

CALL KENNETH FOR ALL YOUR BANKING NEEDS.
Experienced. Trusted. Local.

KENNETH CHAMBERS, Loan Officer
NMLS #1242184 • 256-734-1740

Cullman Savings Bank
Working for Cullman County Families Since 1887

MEMBER FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

www.cullmansavingsbank.com

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

VOL. 151 • 50¢ PER COPY | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024 | USPS 139-700 • NO. 133

SUBSCRIBE TODAY



TRIBUNE.STORE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OBITUARIES
Pamela Sean Dean
» PAGE 6

WEATHER
77 62
SOURCE: WEATHER.GOV
DECREASING CLOUDS



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

– SPORTS –

Fairview topples Good Hope in battle of unbeatens; Holly Pond, Meek earn wins

» PAGE 4

Thousands gather for Cullman County Veterans Day Celebration

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Despite a day filled with overcast skies and canceled flight shows, the Cullman County Veterans Day Celebration saw an impressive turnout on Saturday, Nov. 2, with over 4,000 attendees gathering at Cullman Regional Airport to honor local veterans. The event, which ran for the greater part of the day, was free to the public, with veterans and their spouses receiving a warm welcome with complimentary coffee, donuts and a special lunch provided by the Cullman Elks Lodge.

Retired Colonel Ken Brown, representative for the Cullman Elks Veterans Committee, reflected on the day's suc- » PAGE 3



KENNY REESE

The Vietnam-era Huey helicopter, in all its glory, allowed attendees an opportunity to sit in the cockpit and become immersed in a time long since passed at the Cullman County Veterans Day Celebration on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024.

'Fruitful'
The Link honors volunteers



KATIE SPICER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Kim Tidwell received the Personal Pathways Award at The Link of Cullman County's 2024 Gala on Friday, Nov. 1.

Katie Spicer
katie@cullmantoday.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Link of Cullman County on Friday, Nov. 1, hosted its 2024 Gala at Cotton Creek Warehouse. The theme for the event was "Fruitful," celebrating the work done by volunteers for the community throughout the year.

The night consisted of a host of events, including a silent auction, a delicious meal created by Chef J. Raphael, custom-drawn portraits and, of course, the awards ceremony.

Executive Director Melissa Betts welcomed guests and introduced 2024 Board Chairman Ory Hampton. Hampton said it was his honor to serve The Link for the past two years and welcomed 2025 Board Chairman Maddie Shugarts to the stage.

Following introductions came the highlight of the night - the awards. Before recognizing this year's recipients, Betts provided an overview of The Link's mission. She described The Link as "a place where individuals and families can come together to find support when they need others. The Link is a place that empowers people to take bold next steps toward their dreams. The Link is a place where people are finding passionate ways to give back."

Each of the following award recipients, she said, is representative of these "fruits" provided by The Link:

- Supportive Services Award: Candace Patterson
- Educational Enrichment Award: Carla Whitworth
- Youth Legacy Award: Ali Hill
- Personal Pathways Award: Kim Tidwell
- Family Foundations: Steve Shaw
- Legacy Award: Chris Hopper

The Link's vision for the future is to continue planting seeds for growth. Longtime board member Eddie Canaday closed the night with a word of encouragement to become vested in the organization. "If you are interested in providing basic needs, then The Link needs you. If you are interested in elementary education through mentoring and teaching, then The Link needs you. If » PAGE 7

VOTE POLLS OPEN 7 A.M. - 7 P.M.

Fairview High students participate in mock election



JEN BAKER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Each student lined up to show his or her ID, take a ballot, fill it out and turn it in at the mock election at Fairview High School on Monday, Nov. 4, 2024. » PAGE 7

Wallace State hosting annual 'Salute to United States Veterans' concert Nov. 11

» PAGE 2

November events at the library

» PAGE 3

FAITH 'Be confident in who God calls you to be': County Fair Queen Avery Gerstman talks pageant experience



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cold Springs' Avery Gerstman was crowned as this year's Cullman County Fair Queen on Oct. 8. » PAGE 8

PRICES ARE FALLING WITH BILL'S DEALS!

Bill Smith
BUICK GMC
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE
ALABAMA'S LARGEST BUICK GMC DEALERSHIP
*Notates all rebates applied, must have 2005 or newer qualifying trade in. Prices are plus tax, title, & fee. Colors may vary.

GMC DEALER OF THE YEAR
6 TIMES IN A ROW!
WAS $150,295
NOW
$139,795*

NEW 2024 GMC HUMMER EV PICKUP
3X OMEGA LIMITED EDITION
SAVE $10,500
STK#49653
FRONT BUCKET SEATS | INFINITY ROOF | 18" BLACK ALUMINUM WHEELS | ETRUNK WITH POWER HOOD

BILLSMITHBUICKGMC.COM • 1940 SECOND AVE NW • CULLMAN, AL 35055 • 256-734-4472

© 2024 THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Nov. 4

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Nov. 4, 2024. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY-SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INCIDENTS

Oct. 31

- fraud; theft; CR 449
- domestic violence; Weeks Cir.
- fraud; CR 1152
- domestic violence; Hwy. 31
- theft; CR 843
- obstructing government operations; CR 1212
- harassment; permitting animals to run at large; CR 1471

Nov. 1

- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 1043
- theft; CR 437
- public intoxication; CR 771
- violation of protection order; CR 781
- stolen vehicle; Bolte Rd. SE
- unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle; theft from a vehicle; CR 8
- menacing; CR 123
- harassing communications; CR 1197
- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 1668
- unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle; CR 111
- stolen vehicle; CR 222
- domestic violence; CR 1616
- theft; Summit Rd.
- unauthorized use of vehicle; CR 1194
- stolen vehicle; CR 813

Nov. 2

- domestic violence; CR 143
- domestic violence; interference with domestic violence emergency call; CR 429
- public intoxication; Hwy. 69S
- possession of dangerous drugs; public intoxication; CR 728
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; Hwy. 231
- possession of marijuana; CR 665
- domestic violence; CR 222

Nov. 3

- possession of dangerous drugs; Hwy. 278W
- possession of dangerous drugs; possession of drug paraphernalia; CR 998
- public intoxication; possession of dangerous drugs; CR 747
- possession of dangerous drugs; Hwy. 278W
- trespassing; Hwy. 69S
- criminal mischief; CR 1394
- criminal mischief; CR 1394
- possession of dangerous drugs; CR 1193
- theft; CR 27

ARRESTS

Oct. 31 – Nov. 3

Averill, Charles R.; 45
- FTA – assault-domestic-harassment-family

Bevington, Brian A.; 57
- possession of methamphetamine
- FTA – theft-miscellaneous
- theft-miscellaneous
- public intoxication

Boone, John T.; 40
- possession of methamphetamine
- public intoxication
- FTA – criminal trespass

Bradford, Kenneth L. 32
- FTA – driving while license suspended

Burns, Kinsey N.; 20
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – giving false identification to law enforcement

Burton, Sabastian L.; 22
- attempting to elude a police officer
- BAIL JUMPING 2 – possession of methamphetamine
- BAIL JUMPING 2 – possession of drug paraphernalia

Clark, William B.; 68
- criminal trespass
- exposure or lewd act in public
- stalking-2nd degree

Creel, Jordan A.; 31
- theft-miscellaneous

Dang, Kristan S.; 42
- possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Davenport, Meghan A.; 38
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree

Edwards, Roy L.; 62
- sexual abuse of a child less than 12 years old - forcible fondling
- sodomy 1st-being 16 years or older engaging with a person less than 12 years

Elizondo III, Ivan C.; 21
- public intoxication

Hazelrig, Brittnie A.; 32
- FTA – operating vehicle with expired tag

Henderson, Brittany D.; 37
- possession of dangerous drugs

Hubbard, Ashley S.; 39
- possession of dangerous drugs

Hyde, Donny E.; 50
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of dangerous drugs

Jabaley, James A.; 35
- public intoxication

Jordan, Victoria A.; 33
- GJ – organized retail theft
- GJ – retail theft-2nd degree

Laster, David R.; 50
- sell/distribute – methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Lee, Ellesha C.; 41
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Lynn, Brent T.; 35
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs

Matias, Rene; 24
- public intoxication

McDuffie, Joey L.; 39
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked, or cancelled
- FTA – operating vehicle without insurance

Morgan, Madison T.; 26
- GJ – homicide-manslaughter
- GJ – reckless driving

Needham, Robie W.; 54
- possession of methamphetamine
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Niles, James D.; 35
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs
- FTA – obstructing police – obedience to police/firemen
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked, or cancelled

Owens, Chad M.; 40
- illegal possession of prescription drugs
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- possession of dangerous drugs
- sell/distribution of dangerous drugs
- violation of a domestic violence protection order

Proffitt, Tiffany L.; 29
- PROBATION VIOLATION – assault-child abuse-simple-family

Puckett, Logan I.; 23
- PROBATION VIOLATION – assault-aggravated assault police officer-strong arm

Rainey, Timothy E.; 40
- FTA – theft-shoplifting, $500-less than $1500

Roberts, Rodney R.; 30
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – possession of dangerous drugs

Smith Jr., John T.; 41
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA – driving while suspended, revoked, or cancelled

Smith, Tristan S.; 19
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Speegle, Jesse A.; 36
- criminal trespass

Stillwell, Logan J.; 26
- FTA – possession of drug paraphernalia

Taylor, Brandon S.; 44
- FTA – theft-pickpocket

Wood, Mason L.; 34
- assault-domestic-simple assault-family
- interference with a domestic violence emergency call

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

INCIDENTS

Oct. 30
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; person; Stonewater Dr. NE

Oct. 31
- harassment; person; Cherokee Ave. SW
- criminal trespass-1st degree; person; Cleveland Ave. NW

Nov. 1
- theft of property-4th degree; person; general merchandise; $18; Olive St. SW

Nov. 2
- domestic violence-3rd degree; person; Lessman St. SW

Nov. 3
- duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '22 Kia; $100; Hwy. 157
- retail theft of property-3rd degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $183; Hwy. 157

Nov. 4
- domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; person; Huey St. NE

ARRESTS

Oct. 31 – Nov. 3

Doss, Andy M.; 65
- FTA – domestic violence-3rd degree (3 counts)
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- unlawful possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- disorderly conduct
- resisting arrest

Whisman, Paul C.; 44
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance
- unlawful possession of marijuana-2nd degree
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Lawrence, Raymond D.; 35
- FTA - public intoxication
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Hann, Timothy M.; 36
- FTA - possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)

Elmore, Leslie S.; 54
- public intoxication
- false information to law enforcement

Ortega-Villanueva, Rosa L.; 37
- endangerment of child where controlled substances are produced or distributed
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Stewart Sr., Kenneth M.; 48
- FTA - driving while revoked
- insurance violation

Mitchell, Joseph C.; 22
- disorderly conduct

Beasley, Anthony R.; 53
- FTA - receiving stolen property-4th degree
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree (4 counts)
- FTA - criminal trespass-3rd degree

Roberts, Rodney R.; 30
- FTA - DUI - controlled substance

Myers, Brandon W.; 34
- FTA - leaving the scene of an accident
- FTA - public intoxication

Bevington, Brian A.; 57
- FTA - theft of property-4th degree
- carrying brass knuckles
- possession of drug paraphernalia

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

Wallace State hosting annual 'Salute to United States Veterans' concert Nov. 11

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College will hold its annual "Salute to United States Veterans" concert on Veterans Day, Monday, Nov. 11, at 7 p.m. at the Burrow Center Recital Hall. Admission is free and all area veterans are encouraged to attend.

The concert features performances by the Wallace State Concert Band and the Wallace State Jazz Band. A traditional favorite during the concert is the Armed Forces Medley, featuring the songs for each branch of military service.

"It's such an honor to offer this salute to our country and to our veterans," said Ricky Burks, chair of the Wallace State Fine and Performing Arts programs and director of the Jazz Band. "A highlight of the event occurs when veterans stand during the playing of the song that represents their branch of service. We are looking forward to this special tribute concert and hope that everyone will join us as we honor the service of these men and women."

For information about "Salute to United States Veterans" and other Fine and Performing Arts performances, please contact Amy Seymore at 256-382-8277 or amy.seymore@wallacestate.edu.



WSCC

Wallace State Concert Band Director Dr. Justin Robinson leads the Wallace State Concert Band during the 2023 Salute to United States Veterans concert. The annual concert will be held on Veterans Day this year, Monday, Nov. 11, at 7 p.m. in the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts. Admission is free.

St. Bernard releases 2nd edition ornament featuring historic Administration Building

Staff Reports
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — St. Bernard Preparatory School recently announced the release of the second edition in its annual ornament series, following last year's successful debut featuring the Abbey Church. The 2024 holiday ornament highlights the historic Administration Building, a campus icon with deep ties to the school's early history.

Constructed in 1892, the Administration Building is one of St. Bernard Abbey's oldest and most distinguished structures. In 1914, the building underwent extensive renovations, including the addition of a stone façade and a grand porch with gothic arches, enhancing its prominent appearance. At that time, the wrought iron staircase, originally at the front entrance, was relocated to the old gym, serving as its main access point.

The 1930s saw further expansion of the Administration Building, cementing its role as a central hub for students and monks alike. However, after a tornado in 1988 caused significant damage, part of the building was demolished in 1991.

This led to the creation of the open Quad behind the building and marked the return of the wrought iron staircase to the Administration Building — this time as its back entrance, where it remains today.

Currently, the Administration Building houses administrative offices on its lower floors, while the upper two floors serve as the girls' dormitory. With its storied history and signature architectural features, the building stands as a symbol of St. Bernard's enduring legacy.

The 2024 brass ornament intricately captures this history and is available as a timeless memento of St. Bernard's heritage. To purchase, visit www.stbernardprep.com/st-bernard-merchandise. Call 256-739-6682 to pick up an ornament in the historic building.



ST. BERNARD

The 2024 holiday ornament highlights the historic Administration Building.

Events (from Front)

Jen Baker
jen@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Do you enjoy Legos, crafting or even dinosaur tea parties? Well you are in luck, because the main branch of the Cullman County Public Library System is hosting these events and more this month.

The library will host events such as STEAM Week, Crafternoon, T-rex Tea Party and Teen Tuesday.

The first week of November is National STEAM Week. "That is science, technology, engineering, arts and math.

"We will have a massive program every day of the week, Monday-Friday, in order for kids to attend and do scavenger hunts, building projects and craft projects in honor of STEAM Week.

"The projects are available all day," said CCPLS Assistant Library Director Shelby Creekmore.

Crafternoon is for all ages and is a monthly, free craft event that takes place the second Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m.

Book Club will be hosted in the Cullman City Hall auditorium on Nov. 14.

"We are doing a T-Rex Tea Party on the 16th. I'm very excited about that.So at 10 o-clock we will have a tea party with little teacups and a guest t-rex in costume.

"We will also have dinosaur-related activities such as bone excavations and dinosaur bones to look up.

"That's in honor of Dinovember; November is dinosaur month," said Creekmore.

The fourth Tuesday of every month is Teen Tuesday for ages 13-18, and games, snacks, and crafts are provided.

Find more details on these events on the Cullman Library Facebook page.

- National STEAM Week: Nov. 4-8, all day
- Crafternoon: Wednesday, Nov. 13, at 1 p.m.
- Book Club: Thursday, Nov. 14, at Cullman City Hall in the auditorium
- T-Rex Tea Party: Saturday, Nov. 16, at 10 a.m.
- Teen Tuesday: Tuesday, Nov. 26, at 3:30 p.m.

The main branch of the Cullman County Public Library System is located at 200 Clark St. NE, Cullman. Get more info at www.facebook.com/cullmancountypubliclibrarysystem.



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
- Wednesday, Nov. 6 - 7 p.m. Children and youth classes. Adult worship, teaching and testimonies in the sanctuary. Free pizza at 6:30. Van runs in the 5 Points Area at 6. Call Cedric Davidson at 256-339-5755 for pickup.
- Friday, Nov. 8 - 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, Nov. 10 - 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.
- Saturday, Nov. 16 - 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Thanksgiving meal in to-go box and food bank holiday box

Church Events: At the Foot of the Cross Church
- 2 miles north of Alabama Highway 157 on Eva Road, on the left
- Sunday, Nov. 10, at 11 a.m. Christmas Concert with One Accord
- Saturday, Nov. 2 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Clothing giveaway. Clothes of all kinds, baby to adult, shoes, coats, blankets, etc. FREE for anyone in need.
- Saturday, Nov. 16, at 6 p.m. Singing with Joyful Noise, 2101 County Road 1435, Vinemont

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.

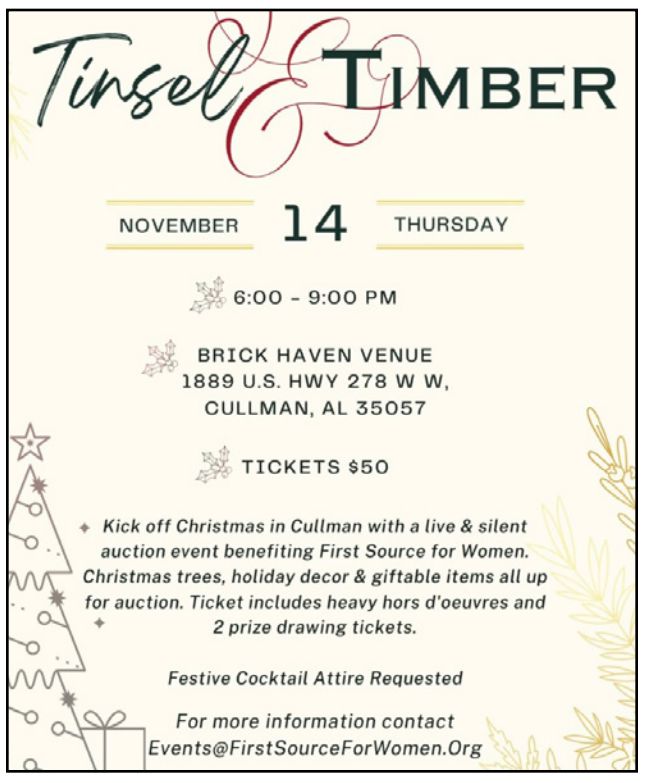
Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church Singing
Sunday, Nov. 17, at 5 p.m. Unity 4. The church is located on U.S. Highway 278 East, approximately 2 miles east of Holly Pond, on the left. For more information, call 256-796-5986 or 256-590-1501. Everyone is invited.

Cullman Christkindlmarkt
Depot Park, 107 Arnold St. NW, Cullman, AL 35055
Nov. 21-Dec. 23, Thursdays-Saturdays, from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sundays from noon-8 p.m. | Open seven days a week beginning Dec. 16 (closed on Thanksgiving Day). Get more information at www.cullmanchristkindlmarkt.com.

Christmas Pyramid Lighting
Thursday, Nov. 21, at 6 p.m. Cullman Christkindlmarkt comes to life with the lighting of Christmas Pyramid. The Grand Opening of the Christkindlmarkt is a celebration of the Christmas season, led by the Cullman Community Band and joined by family and friends from Cullman and beyond. Get more information at www.cullmanchristkindlmarkt.com.

Christkindlmarkt Parade
Friday, Nov. 22, at 6:30 p.m. One of Cullman's favorite traditions, the Christkindlmarkt Parade is filled with local organizations, businesses, bands and more! Help us welcome in the Christmas season with this seven-block parade extravaganza. Get more information at www.cullmanchristkindlmarkt.com.

Christmas Tree Lighting
Friday, Nov. 22, at 8 p.m. Immediately following the Christkindlmarkt Parade is the South's Largest Tree Lighting Show. Featuring a mesmerizing light show and fireworks that is always one of the most memorable events of the year. Join us for this free event with James Spann, Santa Claus, The Grinch, Buddy the Elf and special musical guest as we light the Christkindlmarkt Christmas Tree. Get more information at www.cullmanchristkindlmarkt.com.





Celebration (from Front)

cess, sharing, "We are very thankful that we live in such a patriotic community. We have over 7,000 veterans and their families that live here. This event is designed every year to get people to come out and honor their veterans and thank them.

"I think we accomplished our mission this year. Anytime you have four to five thousand people come out to an event for a purpose, I think you can say it's a success."

He added with a chuckle, "I am saying it would have been a heck of a lot more successful if we could have had some nice weather because even more people would have come out to enjoy the things we had planned in the air."

Aside from the canceled aerial displays, the event delivered everything it promised. Colonel Brown led the ceremony, honoring veterans and highlighting their service in front of the crowd gathered in support. Attendees explored various military displays, including an F-4 Phantom Jet and the P-40 aircraft, famously flown by the Tuskegee Airmen. WWII re-enactors and members of the Cullman Historical Society shared character-driven stories, immersing visitors in the legacy of veterans who served across generations.

The classic car show showcased 1930s- and 1940s-era vehicles, while an expansive collection of military weapons was available for viewing. Kids and families enjoyed suiting up in military gear and experiencing the feel of the weapons on-site.

A popular interactive Huey helicopter display also allowed young attendees to sit in the cockpit and hear stories from Vietnam-era pilots who flew the iconic aircraft.

Colonel Brown went on to thank Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman, and the representatives as well as the local committees and boards that provided financial support for the event and whose stewardship made it possible.

"It's a real community effort to put this on so we don't have to charge anyone to come out and honor their veterans. I am really tickled that we have such a great community of patriots that really want to take care of and support their veterans and honor them," he said. "Everyone pulls together. Everyone is a volunteer. No one is getting paid for this. The Elks Lodge does a great job and deserves a huge round of applause. They provide the people who do the parking. They feed over 1,000 veterans and their spouses a free lunch every year. It's a good community effort every year to put this all together."

Organizers aim to continue building on each year's success, establishing the celebration as an annual highlight not only for the Cullman community, but also for all of northern Alabama. For more details on future events, visit www.cullmanveteransday.com.

The Cullman Tribune
Cullman County's Oldest Business, Serving the area since 1874 Publication
Number USPS-139-700
Telephone: 256-739-1351 Fax: 1-256-739-4422
HumbleRoots,LLC
Published daily Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: robin@cullmantribune.com

ANNUALLY BASED RATES

CULLMAN.....$125.00
OUTSIDE CULLMAN.....$250.00

Noah Galilee - Publisher
Dustin Isom - Associate Publisher
W.C. Mann - Reporter
Gauge Day - Reporter
Nick Griffin - Varsity Sports Editor
SammyConfer-Youth/JVSportsEditor
Bill Piper - Photojournalist
Robin Winton - Newsroom Manager
Janet Chandler - Marketing Specialist

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
NOVEMBER 5, 2024

PREP FOOTBALL RECAP

Fairview topples Good Hope in battle of unbeatens; Holly Pond, Meek earn wins

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — This year's regular season is officially in the books and Friday night's slate featured a massive local matchup. The unbeaten Fairview Aggies made the trip to a packed James W. Shabel Stadium in Good Hope for a highly anticipated matchup with the undefeated Raiders Friday night and like they have all season, the Aggies put up big numbers with an explosive rushing attack to race past Good Hope 48-21 and finish the regular season 9-0.

Holly Pond handled Cleveland on the road 48-13 to wrap up the regular season with a 4-6 record and Meek dominated Carbon Hill 54-12 to take a 7-3 record into the first round of the playoffs next week.

Fairview 48 – Good Hope 21

Fairview quickly got the running game going to start out the game, as a pair of huge runs by Jake Harper and an 11-yard run by Kolt Redding put them at the 18. A penalty pushed them back to the 23, but Harper scored three plays later from 16 yards out to give the Aggies a 7-0 lead with 9:36 remaining in the first quarter. A pair of offsides penalties, plus a run by Tyler Cone, gave the Raiders a first down. A pair of runs by Mason Drake put them at the 10, but they were later forced to turn the ball over on downs.

Redding connected with Blake Rickard on a 40-yard pass play on third down to keep its series alive, then a pair of big runs by Harper quickly had them at the 19. The Raider defense stiffened and forced a field goal attempt that hit off the left upright to keep the score at 7-0. Good Hope mixed the run and pass on its next series, as Cone's pass to Parker Johnson went for a first down, as did a run by Mason Drake. Three plays later, Cone connected with Tucker Malin for a 37-yard score to tie the game up at seven with less than nine minutes to go in the first half.

Good Hope's defense forced the Aggies into a third-and-long situation, but Harper broke free up the middle for a 69-yard score to give Fairview a 14-7 lead. After allowing a first down, the Aggies forced the Raiders to punt, but Good Hope returned the favor on its next series on defense. Carson Jones picked off a Cone pass at the 30, and Fairview mixed the run and the pass on its next series. The drive ended with Redding finding Rickard for a 15-yard score to push their lead to 21-7 at the half.

Fairview forced a Raider punt to start out the second half. Harper's big night continued, as he broke free for a 35-yard touchdown down the right sideline to make it 28-7. Good Hope looked to answer on its next series. Cone found Malin for 30 yards, as that put them at the 19. On fourth down, Cone found a diving Drake in the end zone for a 12-yard score to cut it to 28-14 with 5:15 left to go in the third quarter. The Aggies struck quickly on the third play of its next series, as Redding threw a short pass to Jace Stevens, and he ended up going 59 yards to the house to give them a 34-14 lead.

Good Hope answered right back in a hurry, as on just the second play of its series, Cone and Rutherford hooked up for a 64-yard touchdown to trim it to 34-21 late in the third quarter. The duo Harper and Redding gave the Raiders problems on their next series, as they each picked up a first down during the drive. It ended with Harper scoring on a 39-yard run to make it 41-21. A pair of big passes by Cone to Rutherford (18 yards) and to Johnson (29 yards) kept its series alive on multiple occasions, but once again, they ended up turning the ball over on downs. The Aggies put the final score of the game, as Redding connected with Cruce from eight yards out to put the final score at 48-21.

Harper finished with 282 yards and four touchdowns on 15 carries for Fairview (9-0). Redding went 10/14 for 164 yards and three scores. Rickard finished with three receptions for 67 yards and a touchdown, while Cruce added 36 receiving yards on five catches and a score. Jones finished with an interception in the win for the Aggies. For the Raiders (9-1), Cone finished 12/24 for 254 yards, three touchdowns, and an interception. Rutherford collected 137 yards on five catches and a score, while Malin added 67 yards on a pair of receptions and a touchdown.

Both teams will now prepare to host first-round playoff games Friday. Fairview will take on Carver-Birmingham and Good Hope will face off against Hatton.



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Fairview running back Jake Harper (14) racked up 282 yards and four touchdowns in the Aggies' 48-21 win at Good Hope Friday night.

Holly Pond 48 – Cleveland 13

A 12-yard touchdown run by Brody Howard gave Holly Pond an early, 6-0 lead and Boston Gibbs followed with a 14-yard touchdown run of his own to make it 12-0 with just under four minutes to play in the first quarter. Gibbs' second touchdown of the night, this one from 15 yards out, stretched the lead to 18-0 and Zayne Faulkner punched in the two-point conversion to make it 20-0 at the start of the second quarter.

Leading 20-7 at the start of the third quarter, Holly Pond added to its lead when Sawyer Olinger took one to the end zone from 34 yards out for a touchdown and Gibbs picked up the two-point conversion to make it 28-7. Faulkner followed with a touchdown and a two-point run later in the third to put the Broncos in front 36-7 going into the fourth.

A 49-yard touchdown pass from Olinger to Gibbs made it 42-7 with just under 11 minutes on the clock. From the quarterback position, Gibbs scored on a 28-yard touchdown run and then hit Cade Allbright in the end zone for the two-point conversion to give Holly Pond a 48-7 lead with less than eight minutes to play. Cleveland was able to find the end zone in the final minutes of the game, but it wasn't enough to overcome the Bronco lead and Holly Pond capped its season with a 48-13 win over the Panthers.



KATIE DRUMMOND/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Holly Pond Broncos defeated Cleveland on the road 48-13 Friday night to finish the season 4-6.

Meek 54 – Carbon Hill 12

After crushing Vina on the road last week, the Meek Tigers returned home to wrap up the regular season against Carbon Hill Friday night and they kept their momentum rolling with a 54-12 win over the Bulldogs.

Meek built a 12-0 lead in the first quarter and the Tigers scored two more touchdowns in the second quarter to take a 26-0 lead into the locker room at halftime. Meek's offense continued to light up the scoreboard in the third quarter, pulling ahead of Carbon Hill 48-6 by the start of the fourth.

The Tigers found the end zone early in the fourth quarter to make it a 54-6 game and the Bulldogs were able to score one more time in the final two minutes to bring the final score to 54-12.

Meek finishes the regular season 7-3 with the win and the Tigers will be back home this week to host Hubbertville in the round one of the 1A state playoffs.

WSCC ATHLETICS

Cross Country teams ranked 3rd, 7th heading into nationals

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College's men's cross country team is ranked third nationally and the women are ranked seventh as the teams prepare for the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) DII tournament to be held Nov. 9 at at Pole Green Park in Richmond, Va. The men will run in the 8000 meter race, while the women will run in the 5000 meter race.

Both teams successfully defended their titles in the Alabama Community College Conference Championships held recently at John Hunt Park in Huntsville, each winning their seventh consecutive conference titles. Tony Crider, in his first year as head coach of the squads, was named Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year.

"I like the position we are in right now and where we are ranked," said Crider. "That puts a little more fire in our bellies. Sometimes you'll do better when you're hunting as opposed to other teams hunting you."

The men have been led by ACCC Men's Cross Country Runner of the Year Luke Kennedy of Huntsville.

The sophomore has been the first team finisher in five of the six races the Lions have competed in this season.

His average pace for the season is 3:17.9/km and 5:18.5/m. Freshman Tyler Anthony of Fort Payne has had strong showings as well, coming in as the second team finisher in five of the six races and as the first team finisher in the sixth. His average pace for the season is 3:20.7/km and 5:23.0/m.



WSCC

Wallace State's men's and women's cross country teams are ranked 3rd and 7th respectively heading into this weekends' NJCAA DII Tournament.

The women have been led by freshman Reagan Parris and sophomore Grace Gosline. Parris ,of Bremen, has been the first team finisher in half of their six meets this season. Her pace for the season is 4:06.8/km and 6:37.1/m. Gosline, of Arab, was the first team finisher in the other half of the Lady Lions' meets and has an average pace of 4:07.4/km and 6:38.2/m.

The NJCAA Network will air a live broadcast of the races at www.njcaa.org/network or live results can be viewed at www. https://www.blueridgetiming.com.

Following their national tournament appearances, the squads will compete in their first indoor races on Dec. 6 at the Birmingham Indoor Icebreaker at the Birmingham Crossplex.

Start Your THANKSGIVING Savings Early!

WDG WAREHOUSE DISCOUNT GROCERIES

Saving You Money Is What We're All About!

Friday ONLY
November 8, 2024



FOOD CLUB TURKEY
Frozen Young
69¢ Lb.

HONEYCRISP APPLES
Fresh
$1.00 Lb.



BLUE PLATE MAYONNAISE
30 Oz. Original or Light
2 for $7



FOOD CLUB PIE CRUST
Graham Cracker
6 Oz.
2 for $3



FOOD CLUB BROTH
Beef or Chicken
32 Oz.
2 for $3





FOOD CLUB SOUPS
10 Oz. Cream of Mushroom or Chicken, Tomato or Chicken Noodle
88¢ Ea.



MARIE CALLENDER'S PIES
24-32 Oz.
$5.99 Ea.

RED BARON PIZZA
15-23 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$4.99 Ea.



Due to a daily fluctuation of product and inventory availability, not all flavors, sizes or quantities may be offered for your selection as advertised.

Quantity Rights Reserved. Not Responsible For Typographical or Pictoral Errors. No Sales To Dealers. No Rainchecks. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!! AD #45

WDG Cullman #817, #819, WDG Hanceville #818

WDG WAREHOUSE DISCOUNT GROCERIES

Saving You Money Is What We're All About!

Warehouse Discount Groceries
5754 AL- Hwy 157 North
Cullman, AL 35055
256•739•4310

Warehouse Discount Groceries
1615 Town Square S W
Cullman, AL 35055
256•739•4380

Warehouse Discount Groceries
780 Main St. N E
Hanceville, AL 35077
256•352•6245

We Welcome Food Stamp Shoppers & W.I.C. Vouchers Accepted

Prices Effective - Wednesday, November 6 through Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Falling Prices

ASSORTED PORK CHOPS
Fresh Bone-In Family Pack
(Fam. Pk. Bone-In Center Cut Pork Chops $2.79 Lb.)
$1.79 LB.



GWALTNEY BACON
12 Oz.
Original or Thick
2 for $7



RUSSET POTATOES
5 Lb. Bag
U.S. #1 Colorado
$1.88 EA.



MICHIGAN GROWN APPLES
3 Lb. Bag Gala,
Fuji or Red Delicious
2 for $5



BUSH'S BEST PEAS OR BEANS
15-16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
88¢ EA.

CRAV'N FLAVOR SALTINE CRACKERS 16 Oz. 2 for $3



FOOD CLUB TOMATOES
14 Oz.
Selected Varieties
88¢ EA.



CAMPBELL'S TOMATO SOUP
or Chicken Noodle
10.5 Oz.
98¢ EA.



FOOD CLUB VEGETABLE OIL
40 Oz.
$2.99 EA.



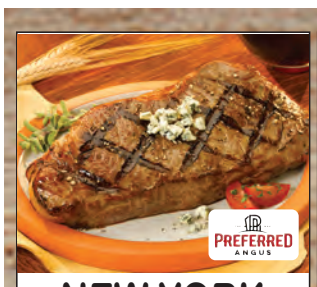
5754 AL- Hwy 157 N Cullman, AL

1615 Town Square S W Cullman, AL

780 Main St. N E Hanceville, AL



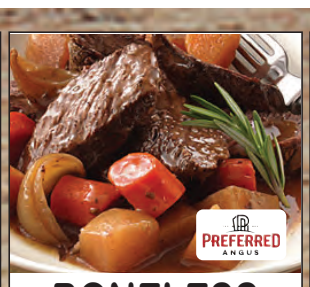
Product Availability May Vary • Good Only While Supplies Last • We Reserve The Right to Limit Quantities • Not Responsible For Typographical Errors • No Sales To Dealers At These Prices



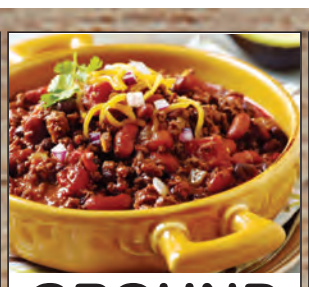
NEW YORK STRIP STEAKS
Beef Boneless
Family Pack
$8.99 LB.



WHOLE CHICKEN
Fresh
$1.99 LB.



BONELESS CHUCK ROAST
Beef
(Boneless Chuck Steaks $7.99 Lb.)
$7.49 LB.



GROUND ROUND
Fresh 85% Lean
Family Pack
$4.99 LB.



FRESHLAND SAUSAGE
1 Lb. Roll
Mild or Hot
2 for $7



GWALTNEY FRANKS
1 Lb.
Great Dogs or Jumbos
2 for $4



COUNTRY PLEASIN' SMOKED SAUSAGE
12-14 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$4.39 EA.



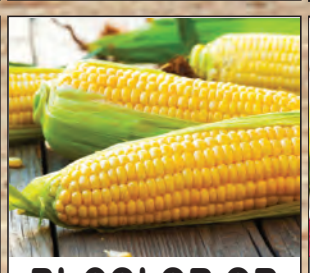
MAIN ST BISTRO SIDE DISHES
17-20 Oz. Reser's
Selected Varieties
$3.99 EA.



ICEBERG LETTUCE
California
Great for a Wedge Salad
$1.49 EA.



SWEET ONIONS
Peru
3 Lb. Bag
$2.99 EA.



BI-COLOR OR YELLOW CORN
Fresh
$1.00 EAR



DOLE SALAD BLENDS
Bag American, Italian
or Hearts of Romaine
$2.99 EA.



FOOD CLUB CREAM CHEESE
8 Oz.
Original or 1/3 Less Fat
2 for $4



PILLSBURY GRANDS! BISCUITS
5 Ct. Selected Varieties or 4 Ct.
Crescent Rolls or 6 Oz. Cinnamon Rolls
2 for $3



PILLSBURY COOKIE DOUGH
16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
$3.49 EA.



FOOD CLUB PURE PREMIUM ORANGE JUICE
52 Oz. Not From Concentrate
Selected Varieties
$3.99 EA.



PILLSBURY TOASTER STRUDEL
11 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5



MICHELINA'S ENTREES
4-8 Oz.
Selected Varieties
4 for $5



BLUE BELL ICE CREAM
Half Gallon Brown or Gold
Rim Selected Varieties
$6.99 EA.



TOTINO'S PIZZA ROLLS
15 Ct. Pepperoni
or Combination
2 for $4



BETTY CROCKER CAKE MIX OR FROSTING
13-16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $3



SHAWNEE BEST FLOUR OR CORN MEAL MIX
5 Lb. Bag
Self-Rising
2 for $5



PROGRESSO SOUP
18-19 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4



FOOD CLUB SALAD DRESSING
16 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $4



MT. OLIVE RELISH
8 Oz.
Sweet or Dill
2 for $3



GENERAL MILLS FAMILY SIZE CEREAL
18.6 Oz. Lucky Charms, 19.7 Oz. Reese's Puffs,
18.8 Oz. Cinnamon Toast Crunch or Honey Nut Cheerios
$3.99 EA.



RITZ PARTY SIZE CRACKERS
17-20 Oz. Nabisco
Selected Varieties
$5.99 EA.



FOOD CLUB TUNA
5 Oz.
In Water
99¢ EA.



NIAGARA DRINKING WATER
24 Pk
16.9 Oz. Bottles
3 for $10



COCA-COLA, SPRITE OR MELLO YELLO
6 Pk
.5 Liter Bottles
4 for $12



COCA-COLA, SPRITE OR MELLO YELLO
10 Pk.
7.5 Oz. Mini Cans
2 for $11



GOLD PEAK REAL BREWED TEA
59 Oz.
Bottles
$1.99 EA.



POWERADE SPORTS DRINKS
8 Pk.
20 Oz. Bottles
$5.99 EA.



DASANI WATER
24 Pk.
.5 Liter Bottles
$6.49 EA.



FRITO LAY DORITOS
6-10 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $7

FRITO OR CHEETOS
7-9 Oz
Selected Varieties
2 for $8



GOLDEN FLAKE, UTZ OR ZAPP'S CHIPS
7-8 Oz.
Selected Varieties
2 for $5



LEWIS BAKE SHOP SANDWICH BREAD
20 Oz. Loaf
White or Honey Wheat
2 for $5



LITTLE DEBBIE SNACKS
6-10.5 Oz. Christmas Tree Cakes or Brownies, Cherry Cordials,
North Pole Nutty Bars, Snowflake Brownies or Fall Gingerbread Cookies
2 for $6



BOTA BOX WINE
3 Liter
Box
$19.99 EA.

COORS LIGHT OR MILLER LITE
12 Pk.
Cans or Bottles
$13.79 EA.



BAREFOOT WINE
1.5 Liter
Bottle
$11.99 EA.

BUDWEISER OR BUD LIGHT
12 Pk.
Aluminum
$15.49 EA.

Deli & Bakery Specials — Hanceville Location

CHARTER RESERVE HAM
Virginia, Black Forest,
Ham off the Bone or Honey Ham
$7.49 LB.

KRETSCHMAR SWISS CHEESE
Deli Fresh
$8.69 LB.

TEXAS TAMALES
12 Ct.
Beef, Chicken or Pork
$9.99 EA.

LYMAN ORCHARDS CRÉME MERINGUE PIE
16 Oz. Banana, Chocolate,
Coconut or Lemon
$5.99 EA.



WSCC

The Wallace State Volleyball Team finishes runner-up at this year's ACCC Tournament.

WSCC ATHLETICS

Volleyball finishes runner-up at ACCC Tournament

Special to The Cullman Tribune

HANCEVILLE, Ala. — Wallace State Community College's Volleyball team finished as runner-up at the 2024 Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) Volleyball Championship held this weekend at Sand Mountain Park & Amphitheater in Albertville.

Wallace State won their first-round match 3-0 against Bishop State Community College on Friday before taking on Enterprise State Community College (ESCC) in the next round, falling 3-0 with set scores of 25-21, 25-18, and 26-24.

The Lions fought back the next day, defeating Calhoun Community College (3-0), Snead State Community College (3-0) and Lurleen B. Wallace Community College (3-1), to make it to the championship round on Sunday, setting up a rematch against Enterprise State.

ESCC won the first two sets 25-23 and 25-17 before the Lions rallied to win the third set 25-21.

The fourth game ended with the Boll Weevils on top, 25-23 and the ACCC title.

Wallace State players Chloe Jackson, Rachel Mecklenburg and Abby McDonald were named to the ACCC All-Tournament Team.

Jackson a sophomore from Athens, had 51 kills, seven service aces and 20 digs. Mecklenburg, a freshman from Madison, had 31 kills, six service aces and 49 digs.

McDonald, a freshman from Cullman, had 97 digs in the tournament and two service aces.

The Lions finished the season with a 37-11 overall record and 11-3 conference record.

Head Coach Randy Daniel's overall record stands at a historic 670-138, making him the winningest coach in the ACCC.

Auburn falls at home to Vanderbilt 17-7

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. — Back home for the first time since September, Auburn outgained Vanderbilt but struggled on third down in a 17-7 loss to the Commodores Saturday at sold-out Jordan-Hare Stadium.

"The defense played outstanding and gave us a chance to win the game," Auburn coach Hugh Freeze said.

"Offensively and special teams-wise, we're not playing at a high enough level to win these games.

"We've got to finish drives and get points. We didn't convert near enough third downs to stay on the field. I think that's what it comes down to."

Leading 10-7 after three quarters, Vanderbilt took a two-score lead by driving 78 yards on 14 plays, consuming nearly 9 minutes and taking advantage of a personal foul penalty on a made field goal that gave the Commodores first-and-goal at Auburn's 4-yard line.

Vanderbilt scored one play later on Diego Pavia's 4-yard touchdown pass to Eli Stowers with 4:18 to play.

Trailing by 10, Auburn drove to Vanderbilt's 34-yard line but missed a 52-yard field goal attempt with 2:17 to play.

Auburn held Vanderbilt to 227 yards while producing 327, holding Pavia to a 41-percent completion percentage (9-for-22) and limiting the Commodores to 84 rushing yards on 38 attempts, an average of 2.2 yards per carry.

Payton Thorne completed 20 of 29 passes for 239 yards and a touchdown.

KeAndre Lambert-Smith led Auburn with 78 receiving yards on four catches, but the Tigers were 2 of 13 on third down and averaged only 3 yards per rush on 29 attempts.

Tied 7-7 at the half, Auburn drove 46 to Vanderbilt's 26-yard line but missed 44-yard field goal attempt.

Vanderbilt capitalized on a short field after forcing Auburn to punt from its 1-yard line and returning Oscar Chapman's 59-yard punt 39 yards to the Tigers' 21.

Brock Taylor's 31-yard field goal gave the Commodores a10-7 lead with 1:05 remaining in the third quarter.

Vanderbilt took a 7-0 lead late in the first quarter on Pavia's 28-yard touchdown pass to AJ Newberry to cap an 81-yard drive.

Auburn answered in the second quarter, twice converting on fourth down on an 11-play, 80-yard drive.

Jarquez Hunter took a direct snap and picked up 2 yards on fourth-and-1 from Auburn's 39-yard line.

On fourth-and-2 from Auburn's 49, Thorne teamed up with Malcolm Simmons for a 21-yard gain to Vanderbilt's 30-yard line.

From there Thorne found Rivaldo Fairweather, who caught the pass at Vandy's 21, faked one Vandy defender and dragged another to the goal line, diving for the pylon for a touchdown that tied the score at 7-7 after Towns McGough's extra point.

"I want to give God all the glory for having the ability at my size to run, make people miss and make tough catches," said Fairweather, who made a game-high five receptions for 66 yards. "I thank the coaches for trusting me and putting me in position to make plays."

Auburn enjoyed a 17:25-12:35 time of possession advantage in the first half and outgained the Commodores 214-132, but going 0-for-7 on third down limited the Tigers' opportunities.

For the second straight week, Dorian Mausi led Auburn in tackles with eight. Jerrin Thompson, Demarcus Riddick and Amaris Williams each made tackles for loss.

Ater an open date, Auburn (3-6, 1-5) remains at Jordan-Hare Stadium to host Louisiana Monroe Sept. 16 at 11:45 a.m.

"In life, how you finish matters," Freeze said. "Let's finish strong."

Steele Orchard
We Have Apples!
Mon-Fri: 8-5 | Sat: 8-4
Time to Schedule your Tours
256-734-5249

Bill Smith
BUICK GMC
1940 Second Avenue NW | Cullman, AL
"I'M EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOU AT BILL SMITH."
DYLON MCSWAIN - 256-339-2311
DMCSWAIN@BILLSMITHBUICKGMC.COM

Over 150 Wigs In Stock!
Options
Chemo Caps
Wigs & More!
Judy Watts Grissom
options5993@gmail.com
256-347-5993
2201 2nd Ave NW
Cullman, AL 35058
TUESDAY-FRIDAY 9:30 A.M. - 4 P.M.
SATURDAY 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Your agents.
Your neighbors.
Your friends.
KNIGHT-FREE
INSURANCE AGENCY
CULLMAN
Auto-Owners
INSURANCE
simple human sense

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Alabama residents anticipating fall color as temperatures drop

Katie Nichols
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. — The weather is not the only thing that is changing in Alabama. Along with lower temperatures, fall colors are also making an appearance. The reason for the season is rooted in science and emphasizes the effects that day length and temperature have on trees and leaves.

Mallory Kelley, an Alabama Cooperative Extension System regional agent, said leaf color is driven by a combination of the genetic makeup of the plant and environmental conditions.

"Leaves are made of living plant cells," Kelley said. "These cells typically appear green because of the pigment chlorophyll."

The green color in a leaf directly correlates to the amount of sunlight it receives during photosynthesis, the food-making process of plants. As daylight wanes during the fall, so does the amount of sunlight needed to make food for trees. This causes the trees to go dormant. Ultimately, the decrease in sunlight causes chlorophyll in the leaf cells to break down and disappear — allowing other colors to show.

This year, like 2023, has been dry. Trees have struggled to survive because of drought and the hot Alabama summer.

"Recent drought has put added stress on trees," Kelley said. "Even with added drought stress, there is still time for good fall color in Alabama."

Loading fall color

Autumn's color arrives earlier in certain regions of Alabama. The state's northern area typically receives lower air temperatures first. Onlookers can track the color change as it makes its way down the state. The most prominent colors of fall are yellow, orange, red and purple. Kelley said the hot and cold weather conditions should give Alabamians something to be excited about.

"The warm, sunny days with cool night temperatures are exactly what we need for the bright red and orange color development in our leaves," she said.

Temperatures trap sugars produced during the warm daylight hours inside the leaves, producing an array of bright fall colors. If closely observed, the brightest colors will most likely be on the southwest side of a tree. This is because the southwest side receives the last bit of sun and heat of the day — increasing the bright color change in those leaves when the cool nighttime temperatures arrive.

One of the first species to signal a change each year is an unpopular selection. The invasive Chinese tallow tree, commonly referred to as the popcorn tree, is a reliable producer of color each year. It serves as the indicator that fall is on its way with its bright colors of all shades.

The color yellow is in every leaf and it reveals itself as chlorophyll fades. Kelley said hickory and ginkgo are two trees commonly seen in the southern landscape that are not genetically capable of making red, orange or purple color — they only produce yellow and brown.

Maples, Bradford pears, Chinese elms and Chinese tallow trees will produce all shades of red, orange and yellow in the right conditions. Kelley said warm, sunny days with cool night temperatures – especially below 45 F – will give leaves extravagant shades.

More information

To learn more about fall leaves, as well as fall and winter plant care, visit the Alabama Extension website at www.aces.edu.

Alabama Power, ADCNR team up to build offshore reefs

David Rainer
Ala. Dept. of Conservation and Nat. Resources

With landfills reaching capacity, what could be a better way to repurpose decommissioned equipment than using it to build habitat for Alabama's great offshore fisheries?

Alabama Power Company recently teamed up with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (ADCNR) Marine Resources Division (MRD) to take end-of-life concrete poles and tower segments to build a new reef in the (Conservation Commissioner) Christopher M. Blankenship Reef Zone that covers 65 miles of Gulf of Mexico bottom between 10 and 20 miles off the Alabama coast.

Both Jason Carlee, Alabama Power's Manager of Water Field Services in the Environmental Affairs Division, and Craig Newton, MRD's Artificial Reef Coordinator, noted the arrangement of the concrete poles in the September 19 deployment reminded them of the old game Pick Up Sticks.

"We appreciate the opportunity to partner with the state," Carlee said. "This is the fourth reef that Alabama Power has deployed. This reef used concrete distribution and transmission poles and steel lattice from transmission towers. We used The Reefmaker out of Orange Beach to deploy the material, and Stewart Walter is very accurate with where he puts the material. The goal was to stack the poles in a crisscross pattern, kind of like Pick Up Sticks, to get some relief and not just lying flat on the bottom. He also added some transmission tower segments among the poles. There is a lot of surface area on those concrete poles for barnacles and other marine life to get that reef complex started."

Newton, who oversees Alabama's unparalleled reef zones that cover more than 1,200 square miles of bottom on the Gulf of Mexico, said the Blankenship Reef Zone was permitted in 2021 and named in honor of the Commissioner by Governor Kay Ivey. Soon after the permit was issued, MRD started deploying reefs in the zone and ended with 123 reefs using 164 super pyramid reef structures before the latest deployments.

"We developed a mutually beneficial partnership with Alabama Power, and they repurposed these concrete power poles and other material to construct this additional reef in the Blankenship Reef Zone that significantly increased the diversity of habitat types that are available to the reef fish in that area," Newton said. "The concrete poles provide a unique habitat that is different from the 25-foot-tall concrete pyramids in that there are more nooks and crannies for fish, crabs and invertebrates to seek refuge and inhabit. It's an exceptionally diverse reef habitat in 90 feet of water.

"I'm not sure kids today would know what Pick Up Sticks are, but, if you can, picture a configuration that resembles Pick Up Sticks in the way these concrete poles were deployed.

"In addition to the power poles, sections of a transmission tower were deployed adjacent to and on top of the power poles. That provides higher vertical relief and also a significant number of small, interstitial spaces."

Newton said the reef will be prime habitat for red snapper, Alabama's signature reef species, as well as gray triggerfish and gray (mangrove) snapper.

"It should be especially productive for producing gray snapper," he said. "Their behavior is such that they prefer to have relatively tight, close quarters with the habitat. This power pole configuration and the transmission tower sections will provide this unique habitat for the gray snapper to thrive in."

Commissioner Blankenship foresees a long relationship with Alabama Power to continue building reefs off the Alabama coast.

"I appreciate the reef-building partnership with Alabama Power," Commissioner Blankenship said. "Their commitment to sustainability by repurposing end-of-service-life material to create new living habitat for marine organisms is commendable. The Alabama Power staff and leadership have been great to work with. I look forward to many future projects."



MARK JERALD

The Reefmaker slowly lowers a concrete power pole to build a reef in the Blankenship Reef Zone.

With the assistance of Alabama Power, MRD also deployed another reef in the Blankenship Reef Zone, but it was a decommissioned tugboat, the William Lee. The tugboat was donated by Hooks Towing from Chickasaw, Alabama, and Alabama Power provided the funding for the deployment.

The tugboat was 45 feet long and 25 feet wide. The William Lee was deployed 17 miles south of Dauphin Island in the Blankenship Reef Zone.

"The William Lee tugboat was cleaned and fully remediated to remove any compounds that would not be conducive to the marine environment," Newton said.

"The empty steel hull had holes cut in so that the fish could utilize the entire structure. The William Lee rests on the bottom about 105 feet below the surface and extends about 15-17 feet into the water column. It will be good habitat not only for the typical red snapper and triggerfish but also greater amberjack. The water is a little too shallow to be considered a really good amberjack reef, but during certain times of the year and certain environmental conditions, we do expect there to be good amberjack on this reef."

Alabama Power started its reef deployment activity when it partnered with Cooper/T. Smith (CTS) and the Alabama Wildlife Federation (AWF) to deploy its first artificial reef in the Gulf of Mexico in 2016. Two retired boilers from plants in Washington County and Theodore were loaded and secured on a CTS salvage hopper barge and deployed in a zone 25 miles southeast of Dauphin Island. In 2019, three 13-foot by 26-foot storage tanks from Washington County and Barry plants were repurposed and deployed by The Reefmaker as the first reefs into the newly established AWF Nearshore Artificial Reef Zone.

In November 2021, Alabama Power deployed another retired package boiler and other material from the Washington County Gogen plant. The material was again welded inside a CTS salvage barge and deployed into the AWF Nearshore Artificial Reef Zone.

Alabama Power's Carlee pointed out these reefs provide multiple benefits for Alabamians.

"Alabama has created a world-class offshore reef fishery, and I understand that other states are trying to model what's being done in Alabama," Carlee said. "That's tremendous for recreational and commercial fishing. It's also incredible for economic development, bringing tourists from out of state to fish those reefs.

"But it is wonderful to be able to partner with the state and find a way to repurpose materials that have ended their useful life in our system. It's better for the customer as well as us to repurpose it instead of taking up landfill space. The state has done a tremendous job of managing the reef system."

Newton said there are currently about 10,000 artificial reefs within the 1,200 square miles of reef bottom in the Alabama Artificial Reef Program (www.outdooralabama.com/saltwater-fishing/artificial-reefs).

"The private sector has been extremely important to reef construction offshore of Alabama," he said. "That's what really sets our program apart from other programs. It's the partnerships we've made with the private sector, where private entities can go through a simple permitting process and construct their own reefs.

"Over the past seven or eight years, we went through a significant expansion of what was already an amazing artificial reef program."

MRD gained permits for an additional 60 square miles of water bottom between 6 and 9 miles offshore as well as added the 65 square miles of bottom in the Blankenship Reef Zone. With remediation from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, MRD deployed several thousand new reef modules in the new reef zones.

"We really kind of changed the dynamics of the fishery and provided significantly more access to the reef fish populations by adding these nearshore artificial reefs," Newton said. "For example, a family can go 6-7 miles on an afternoon trip and have a respectable chance of catching good red snapper. Prior to this expansion, that just wasn't possible because of the limited amount of habitat. We have greatly increased the accessibility to the natural resource with the development of these new reefs."

Obituary Announcements: Nov. 2-4

Pamela Sean Dean, 58 Pamela Sean Dean, age 58, of Baileyton, Alabama passed away on Friday, November 1, 2024. She was preceded in death by her parents: Jerry and Willowdean Wright. Pam is survived by her daughter, Megan Duckworth (Josey); sister, Angela Jones; brothers: Christopher Wright (Tiffany) and David Wright (Jennifer); and a host of other family members and friends. The family will receive friends at Moss Service Funeral Home on Sunday, November 3, 2024 from 3 p.m. until the celebration of Pam's life which will begin at 5 p.m. in Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel. To leave condolences for the family please visit mossservicefh.com. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Free Obituary Listings

HAVE YOUR FUNERAL HOME CONTACT US

Email: robin@cullmantribune.com • Fax: 256-739-4422

Complete obituaries may be found free of charge at CullmanTribune.com/obituaries.

LEGALS

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN
NOTICE OF COMPLETION

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that Struthers Recreation, LLC - 220 Applegate Trace – Pelham, AL, Contractor, has completed all work on – **THE CULLMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL – PLAYGROUND, 900 HOEHN DRIVE, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055.** All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify the above named Contractor. All claims should be filed within 30 days of the final publication of this notice.

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, November 18, 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. Special exception – 1742 3rd Avenue SE – home occupation

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

NOW HIRING CLASS A CDL DRIVERS

SAME DAY APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW + COMPETITIVE PAY AND BENEFITS

SFTWI
PLEASE APPLY AT COLLEGE TIRE
315 MAIN ST. NW HANCEVILLE
256-352-2221

Volunteers (from Front)

you are interested in helping fathers and mothers become parents, then The Link needs you. If you are interested in Adult Ministry, then The Link needs you. If you are interested in assisting people in re-entry and recovery, then The Link needs you. If you do not have passion, or you are not investing financially in a cause that gives you great satisfaction, then you need The Link!" he shared. Said Betts, "There is fruitfulness in each one of us that God wants to use... we need each other in order for growth to happen and fruitfulness occur."

For those seeking resources or those interested in volunteering, visit www.linkingcullman.org or call 256-775-0028.

Election (from Front)

Jen Baker
jen@cullmantribune.com

FAIRVIEW, Ala. — Fairview High School held a mock election Monday, Nov. 4, ahead of the Nov. 5 General Election.

Students from grades nine through 12 learned about the election process and how to cast a ballot.

Junior Jack Haynes shared, "I think this experience has allowed me to understand how the voting process works, and now I know how to vote whenever I do turn 18. Now, I'll know what to do and where to go and how things work."

History teacher LeeDell Cook explained the mock election process, sharing, "We're holding a mock student election at Fairview High School. It's a history department project. We do it departmentwide, and with each class period we bring them in and they go through the voting process just like they would on Election Day, like you and I will do tomorrow. Hopefully, this will give them experience when they do turn 18 and are registered voters, and they will understand the process more clearly. Also, each one of us has taken time in our classes to cover different lessons that have to do with elections and the voting process."

Each student lined up to show his or her ID, take a ballot, fill it out and turn it in.

Senior Josie Earl told The Tribune, "This has prepared me for Election Day because I'll be 18 soon and I have no idea how to do this. So, this is running me through the process so that I will know how to do this when I have to go by myself and go do it."

VIRGIL B. FOWLER
Real Estate and Insurance
AGENCY
Quality Since 1935
734-3821
vbfowlerinsurance.com
Successors to
WILLIAM RICHARD & SON INSURANCE
" Established 1885 "
Virgil B. Fowler 1895-1978 - Virgil B. Fowler Jr. 1937-2019 - Dorothy S. Fowler - Jason S. Fowler

LEGALS

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2024-376

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF PATSY ANN WHALEY, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Timothy Lee Whaley on the 21st 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.

Timothy Lee Whaley
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 JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF *
F.L.F., * **CASE NO.: JU 23-600.03**
a minor, DOB: 08-10-2023. *

NOTICE OF TERMINATION HEARING

KAGUN DAVID FULLER, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights filed by the Cullman County Department of Human Resources in regards to a minor child born on August 10, 2023, to Kimberly Taylor Farmer by the 3rd day of December, 2024, or thereafter a judgment terminating his parental rights may be entered against him in the Juvenile Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

Done this the 21 day of October, 2024.

Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk

Petitioner:
Cullman County Department of Human Resources
P. O. Box 990
1220 St. Joseph Street NW
Cullman, AL 35056

FILED IN OFFICE
OCT 21 2024
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

Perry D. Knight
Attorney for Petitioner
412 First Avenue SE
Suite 101
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4090

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF * IN THE PROBATE COURT OF
TOMMY FERRELL JONES, * CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
deceased. * CASE NO. PC 2023-194

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Tommy Ferrell Jones, Jr., as Administrator of the Estate of Tommy Ferrell Jones, deceased, on the 18th 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 will be barred.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80.

2003 LeSabre Buick, Vin#1G4HP52K23U246177
2009 Chevy Aveo, Vin#KL1TD66E49B608426
2009 Chevy Cobalt, Vin#1G1AT58H197293035
2006 Chevy Malibu, Vin#1G1ZT53846F293266
1999 Chevy S10, Vin#1GTCS1445XK509641
2018 Ford Taurus, Vin#1FAHP2H81JG102426
2011 Ford Fusion, Vin#3FAHP0HA7BR104831
2008 Ford Edge, Vin#2FMDK38CX8BA28972
2002 Honda Accord, Vin#1HGCG56752A117310
2011 Jeep Cherokee, Vin#1J4RR5GG8BC502165
2007 Kawasaki Vulcan, Vin#JKBVNKD167A012623
2008 Kia Spectra, Vin#KNAFE121585545890
2016 Nissan Rogue,Vin# KNMAT2MT8GP662762
2011 Volvo XC90, Vin#YV4952CZ6B1582436

These vehicles will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Mullins Body Shop, LLC, 11042 US Highway 31 South, Cullman, Alabama 35055, on December 17, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of *
MARGARET ANN MILLIS, * CASE NO.: PC2024-039
Deceased. *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration with Will Annexed having been granted to LAGEITA CAROL WATKINS HARRIS, as Personal Representative, of the ESTATE OF MARGARET ANN MILLIS, deceased, on the 16th 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.

Lageita Carol Watkins Harris
Personal Representative

Attorney for Petitioner:
Michael J. Baggett
BAGGETT & WILSON, LLC
206 Ninth Street Southwest, Suite 102
Cullman, AL 35055

TO: Publisher of THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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

DONE this 16th day of August, 2024.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF *
F.L.F., * **CASE NO.: JU 23-600.03**
a minor, DOB: 08-10-2023. *

NOTICE OF TERMINATION HEARING

KIMBERLY TAYLOR FARMER, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights filed by the Cullman County Department of Human Resources in regards to the above referenced child born on August 10, 2023 by the 3rd day of December, 2024, or thereafter a judgment terminating her parental rights may be entered against her in the Juvenile Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

Done this the 21 day of October, 2024.

Lisa McSwain
Circuit Clerk

Petitioner:
Cullman County Department of Human Resources
P. O. Box 990
1220 St. Joseph Street NW
Cullman, AL 35056

FILED IN OFFICE
OCT 21 2024
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY

Perry D. Knight
Attorney for Petitioner
412 First Avenue SE
Suite 101
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-4090

STATE OF ALABAMA)
) **NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**
COUNTY OF CULLMAN)

TO THE OWNERS OF THE WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Date & Time of Sale: Monday, Nov 18 2024 at 11:00 a.m./p.m.
Sale Location: Cullman County Courthouse East Entrance
500 Second Avenue, S.W.
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Writ of Execution Parties: Carroll's Contemporary Designs
vs.
Chanda and Danny Sterling
539 County Road 539
Hanceville, Alabama 35077

By virtue of an Execution issued to me by Circuit Clerk Lisa McSwain, pursuant to the Code of Alabama, requiring me to make the sum as provided for in said Execution issued on a judgment, with interest and cost. Upon the expiration of proper notice and advertisement, I will expose at public sale to the highest bidder at the date, time, and location listed above, all right, title, and interest of Chanda and Danny Sterling, property, described as follows:

Beginning at the Southeast corner of the Southwest quarter the Northeast quarter of Section 27, Township 11 South, Range 2 West, thence N-1°-31'47"W a distance of 646.91 feet to a point, thence N-89°-38'54"W a distance of 392.29 feet to a point, thence S-00-12'48"W a distance of 451.80 feet to a point, thence S-89°-47'12"E a distance of 210.52 feet to a point, thence S-0°-16'-18"W a distance of 193.32 feet to a point on the North right of way line of a paved county road, thence S-88°-50'-00"E along said right of way line a distance of 201.17 feet to the point of beginning.

Said land lying and being in the SW ¼-NE ¼ , Section 27, T-11-S, R-2-W, Cullman County, Alabama and containing 5.02 acres more or less.

Source of title: Pursuant to the description provided in Plaintiff's Amended Writ of Execution issued on or about 22 August 2024 in case DV-2024-900091 in the District Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

THEREFORE, according to said command, I shall expose for sale at public auction, all the right, title, and interest of the above-named Chanda and Danny Sterling, in and to the above-described property on the date listed above, subject to all prior encumbrances of record.

Dated this the 10th day of October, 2024.

BY: Matt Gentry, Sheriff
Sheriff Matt Gentry

Recycling Collection
Now Available in Cullman County
for Residents and Businesses
Cardboard | Plastic | Paper | Metal | Glass

Reduce your garbage volume
with Bi-monthly Recycling Pickup
It's Free to Try!

OSIRIS
RECYCLING SOLUTIONS LLC

(256) 615-2510
osirisrecycling.com

Not affiliated with Cullman County Sanitation Dept.
No drop-off location

WE WILL MEET OR BEAT ALL COMPETITORS PRICES OF LIKE PRODUCTS
COLLEGE TIRE
THANK YOU VETERANS
10% OFF ALL TIRES
TO ALL ACTIVE DUTY AND VETERANS
MARINES THE FEW. THE PROUD.
U.S.ARMY
315 MAIN ST. NW, HANCEVILLE
MON-TUES-THURS-FRIDAY 8:00-5:30
WEDS 8-12 | SAT 8:00-2:00
256-352-2221
...IN THAT WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS CHRIST DIED FOR US. ROMANS 5:8

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS!

Freed-Hardeman University student from Arab selected as 2024 homecoming court representative

Staff Reports
Contributor

HENDERSON, Tenn. — Eighteen Freed-Hardeman University students have been chosen by their peers to proudly represent their school as members of FHU's 2024 homecoming court. Representatives will be publicly recognized during a chapel presentation Thursday, Nov. 7, at 10:30 a.m. Following a week full of reunions and activities, two seniors will be crowned homecoming king and queen during a special coronation ceremony Saturday, Nov. 9, at 4:30 p.m. on Smith-Kirk Court of the Brewer Sports Center.

Reagan Malone, a Sport Administration - BBA major from Arab, Alabama, was selected as a FHU Homecoming class representative.

"We are so proud of these individuals who have been chosen by their peers to represent both their classes and FHU on this year's homecoming court," Chris Ramey, FHU director of alumni engagement, said.

"Each of them is an example of the positive character, integrity and servant leadership that makes the Freed-Hardeman community so special."

Homecoming 2024: Thanks for the Memories is taking place this week on the campus of Freed-Hardeman University. The full schedule can be found at fhu.edu/homecoming.



FHU

Homecoming court representatives (left to right, front row) Reagan Malone, Rachel Hibbett; (second row) Ben Rivers, Kannon Scott, Tristan Mashburn, Ellie Culbreath, Harper Shelton; (third row) Max Ballard, Eden LaRue, Marlee Gary, Spencer Bowen; (fourth row) Jack Rosenblum, Sarafina Njeru, Clay Kirkland; (fifth row) Ally Ballard, Matt Miller, Everett Scott and Brady Webb.

FAITH

'Be confident in who God calls you to be': County Fair Queen Avery Gerstman talks pageant experience

Sammy Confer
sammy@cullmantribune.com

BREMEN, Ala. — The 2024 Cullman County Fair Queen pageant was held at the County Fair on Oct. 8th and Cold Springs' Avery Gerstman was crowned as this year's County Fair Queen. Avery was excited to win the pageant and in this interview, she talked about her experience competing in this year's event and how it has given her an opportunity to share her faith with others.

"I was so honored. This is truly a God thing. Never in a million years would I have thought this would be my reality. I am so blessed to have this title," Gerstman said.

"It was hard work. Luckily, I had a wonderful support system that helped me throughout the way.

"My parents were a huge help, and my coach, Julie Graham, was the best coach ever. She is like a friend to me. Countless hours went into this, and I'm so thankful I had a great support system to guide me through this journey."

Avery has been competing in pageants since she was in the sixth grade and really started to get into them when she entered high school. She has gained so much from those experiences and feels blessed to have been around a lot of other talented girls with some of the same goals.

"I've learned that there is a negative stigma behind pageants. Many people are against them because of their stereotype.

"I've learned that no matter what, be yourself, let your light shine, and be confident in who God calls you to be," she said. "It was so inspiring. I was with eight other extremely talented girls. We were all in the same position, and we were able to bond over that. We all had our nervous moments, but we were able to talk to each other and calm ourselves down. Me, Cassie Davis, Camila Guevara, and our amazing coach prayed with us before the pageant."

Avery quickly became friends with two of the contestants during the pageant and feels blessed to have a coach like Graham in her life. She was shocked when she heard that she had won the pageant, and everyone was rooting on their friends, no matter what the outcome ended up becoming.

"Camila, Cassie, and I ended up being the best of friends during this experience. We bonded throughout this entire process. We became friends almost instantly.

"Mrs. Graham was so amazing. We all love her so much. She is such a blessing in my life. She brought out the confidence in me that I didn't know I had. She is like a best friend to me," she said.

"My talent was an interpretive dance using ASL to 'Will the Lord Remember Me'. All I wanted through my talent was if anyone didn't know Jesus, they would know Him after my talent. If anything, that was my main goal. I wanted somebody in the crowd, even one person, to be moved by my talent and song choice. My reaction was complete shock. It was something I had worked towards for months. I felt so blessed to receive that title. I'm so fortunate to have an opportunity to share my story with many people. I'm grateful. I think we were all rooting for each other, no matter what the outcome was. We were all rooting for each other. I will definitely remember the friendships I made, and how closely we all were able to bond throughout this experience. It made it so enjoyable," she said. "I hope I was able to show God's love throughout this entire experience and show others they are never alone."

Gerstman wanted people to see Jesus through her during the pageant and talked about a cause she supports that means a lot to her.

"I want people to remember the meaning behind the song, and I just hope they could see Jesus through me. I really wanted someone to feel touched. That was my main goal," she said.

"My CSI is 'Shine a Light'. It is to bring mental health awareness. I have struggled with mental health for many years now, and I want everyone to know they're not alone. I know that through this platform, others that struggle with their mental health can have a sense of relief knowing they are not alone.

"Mental health awareness in teens is something I'm an advocate for. It means so much to me. My goal is to raise awareness and shine a light on mental health awareness in teens."

There were a lot of young girls in attendance at the pageant, and Avery wants to continue to be a positive role model in their lives. She shared some advice for any girls that want to compete in pageants as well.

"Being a role model for young girls is incredibly important. It's an opportunity to inspire confidence. I want them to know that it's not just about the crown. It's about the experience and the message you portray," she said.

"I'd tell them to believe in themselves and embrace their Godly-given qualities. Focus on your passion, work hard, and always be kind. Confidence and kindness will shine brighter than any crown.

"I want them to remember that it's not just about winning. It's about growing and inspiring others along the way."

God has played a huge role for Avery during these pageants and she shared one of her favorite Bible verses that she thinks about when competing.

"God has played a significant role in my journey through pageants, providing me with strength and guidance.

"My faith has been a source of comfort, especially when facing anxiety. Through these experiences, I've learned to trust in a greater plan, which helps me navigate challenges with more confidence.

"My Shine a Light platform reflects this by focusing on mental health awareness. It allows me to share my story and encourage others to seek support, showing that it's okay to not be okay. This mission not only helps me cope with my own anxiety, but it also empowers others to embrace their struggles and shine in their unique ways," she said. "One of my favorite Bible verses is Micah 6:8. I always want to walk humbly with God. I am only there because of the Lord's saving grace."



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cold Springs' Avery Gerstman was crowned as this year's Cullman County Fair Queen on Oct. 8.