleges educate millions of diverse students every year who are relying on them » PAGE 2

Wallace State Community College President Dr. Vicki Karolewics is one of 25 innovative leaders selected from across the country to participate in the second cohort of the Aspen Presidents Fellowship, sponsored by JPMorgan Chase. »



WALLACE STATE

6 inducted into Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame



GAUGE DAY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame inducted six veterans in the class of 2024 their lifetime of service to both their country and their community. Back row from the left: Richard (Rick) L. Leigeber (U.S. Army), Van T. Hutchins Jr. (U.S. Army) and Clarence E. Benefield (U.S. Air Force). Front row from the left: Robin, daughter of LTC (ret.) Julian R. Campbell (U.S. Air Force); Jan Sutton, daughter of James T. Watts Jr. (U.S. Army); and Staff Sergeant (ret.) Hollis W. Baggett (U.S. Army).

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A night of honor and legacy brought together six distinguished veterans to be recognized for their lifetime of bravery, courage and selfless service. The Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame highlighted these six veterans, whose service stretches as far back to World War II, honoring them not only for their military contributions, but also for their continued dedication to the community after their time in uniform.

"The Mission of the Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame (CVHOF) is to recognize and pay tribute to our Veterans who honorably served our country, displayed great character, and continued a lifetime of service to our county, our state, and its citizens," the ceremony program read. "The Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame is not just a military hall of fame; but also seeks to recognize Veterans for their contributions to our community after their service."

The ceremony began with an invocation from VFW Chaplain Gary Rodgers, followed by the posting of the colors by the Cullman JROTC Color Guard, led by Cadet First Lieutenant Zoey Hembree. Renee Crowe then delivered a powerful rendition of the national anthem.

Local leaders and officials were acknowledged for their ongoing support of the veteran community before the induction ceremony commenced.

Colonel Don Fallin shepherded the ceremony with the honor to read the biographies of each veteran being inducted, highlighting not only their military service, but also their lifelong dedication to serving the community. As he recounted their accomplishments and stories, there were moments when his voice wavered with emotion, a reflection of the deep respect and admiration felt throughout the room for these extraordinary men.

Each inductee into the Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame was honored with a medallion, a distinctive name tag and a personal- » PAGE 5

Cullman County residents to vote on new medical cannabis tax; town hall meeting coming up

» PAGE 6

Cullman City Council approves demolition of dilapidated residence

First known city demolition without owner's consent » PAGE 2

Cullman City School Board sets new president, vice-president



LISA JONES PHOTOGRAPHY

Left to right are Cheryl Harrison, Jill Bradberry and Amy Carter.

» PAGE 3

'We want you to know how much you're loved': Cullman County Schools hosts 2nd annual Student Expo



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Motivational speaker Tony Hoffman speaks to ninth-, 10th- and 11th-grade Cullman County students at Temple Baptist Church Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024.

» PAGE 7

PET OF THE WEEK

Just a lil Peanut



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Peanut

» PAGE 7

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Oct. 23

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Oct. 23, 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

Oct. 17

- forgery-3rd degree; Merchants Bank; forged check; Hwy. 157

Oct. 21

- leaving the scene of an accident; person; damage to '18 Ford; $100; Cherokee Ave. SW
- harassment; person

ARRESTS

Oct. 21

Scott, Kenneth R.; 52

- FTA – driving while suspended
- FTA – insurance violation
- FTA – fail to register vehicle

Trollinger, Jasary R.; 38

- theft of property-4th degree

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Council (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City Council at its Monday meeting approved a resolution to declare a residence at 1509 Bower Drive SE as "unsafe, uninhabitable and a threat to public safety." Referring to the house also as a "public nuisance," the council voted to demolish the structure in the near future, following a 10-day period in which the property owner can appeal the decision.

According to officials, this is the first known instance of the City acting to demolish a structure without the consent of the owner. One previous instance of City demolition of a property was done by agreement with the owner.

City Chief Building Official Brandon Lewis told the council, "The home has been left abandoned and unsecured for years. The property shows signs of use by unauthorized persons, vandalism, graffiti to the interior of the structure.

"And because it's been left without maintenance, the roof and floor structure has started to fail in multiple locations. My department has tried on multiple occasions to contact and work with the owner towards a solution. Unfortunately, we've received no cooperation, so, based on the current condition of the property and the fact that it is unsafe, I would recommend that the City move forward to remedy these issues."

Other council business

The council held a public hearing for an ordinance to rezone property located at 916 Parker Ave. SW from R-3 to R-2 residential district, with no one speaking for or against the measure.

The council approved multiple seasonal special event requests:

- From Adam Clark for the annual Police Department Trunk or Treat and Movie at the Park on Oct. 29, 2024, at the Police Department and Skate Depot
- From Greg Speegle of Cullman Moose Lodge for the Annual Turkey Shoots every Saturday morning in November and December
- From Zachary Ivey of 1729 Churchill Lane SE for a tailgate party with live music at his residence on Nov. 9, 2024, from 1-6:30 p.m.
- From Jonathan Creekmore of The Link of Cullman County for a community trunk or treat at 708 Ninth St. SE on Oct. 25, 2024
- From Tanya Carter for the Cullman Warehouse District to host the Warehouse District Christmas Open House on First Avenue Northeast on Nov. 9, 2024, from 9-6 p.m.

The council approved a resolution to award the bid for the construction of the Fourth Avenue Southwest downtown streetscape improvement TAP grant project to Bulls Construction Group, LLC, the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of $1,086,846.

The council removed two proposed resolutions from the agenda at the beginning of the meeting:

- Approving a tax abatement for PGI Holdings LLC for a new industrial project with a capital investment of $1.05 million
- Approving a tax abatement for "Project Vance" for a major addition to an existing facility with a capital investment of $43 million

The council held first readings of four proposed ordinances:

- To annex Pioneer Land Acquisitions, LLC property located on U.S. Highway 31 and County Road 715 as a B-2 business district
- To adopt an electronic records management policy for the City of Cullman
- To vacate and surplus a portion of Lot 1 Block 5 Ratliff Hancock Subdivision Bauers Addition, which is owned by the City
- To confirm and ratify the levy of taxes for educational purposes in the city of Cullman.

The Cullman City Council meets next on Monday, Oct. 28, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the Cullman City Hall auditorium. The public is invited to attend.

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Karolewics (from Front)

to deliver the education and credentials they need for a fulfilling life and career," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the College Excellence Program.

"I am delighted that these 25 accomplished presidents have committed to strengthening their institutions' strategies to ensure that more students achieve those aims."

Through the year-long program, fellows will work with highly accomplished community college presidents, Aspen leaders and each other to analyze their college's outcomes and develop concrete plans inspired by field-leading practices.

They will engage in a curriculum that will include exemplars from the field, data reports on available good jobs and student outcomes in completion and transfer and qualitative reports about how well their current practices are aligned to what research reveals has led other colleges to high and equitable levels of student success.

This second cohort of Aspen Presidents Fellows reflects our country's diverse talent: 52% are women and 44% are people of color.

They join a network of 375 fellowship alumni, 176 of whom are community college presidents today.

Aspen connects and supports this growing network of community college reform leaders with opportunities for targeted professional development, research briefings and convenings at national conferences.

"It is quite an honor to have been selected to join this innovative group of leaders who are serious about strengthening the post-completion success of our graduates throughout our nation," Dr. Karolewics said.

"As a 2024 Aspen Finalist, Wallace State continually strives to make life better for all of our students."

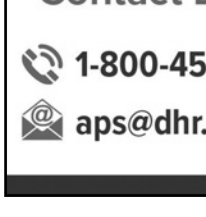
The Presidents Fellowship is made possible with philanthropic support from JPMorgan Chase through the firm's New Skills at Work initiative, which aims to prepare young people for the future of work and meet the growing demand for skilled workers, and JPMorgan Chase's $30 billion commitment to advancing racial equity and driving an inclusive economy.

For bios and photos of the Aspen Presidents Fellows, visit https://highered.aspeninstitute.org/2024-2025.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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.

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
• 1650 St. Joseph Dr. NW, Cullman
• Friday, Oct. 25 - Celebrate Recovery. Fellowship and testimonies. Hurts, habits and hang-ups 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.
• Sunday, Oct. 27 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area. Call Betty Hays at 256-930-9680 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.

Church Events: At the Foot of the Cross Church
• 2 miles north of Alabama Highway 157 on Eva Road, on the left
• Saturday, Oct. 26, at 5 p.m. Fall Festival
• Saturday, Nov. 2, at noon Pray Walk for Jesus in Eva, with singing, meet at Eva. All churches invited.
• Sunday, Nov. 10, at 11 a.m. Christmas Concert with One Accord
• Saturday, Nov. 16, at 6 p.m. Singing with Joyful Hearts

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.

St. Bernard Preparatory School Open House
Friday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This event provides an excellent opportunity to discover the academic, social and athletic programs offered at Alabama's only Catholic boarding school. Visitors will have the chance to meet current students, who will serve as ambassadors and tour guides, sharing their personal experiences and offering insight into life at St. Bernard, both as a day school and boarding school. Complimentary snacks and refreshments will be available throughout the event. St. Bernard Prep is a co-educational boarding and day school serving grades seven through 12. Free registration and attendance: stbernardprep.com/open-house.

Mt. Zion Church Food Bazaar
Friday, Nov. 1, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Mt. Zion Church, located on U.S. Highway 31 North next to CATA in Vinemont. Baked goods for sale and lunch will be served from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Carry out available. Proceeds will benefit the Mt. Zion UMW (women's group).

Chambers Family Reunion
Sunday, Nov. 3, at the Berlin Community Center (U.S. Highway 278 East), beginning at 11 a.m., with dinner at noon. Bring several of your favorite food dishes, family pictures, stories and other items that relate to the family past and present. Family friends are also invited. Contact Rodger Walling for furth information at 256-734-8235.

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Board (from Front)

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman City School Board has selected a new president and vice-president for 2024-2025, in a standard action wherein all school systems are required to reconstitute their board leadership annually.

Board member Amy Carter has been nominated to serve as president and Jill Bradberry as vice-president. Cheryl Harrison previously served as board president for two consecutive years.

"I want to thank Mrs. Harrison for her consistent, strong leadership for the past two years," Carter said upon taking her new role as board president. "She represented us well as we reached several milestones."

Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff said he looks forward to continuing to work with Carter, as well as the entire board, as the district moves ahead with continued construction projects and high-level achievements in academics.

"Mrs. Carter will be a great board president," Kallhoff said. "With our tremendous momentum with our safety and growth plan and continuous academic achievements, this is a great time to be a part of Cullman City Schools and certainly a great time to be the president of the Board of Education."

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PREP VOLLEYBALL

Cold Springs Eagles, Lady Eagles win 21st, 19th consecutive county championships; Fairview's England, Cold Springs' Whitlow claim individual titles

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. — This year's Cullman County Cross Country Championships were hosted at Cold Springs High School's Kudzu Hills Tuesday and the hometown Eagles raced past the rest of the field to claim county titles. The Eagles finished 12 points ahead of Fairview to win their 21st consecutive county championship and the Lady Eagles put together a dominant performance, finishing 54 points ahead of the Lady Aggies to earn their 19th straight county title. Individually, Fairview's Alex England placed first in the varsity boys' race with a time of 16:13.47 and in the varsity girls' race, Cold Springs Paizley Whitlow finished first with a time of 20:21.20.

In the JV division, the Good Hope Raiders and Fairview Lady Aggies collected team championships and individually, Good Hope's Logan Collier (13:46.32) and Hanceville's Mikahela Johnson (16:49.34) placed first in the boys' and girls' races, respectively.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Cold Springs Boys
- 3rd - Sage Nelson: 17:00.07
- 6th - Drew Dykes: 17:09.36
- 7th - Logan Perdue: 17:50.94
- 13th - Blaize Anderson: 19:00.78
- 16th - James Baggett: 19:32.70
- 17th - Blake Belcher: 19:36.52
- 22nd - Harlis Eddy: 20:21.73
- 29th - Samuel Hunt: 22:12.17

Cold Springs Girls
- 1st - Paizley Whitlow: 20:21.20
- 2nd - Macie Huffstutler: 20:28.95
- 3rd - Reese Swidecki: 21:09.54
- 4th - Claire Huffstutler: 21:10.02
- 6th - Ally Mavers: 22:42.31
- 7th - Daisy Mavers: 22:42.54
- 9th - Hayla Watson: 22:57.58
- 10th - Kynzlie Myrex: 23:24.69
- 15th - Leslie Jones: 25:15.18
- 16th - Ryleigh Wright: 25:42.17
- 21st - Alana Smith: 27:01.25
- 34th - Conellie Philbeck: 32:55.07

Fairview Boys
- 1st - Alex England: 16:13.47
- 11th - Parker Guiterrez: 18:36.28
- 12th - Carlos Medina: 18:52.52
- 18th - Jackson Haynes: 19:54.55
- 19th - Danny Martin: 20:08.47
- 24th - Konnor Dunkin: 21:22.70
- 27th - Steven Heredia: 21:43.54
- 28th - Colin Nelson: 21:45.95
- 30th - Tucker Kimbrough: 22:18.76

Fairview Girls
- 13th - Xana Wester: 24:05.77
- 14th - Zoey Wester: 24:08.52
- 17th - Molly Lindsey: 26:14.89
- 18th - Lola Haynes: 26:31.15
- 19th - Shelby Mitton: 26:32.59
- 24th - Emma Buckelew: 28:52.26
- 25th - Yadday Medina: 28:59.83
- 29th - Dakota Byer: 31:11.70
- 30th - Daniela Castaneda: 31:17.33

West Point Boys
- 2nd - Rene Moreno-Tovar: 16:52.92
- 10th - Thomas Ferster: 18:08.06
- 14th - Jesus Tovar: 19:02.84
- 15th - Jakob Salter: 19:21.09
- 21st - Teagan Heaton: 20:19.61
- 26th - Wyatt Lindsey: 21:37.47
- 33rd - Zeth McCain: 24:11.57
- 34th - Miles Fairchild: 24:53.54
- 35th - Carson Jones: 26:13.30

West Point Girls
- 8th - Dorothy Salter: 22:51.83
- 20th - Lilly Patterson: 26:39.56
- 22nd - Maggie Warren: 27:54.12
- 26th - MJ Kaser: 29:48.93
- 27th - Hollie Salter: 29:59.04

Holly Pond Boys
- 8th - Joshua Putman: 17:54.58
- 9th - Matthew Putman: 17:59.01
- 32nd - Bryson Mullins: 24:00.44
- 36th - Carter Brewis: 30:58.11

Holly Pond Girls
- 5th - Mila Edmondson: 22:05.92
- 11th - Bella Gambrill: 23:33.01
- 12th - Kynleigh Wood: 23:46.91
- 28th - Jayden Persall: 30:31.73
- 32nd - Peyton Reed: 31:58.18
- 35th - Joplin Grimes: 36:01.77

Good Hope Boys
- 5th – Drake Nichols: 17:08.49
- 31st – Oliver Horvath: 23:48.24

Good Hope Girls
- 23rd - Aubrey Scott: 28:46.21
- 31st - Brylee Benefield: 31:44.19

33rd - Evelyn Quinn: 32:30.56

Vinemont Boys
- 4th - Brady Johnson: 17:03.28
- 20th - Anakin Powell: 20:09.66
- 23rd - Clark Johnson: 20:48.81
- 25th - Andrew Landreth: 21:28.26
- 37th - Nolan Dyer: 38:54.69

Good Hope JV Boys
- 1st - Logan Collier: 13:46.32
- 2nd - Roger Miller: 14:20.85
- 4th - Lee Dickerson: 15:18.61
- 8th - Jeremy Higgins: 18:24.41

Good Hope JV Girls
- 2nd - Sara Self: 17:00.99
- 3rd - Veronica Horvath: 17:27.98
- 13th - Maya Caudle: 22:00.15
- 14th - Isabella Charland: 23:13.75

Fairview JV Girls
- 7th - AnnaBelle Smith: 18:50.96
- 10th - Naveah Horton: 19:51.32
- 11th - Violeta Castaneda: 19:53.65
- 12th - Paisley Hopper: 21:06.27
- 15th - DiAnna Peralta: 24:23.78

Hanceville JV Boys
- 5th - Ely Stinson: 16:27.41
- 9th - Zeke Barnett: 20:20.63

Hanceville JV Girls
- 1st - Mikahela Johnson: 16:49.34
- 6th - Crimson Watts: 18:44.73

Harmony JV Boys
- 6th - Kollin Knighten: 17:02.60
- 7th - Collin Clark: 18:06.84
- 10th - John Lombardi: 23:48.08
- 11th - James Lombardi: 32:54.86

Harmony JV Girls
- 4th - Harleigh Long: 18:23.38
- 5th - Judy Salter: 18:33.57
- 8th - Alison Boatright: 19:00.90



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cold Springs Lady Eagles captured their 19th consecutive county championship at Kudzu Hills Tuesday.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cold Springs Eagles captured their 21st consecutive county championship at Kudzu Hills Tuesday.

West Point JV Boys
- 3rd – Griffin Jones: 15:00.53

West Point JV Girls
- 9th – Lyric Antone: 19:29.64









Cullman Intermediate School, CHS Career Tech/STEM wing projects moving forward

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Some long-awaited Cullman City Schools projects took a major step forward this week, with the Cullman City School Board awarding bids for two major projects set to expand and reshape our community for years to come.

Bids have been accepted and awarded for the new Cullman Intermediate School (CIS) that will be opened at an expanded West Elementary School (WES) campus, as well as a new Career Technical Education/ Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) wing at Cullman High School — clearing the way for construction to break ground on both projects in early 2025.

Cullman-based Edison Construction won the approximately $10 million bid for the Career Tech/STEM wing at CHS; while Birmingham-based Wyatt Builds was the winning bidder for the approximately $24 million CIS project. Both companies are well established and have a great working relationship with board architect Lathan and Associates.

"With the approval of the 2023 community-driven Strategic Plan/Pillars of Commitments, our board placed STEM education as a priority, as well as creating a comprehensive Cullman Intermediate School to serve all of Cullman's students in grades 3-5," Superintendent Kyle Kallhoff said.

Cullman Intermediate School

The CIS project will be a multiyear undertaking spaced into multiple phases. The project will include a new, two-story wing with classrooms and administrative space; a new gym and storm shelter; the conversion of the old gym into a new STEM space; and renovation work for all existing WES buildings. Once the project is finished, grades 3-5 that had previously been split across East Elementary School and West Elementary School will all be combined at CIS.

CHS Career Tech/STEM wing

The new Career Tech/STEM wing at Cullman High School is slated to take approximately 18 months to complete, and will see the addition of a new two-story wing located behind the current agriculture class/shop on Fourth Street.

The new facility will provide cutting-edge space for STEM programs, cybersecurity, health science, educators and training, computer science and marketing classrooms. The project will also include 3,900 square feet of dedicated space (on the lower level) for modern manufacturing, as well as 150 additional parking spaces for students and staff.

"It is exciting to work with a board and community that is hyper focused on growth and creating opportunities for our students to be successful while we have them and long after they graduate," Kallhoff added. "Our students and community deserve safe and modern facilities; this is one reason why families want to reside in Cullman, Alabama."

Hall of Fame (from Front)

ized plaque featuring a short bio and a picture of their choosing. The plaques will be displayed in the Cullman County Courthouse for one year before being returned to the inductees at the 2025 ceremony. A perpetual plaque, listing the names of all inductees, will remain permanently on display at the courthouse.

Additionally, commemorative brick pavers, which will be placed at Veterans Park at Sportsman Lake, were provided to the inductees as part of creating a lasting legacy for the county's heroes.

Each inductee, along with his biography featured in the program, is listed below, accompanied by a photo he or his family chose. Two of the six honorees were recognized posthumously, with family members accepting the awards on their behalf.

Lieutenant Colonel (ret.) Julian R. Campbell – United States Airforce

Army Air Corps and United States Air Force from 1941 to 1969

- B26 Pilot (his plane was named Campbell's Caravan)
- 40 Combat Missions in World War II against Nazi Germany over Sicily and Italy
- Pacific Theater supporting the 11th Airborne Division
- Flew Transport and Medical Evacuation Missions during the Korean War from 1950 - 1954
- Flew the C-47 in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967
- Authored "Memories That Must Not Vanish" which resides in the Alabama Department of Archives

Awards include:

- Bronze Star Medal
- Five Air Medals
- World War II Victory Medal
- the Vietnam Service Medal with two Battle Stars
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Community service roles:

- Deacon at Seventh Street Baptist Church
- Lifetime Member of Cullman Chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Grand Marshall of the 2022 Veterans Day Celebration
- Active Member of the Cullman County Republican Party

LTC Julian Campbell's daughter, Robin, accepted the award on his behalf.

James T. Watts Jr. - United States Army

U.S. Army from 25 August 1944 to 11 April 1946

- Infantry Rifleman in World War II
- Rhineland and Central Europe with G Company, 318th Infantry Regiment, 80th Division
- Wounded in Action Three Times in 21 Days
- Participated in the Ebensee Concentration Camp Liberation in Austria
- "Suicide Watch" Guard Duty at the Palace of Justice, Nuremburg Germany

Awards include:

- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Three Purple Hearts
- European African Middle Eastern Service Medal with Two Bronze Stars
- World War II Victory Medal
- Army of Occupation Medal
- Good Conduct Medal

Community service roles:

- Disabled American Veterans
- Holly Pond Lions Club
- Deacon at New Hope #2 Missionary Baptist Church
- Board Member Cullman Electric Cooperative

Junior Watts' daughter, Jan Sutton, would accept the award on his behalf.

Clarence E. Benefield – United States Air Force

United States Air Force 1965 to 1971

- CH-3E Helicopter Flight Engineer and Door Gunner, 21St Special Operations Squadron, 56th Air Commando Wing
- Nakhon, Thailand 1967 to 1968
- 78 Combat Missions Operating in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos

Awards include:

- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Two Oak Leaf Clusters
- Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster
- Air Force Good Conduct Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal with Silver Star
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device
- Also Recognized with the "Winged S" for his Role in Rescuing Two Downed Pilots

Community service roles:

- Life Member and Chaplain of the Disabled American Veterans
- Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars
- American Legion
- Life Member of the Vietnam Veterans of America
- Cullman Veterans Park Board
- Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame Committee
- County Republican Executive Committee

Staff Sergeant (ret.) Hollis W. Baggett – United States Army

U.S. Army from 1965 to 1988

- Combat Medic Republic of Vietnam; April 1966 to March 1967 with Company A, 4th Battalion, 23rd Mechanized Infantry, 25th Infantry Division (Tropic Lightning)
- 91C Clinical Specialist
- Recognized for Exceptional Performance while assigned as the NCOIC of the ICU at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York

Awards include:

- Combat Medical Badge
- Bronze Star Medal
- Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster
- "V" Device for Valor
- Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm
- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars
- Army Good Conduct Medal (6th award)
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

Community service roles:

- Disabled American Veterans Chapter 101 in Cullman (Senior Vice) and Chapter 28, Oneonta (Chapter Service Officer)
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Active Participant in all County Veterans Events

Van T. Hutchins Jr. - United States Army

US Army - Engineer with the 544th Engineer Company, 36th Engineer Battalion, 20th Engineer Brigade, US Army Pacific

- Vietnam 1967- 1968

Awards include:

- Army Commendation Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Good Conduct Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal

Community service roles:

- Disabled American Veterans Chapter 101 (Life Member)
- VFW Post 2214 (Life Member) Sergeant of Arms
- Director of Flags and Member of the Burial Honor Guard
- American Legion Post 4
- Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 416 (Life Member)
- Chairman of the Alabama Veterans Vietnam Wall
- Wreaths Across America for Cullman Country
- Cullman County Rescue Squad
- Charter Member of the Crane Hill Fire Department
- Charter member of Smith Lake Baptist Church

"He is most proud of the fact that he is a Christian and knows that God is in charge of his life."

Richard (Rick) L. Leigeber – United States Army

U.S. Army from 1967 to 1969

- Served with Company A, 4th Battalion, 23rd Mechanized Infantry Brigade in the 25th Infantry Division (Tropic Lightning)
- 11B (Light Weapons Infantryman)
- Vietnam 1968-1969, Cu Chi Valley – Tet Offensive

Awards include:

- Combat Infantryman Badge
- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device
- Vietnam Service Medal
- 1st Class Gunner (M60 - Machine Gun)
- Sharpshooter (M16 Rifle)

Community Service roles:

- Life member of VFW and the American Legion
- Member of the American Flag Detail for Highway 31
- Led the effort for the "White Crosses Memorial" for Cullman Honoring our Fallen Heroes
- Led Fundraising Efforts Though his love for Fishing
- Supported the Veteran Memorial Burial Team with the "Slow Salute" for our Fallen Heroes

The Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame is organized and supported by the local chapters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (Post 2214), the American Legion (Post 4) and the Disabled American Veterans (Post 101).

This initiative is carried out in partnership with the Cullman County Commission and the municipalities throughout Cullman County.

For more information on the Cullman Veterans Hall of Fame, contact Donald Fallin at 910-308-4197 or donald.fallin@gmail.com.





Tax (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County residents will vote Nov. 5 on a local amendment to the Alabama Constitution that would add 15% to the tax currently charged on medical cannabis products sold in the county. The current tax rate is 9% on retail sales and 9% on medical cannabis businesses.

"Medical cannabis product" is defined in the original 2023 bill as "any product lawfully sold in the county in a dispensary licensed by the Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission."

Those voting yes on the amendment are choosing to vote for the tax, while those voting no would be voting against the tax.

As proposed, the Cullman County District Attorney's Office would get two-thirds of the proceeds to use for personnel. The remaining one-third would be used at the discretion of the legislative delegation for mental health issues.

A bill (2023 House Bill 469) allowing the vote was sponsored by Rep. Corey Harbison, R-Good Hope; Rep. Tim Wadsworth, R-Arley; and Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview.

Asked about the estimated amount of money this measure could generate and how the money would be used, Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker told The Tribune, "The legalization of medical cannabis in Alabama is new, and the amount of revenue this ballot measure will bring is unknown.

"District attorneys do not have traditional budgets like a sheriff's office or a town. DA's offices are funded on a deficit – meaning that I never see a dime of my general fund budget ($463,000 last year). We make up the deficit through court costs and other fees from the courts. This is true for every DA's office in the state of Alabama.

"By law, the money from this ballot measure would only be used to pay for personnel. Nothing else. We need more prosecutors because we have the same number of prosecutors we had 20 years ago – but a lot more cases to process. We've resolved nine murders since taking office last year, one of which was from 2017. By hiring more assistant district attorneys, we will be able to adjudicate cases faster, which is positive for victims, law enforcement and the accused."

Bill sponsor Harbison told The Tribune, "I have always said I'm for allowing the citizens to have as much of a say as possible in the process, so I supported allowing a countywide vote to make the decision.

"I believe allowing the citizens to vote is as close as it gets to putting the issue in their hands.

"I can see that there's more funding needed for mental health and I also see that a lot of the ways the DA's office has been funded over the years have changed and reduced. Take the bad check fees. They have all but dried up.

"I have also heard from people who have said they would be OK with a tax on it if it's ever allowed for recreational use, but do not support a tax since this is medical. I can understand that as well.

"I would just encourage the citizens to take everything into consideration and look at how the funds are going to be used and vote however they feel they need to."

Chris Van Dyke, COO of WellStone, Inc., said of the potential funding,

"No one has any estimates of what it will generate. WellStone is not guaranteed anything because it is at the discretion of the delegation. No one has made any plans, but there are needs to be met, such as more residential care for people with mental illness."

Van Dyke said that no one from the legislative delegation has spoken to him yet about the funding or possible uses, though he had talked with Crocker.

Bill co-sponsor Shedd said simply, "It's up to the voters to decide."

For more information

Wallace State Community College will host a town hall meeting at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 29, in the auditorium of the James C. Bailey Center for public discussion on Local Amendment 1. The event will be led by Cullman County District Attorney Champ Crocker, WellStone COO Chris Van Dyke and Cullman County Sheriff's Office Victim Services Capt. Ed Potter.

Text of the proposed amendment

(a) Effective on the first day of the second month after the ratification of this amendment, there is levied, in addition to all other taxes of every kind now imposed by law, an additional tax on the sales of all medical cannabis products sold at retail in Cullman County at the rate of 15 percent of the gross proceeds of the sales.

(b) All provisions of the state sales and use tax statutes with respect to the payment, assessment, and collection of the state sales and use tax, making of reports, keeping and preserving records, penalties for failure to pay the tax, adopting rules with respect to the state sales and use tax, and the administration and enforcement of the state sales and use tax statutes which are not inconsistent with this amendment shall apply to the tax levied herein. All provisions of the state sales and use tax statutes that are made applicable by this amendment to the tax levied under this amendment, and to the administration and enforcement of this amendment, are incorporated by reference and made a part of this section as if fully set forth herein.

(c) The tax shall be collected, as the Cullman County Commission from time to time may determine, either by the commission or by any person, whether public or private, with which the commission may contract to collect the tax levied herein.

(d) All amounts collected by the commission from the tax shall be remitted by the county treasurer as follows:

1. Sixty-seven percent to the District Attorney of the Thirty-second Judicial Circuit for personnel purposes.

2. Thirty-three percent to the Cullman County Legislative Delegation to be used at their discretion on mental health issues.

(e) For purposes of this section, "medical cannabis product" means any product lawfully sold in the county in a dispensary licensed by the Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission.

LEGALS

Notice of Sale

Nunnelley's Storage, Highway 67 South, Somerville, Alabama 35670 will sell contents of the following units at 10:00 a.m., on November 1, 2024:

Unit #69 Timothy Kilgore, 1520 Summerlane SE, Decatur, AL 35601

Unit #103 Lucas Robertson, 125 Maplebrook Dr Somerville, Al 35670.

Unit #143 Filica Randolph, 52 Arlo Dr. Somerville, AL 35670

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

VANDY HOLAWAY, PLAINTIFF, * vs. * DV-2024-900265 * DAWN PERRY, DEFENDANT(S) *

NOTICE OF FILING LAWSUIT

The above listed Defendant, Dawn Perry, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer Plaintiff's complaint for property and rent ($6300) by the 20th day of November 2024, or thereafter a judgment by default may be rendered against the Defendant in case No. DV-2024-900265, District Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

Done this 8th day of October, 2024.

Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk of Cullman County

Attorney for Plaintiff
Melvin Hasting
P.O. Box 517
Cullman, AL 35056

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 Matthew R Friedrich , And Kaitlyn Tasha Friedrich Husband And Wife to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Traditions Bank, its successors and assigns dated January 24, 2022; said mortgage being recorded on January 27, 2022, in Book 1999, Page 600 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Renasant Bank by assignment recorded in Deed Book 390, Page 946 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, ALABAMA.

The undersigned, Renasant Bank, 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 14th day of November, 2024 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

Lot 9 Lake Alaqua Subdivision as recorded in Map Record B-357A in the Office of the Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

Said property is commonly known as 167 County Road 479, Hanceville, AL 35077.

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.

RENASANT BANK
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. 24-06366AL
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Cullman Tribune
10/17/2024,10/24/2024,10/31/2024

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF EDWARD LEE LACKEY, Deceased. CASE NO.: PC 2024-143

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to JAY LACKEY as Personal Representative of the Estate of EDWARD LEE LACKEY, deceased, on the 15th day of October, 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.

Jay Lackey
Personal Representative

Melvin Hasting
PO Box 517
Cullman, Alabama 35056

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, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JOHN L. BISHOP, Deceased. * CASE NO PC 2022-274

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

TO: **JOHN BISHOP, JEREMY BISHOP, JASON BISHOP AND ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN NEXT-OF-KIN OR INTERESTED PARTIES**

Petition for Final Settlement filed by Doris J. Bishop, Petitioner, by and through Attorney, T. Deven Moore, has been scheduled for the **17th day of December, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

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

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

Done this the 23rd day of October, 2024.

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice three (3) successive weeks is said newspaper

T. Deven Moore
Attorney for Petitioner
PO Box 906
Montrose, Alabama 36559

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JAMES MICHAEL ISRAEL, Deceased. * CASE NO.: PC2024-290

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to Martha Jean Israel on the 23rd day of October, 2024, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the 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.

MARTHA JEAN ISRAEL
Administrator

Dan J. Willingham
FULLER, WILLINGHAM & CARTER, LLC
Attorney for Administrator
413 1st Avenue SW
Post Office Box 1213
Cullman, Alabama 35055-1213

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, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Probate Ct. Cullman Co. AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2017- 357

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BOBBY GERALD PHILLIPS, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to D. Todd McLeroy on the 8th day of October, 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.

D. Todd McLeroy
Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune:*

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

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 WILLIAM LEE BALLEW, Deceased. CASE NO.: PC 2024-349

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to ADELINE BALLEW as Personal Representative of the Estate of WILLIAM LEE BALLEW deceased, on the 21st day of October, 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.

Adeline Ballew
Personal Representative

Pamela E. Nail
Law Firm of Nail & Sparks, LLC
200 Second Avenue, Southwest
Cullman, Alabama 35055

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, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: ESTATE OF MARY RUTH GREER, Deceased. CASE NO: PC 2024-352

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to JANICE GREER LAMBERT, as Executor of the Estate of MARY RUTH GREER, Deceased, on the 11th day of October, 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.

JANICE GREER LAMBERT,
Personal Representative for the Estate of
Mary Ruth Greer, Deceased

Richard L. Collins
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 669
Cullman, Alabama 35056
256-739-1962

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, Cullman, Alabama.

TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: ESTATE OF EDDIE PAUL GREER, Deceased. CASE NO: PC 2024-353

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to JANICE GREER LAMBERT, as Executor of the Estate of EDDIE PAUL GREER, Deceased, on the 11th day of October, 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.

JANICE GREER LAMBERT,
Personal Representative for the Estate of
Eddie Paul Greer, Deceased

Richard L. Collins
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 669
Cullman, Alabama 35056
256-739-1962

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, Cullman, Alabama.

TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Peanut (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Meet The Cullman Tribune Pet of the Week, Peanut, a terrier mix who is approximately 8 months old.

The lil guy exhibits medium energy but would very much like to spend a lot of time on your lap!

Everything is a wonder and a new adventure to him. His bright, inquisitive eyes are a window into his heart that is seeking a forever home.

Peanut is the perfect candidate for a companion/hiking/therapy dog.

Visit the shelter at 935 Convent Road NE. It's open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

If he's already been adopted, don't fret!

Many of his friends are waiting for homes.

His adoption fee includes neuter, 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.

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Expo (from Front)

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Cullman County Schools hosted its second annual Student Expo at Temple Baptist Church Wednesday and all of the school system's ninth-, 10th- and 11th-grade students were there to participate. After hosting the Hilinski's Hope Foundation at the inaugural event last year, motivational speaker Tony Hoffman was invited to share his story with the students this year.

From tonyhoffmanspeaking.com,

"On December 13th, 2008, Tony Hoffman was paroled by the California Department of Corrections after serving a two-year sentence for a drug-related robbery. While incarcerated, Tony set four goals: Race BMX professionally, go to the Olympics, start a non-profit called the Freewheel Project, and become a professional mental health and substance abuse speaker.

During his senior year at Clovis High School, he was featured on the cover of BMXer Magazine, and was sponsored by Fox Racing, Spy Sunglasses and Airwalk Shoes. On the surface, Tony's path seemed destined for stardom.

However, in reality, Tony experienced crippling anxiety, depression and suicidal ideations. Tony's substance use began during his senior year, leading to the deterioration of his mental health and opioid addiction soon followed. Due to his misuse of Oxycontin, & other drugs a life of addiction, crime, homelessness and incarceration became his reality.

Since parolling prison, Tony has tirelessly worked towards achieving his goals and the dreams he'd set out for while incarcerated.

He raced BMX professionally for several years and continued on to coach Brooke Crain to a 4th place finish at the Rio Olympic Games, accomplishing his dream of going to the Olympics.

The Freewheel Project was very successful for many years helping thousands of youth through action sports before moving on to pursuing a very demanding national speaking career.

Today Tony is an author, an owner of pH Wellness drug and alcohol treatment facility, and one of the world's most requested mental health and substance use speakers."

Before Hoffman took the stage, students heard a brief message from Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette.

"Today is all about pouring into you guys and we want you to know how much you're loved.

"If you ever doubt that for a second, all you have to do is reach out to one of us adults and we'll tell you how much we love you and how much we care for you," Barnette said.

"We want to help you be successful and build you up. That's what today is all about."

The students also heard about some of the modern dangers that they could face on social media from Cullman County Sheriff's Office Investigatory Ryan Fortenberry before the event's keynote speaker, Hoffman, began his presentation.

Hoffman shared his own story with the students, hoping to provide valuable life lessons and help them avoid some of the same mistakes he made.

"At 41 years old, I've learned that one of the most effective ways for us to learn as human beings is through people's life stories, because people's life stories give us an opportunity to listen to somebody's experiences.

"And anytime someone has an experience, whether its good, bad or indifferent, they have to use tools to get through it. We're all going to need tools at some point in our life. I don't know everything, but I do know this, every single one of you, including the adults in this room, you've got to go through something," Hoffman said. "And when you're going through it, it's going to get real dark. You're going to lose hope and have a lot of doubts and fears and might even lose people that are close to you and in that moment, you need a tool. That tool is going to help you get from that dark moment to the best days of your life. And I can promise you this, if you just listen while I tell my story, each and every one of you is going to get a tool from it. I don't know you're going to use it five minutes from now or 15 years from now, the only thing I know is if you don't make the same mistake I did when I was your age, you will leave here with a tool, and that's why I came."

Learn more about Hoffman's story and his work, visit www.tonyhoffmanspeaking.com.

Obituary Announcements: Oct. 22-23

Jung Hee Suh, 64
Funeral service for Jung Hee Suh, age 64, of Mt. Olive, Alabama, will be Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, officiated by Father Joel Martin. Visitation will be held from noon-2 p.m. prior to the service and interment will be held at Cullman City Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Suh was born March 20, 1960, in Seoul, Korea. She passed away on Monday, Oct. 21, 2024, at her residence surrounded by her loving family. She is survived by her husband, Jeong Sik Suh; mother, Jeong Hee Lee; sons, Min Thomas Suh (Sonya), Intae Michael Suh; four grandchildren, Mila Suh, Laylah Sanggra, Torrin Suh, Taisley Suh; one brother and two sisters. Pallbearers will be Jeong Suh, Min Suh, Intae Suh, Church Shikle, Chris Thomason, and Shannon Cheatham.

Ellis Dean Hopkins, 88
Funeral services for Ellis Dean Hopkins, of Bremen will be 2 p.m., Sunday Oct. 27, at Union Grove Baptist Church. Burial will follow the service at Cold Springs Cemetery. Bobby Waddle will be officiating services. Visitation will be prior to the service from noon until 2 p.m. on Sunday at Union Grove Baptist Church. Mr. Hopkins, a proud veteran of the United States Air Force and a beloved member of his community, passed away peacefully on Oct. 21, 2024, at the age of 88. Born on Sept. 18, 1936, in Cullman County, Alabama, Mr. Hopkins dedicated his life to serving both his country and his family. A retired firefighter with the Air Force, he spent his distinguished career protecting others, culminating in his final duty as part of the 306th Aircraft Support Squadron. His commitment to service earned him the respect and admiration of his fellow servicemen and women. An avid fan of Alabama football, Ellis rarely missed a game, cheering for his favorite team. His love for the Crimson Tide was rivaled only by his love for his family, whom he cherished deeply. Mr. Hopkins is survived by his wife, Virginia Hopkins; son, Jimmy Hopkins; sister, Tootsie; and his brother, Shine. Mr. Hopkins was preceded in death by his parents, Silas and Lillie Hopkins; and his daughter, Nella Dean. Serving as pallbearers will be Dewayne Light, Greg Whitlock, Brandon Aaron, Matt Gable, Sam Gable and Marty Overton. Honorary pallbearers will be Lawrence Light and Rick Garrison. Hanceville Funeral Home is honored to serve the Hopkins family.

Robert Albert Jochum, 77
Robert Albert Jochum, 77, of Hanceville, passed away on October 20, 2024, in Cullman, Alabama, at Cullman Regional Medical Center. Robert will be remembered as a master of jokes with an unmatched ability to lighten the mood of any gathering with laughter. Robert graduated from Hanceville High School in 1965, served two years in the National Guard and later furthered his education at Bessemer Technical College. He dedicated over 40 years of his career to ABC Drummond Company as a mechanic/welder where he was known for his practical jokes and hilarious nature. He would often say he was a "Jack of all trades, but master of none." Robert was a lifelong member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hanceville, Alabama. He kept in close contact with his friends from school, cousins and co-workers who always provided strength and comfort through the years. He enjoyed hobby farming and spending quality time with his family, who were the center of his world. Robert leaves behind a legacy of love and laughter, survived by his wife of 51 years, Elizabeth Roden Jochum; children, Shana (Blake) Hice, Jonathon (Ruth Ann) Jochum, and Kristen (Billy) Barnett; and four grandchildren, Avery and Hayden Hice, and June and Emmett Jochum. He was preceded in death by his brother, Carl Jochum; parents, Albert and Lillian Jochum; and his infant daughter, Gina Jochum. Robert's life will be celebrated and remembered on Oct. 24, 2024, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Hanceville. Visitation will be from noon-2 p.m. with service immediately following. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Trinity Lutheran Church in Hanceville, Alabama, in his memory. To leave condolences for the Jochum family visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Joanna Hodge Freeman, 80
Joanna Hodge Freeman went home to be with Jesus on Oct. 5, 2024. She passed peacefully in her home in Decatur, Alabama. She was born Nov. 30, 1943, in Addison, Alabama. Her parents were James Burley Hodge and Geneva McClellan Hodge. She was a homemaker, who also worked part time throughout her life, as a professional home/business cleaner, even still working, by choice, until her passing. She enjoyed staying active. Joanna would tell you that her greatest achievements were the children she raised, and her beloved grandchildren, who were the joys of her life. A gifted story teller, she could often be found recounting funny situations that her family always found themselves in over the years. She made people laugh wherever she went with her good hearted love of laughter. She was always the life of any gathering. She had a servant's heart for her family, always doing anything she could to assist them in any way. She was precious and truly unique. Joanna was preceded in death by her parents, along with her stepmother, Lona Hodge; her former husband of 40 years, John Henry Freeman; her brothers, James Mickey Hodge and Gary Peak, and many of her closest friends. She is survived by her children, Babs (Kim) Freeman, Daphne (Jamie) Lipsey, Janna (Lee) Clark, and Lonna (Dustin) Hembree; Grandchildren Zack Freeman, Tyler (Kelly Grace) Rollo, Sam Rollo, Emmie Clark, Aubree Hembree, Kyler Hembree, and Kash Hembree, and 2 great grandchildren, Kolt and KT; her siblings, Larry (Shirley) Hodge, JB Hodge, Patricia (Michael) Case, Marc Livingston, Danny (Tini) Peak, Nancy (Don) Martin; sister in law Linda Hodge, and a host of beloved cousins, nieces and nephews. Her children rejoice, and praise the Lord for the assurance that she is now reunited with her precious loved ones and is with Jesus our Lord, who paid the price for our sins. Because of Jesus, we have the promise of seeing her again. John 3:16. A private memorial for her family and close friends will be held in the near future.

Willie Ruth Bishop, 79
Willie Ruth Bishop, 79 of Baileyton passed away Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024, at Woodland Health Care. She was born May 7, 1945, the daughter of Charles David Newman and Carnel Mae King Newman. She was married to Wayne Bishop who passed away March 7, 2012. She is survived by her son: Joey Bishop (Jennifer); granddaughters: Brylee and Alivia; sister: Jenney Haswell Thompson; brother: Grafton Newman; host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends. She was preceded in death by her husband: Wayne Bishop; parents: Charles and Carnel Mae Newman; siblings: Alan Newman, Aubrey Newman, Nathan "Coon" Newman, Monetha Jarvis, Carolyn Newman, Barbara Newman and Judith Newman. Funeral Service will be 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024, at Gober Funeral Chapel. The burial will be in West Point Cemetery, Gober Funeral Chapel directing. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Thursday at Gober Funeral Chapel.

Barbara Ann Steele, 86
Funeral Service for Barbara Ann Steele, age 86 of Hanceville, will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024, at Cullman Funeral Home with Stanley Owensby officiating; burial at Mountain Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6:30-8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, at Cullman Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Steele passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, at her residence. She was born March 20, 1938, to James Clayton Haynes and Opal M Haynes. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Truman Steele; daughter, Theresa Steele; son, Ronald Steele; daughter, Cindy Wood; sister, Joyce Posey; brother, James Haynes; and four grandchildren. Survivors include her son ,Kenneth (Ellen) Steele; daughter, Anita Steele; son Donald (Kitty) Steele; sister, Jeanette Swann; sister, Jean Hudson; brother, Wade Hayes, 14 grandchildren; and many great grandchildren.

Bobby Gene Arrington, 82
Funeral Service for Bobby Arrington, age 82, of Cullman, will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 26, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home, burial at Union Grove Cemetery Holly Pond. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. on Friday, October 25, 2024, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Arrington passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, at Cullman Regional. He was born April 23, 1942, to William Lawrence Arrington and Lowrell Johns Arrington. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Jackie Ray Arrington; brother-in-law, James Ruben Beall; and sister, Betty Jean Arrington. Survivors include his son, Kenneth (Dianne) Arrington; grandchildren, Elizabeth (Lucas) Wilson, Derek Arrington; great grandchildren, Callen Wilson, Hayden Arrington, Harrison Arrington; brother, Larry (Betsy) Arrington; sister, Oneal Beall; sister-in-law, Margaret Arrington; nieces, Terrie, Pam, Leslie, Susan, Kelly, and Carol; and nephew, Greg.

Susan Catherine Cantrell, 76
Ms. Susan Catherine Cantrell age 76 of Cullman, Alabama, passed away Oct. 19, 2024. Susan is survived by her daughters Amy (Steve) Smith of Cullman, Alabama and Jennifer Lucas of Cullman, Alabama, son Chris (Stephanie) Lucas of Orange Beach, Alabama, brother Tommy McKay, and grandchildren Stella Smith, Mattie Smith, Josh Lucas, Tommy Lucas and Ruby Lucas. Memorial services for Susan will be announced at a later time.

Sharon K. Pigg, 83
Sharon K. Pigg of Crane Hill passed away Oct. 23, 2024. Sharon was born Dec. 30, 1940, in Sylacauga, Alabama. She had a long career starting out working part time during "Tag Season" at the Courthouse in Bessemer and retired in 1999 as the Deputy City Clerk, of the City of Fultondale. Sharon loved to cook for the family and she was always in search of the perfect divinity during the holidays. Occasionally she got it just right and we all celebrated with her when it happened. Sharon also loved to play golf, fish and she loved her animals. Lately, those animals included dogs, horses, cats and chickens!! Sharon loved her family most of all. She was a member of Bethany Baptist Church in Crane Hill and she loved and enjoyed her church family. Sharon remained active in church helping out in any way she could. She was a joy to be around and she will be missed by the many friends and family who loved her dearly. Sharon was preceded in death by her parents Frank and Margaret Cargile, brother Tommy "Butch" Cargile, grandparents, aunts and uncles. Sharon leaves behind to mourn her and keep her memory alive loving husband Byron M. Pigg, brother Alan Cargile, daughter Trina Vines, Deanna Walker (Eric), granddaughter Kista Hamilton (Aaron), Morgan Armstrong (Anthony), Erika Sissom, Callin Curlette. Great grandchildren Memphis Hamilton, Rory Armstrong, Brylee Armstrong, Cason Curlette, Conner Armstrong and Linley Armstrong. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, at Bethany Baptist Church, 1612 County Road 201, Crane Hill, AL 35053 at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Bethany Baptist Church 256-747-6435, contact Brad Philbeck 256-620-0043 to donate. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

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