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Cullman earns 74-55 win over Hartselle; Lady Bearcats fall 54-40

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Berlin Town Council proposes 1st salary for mayor, keeps council members as volunteers

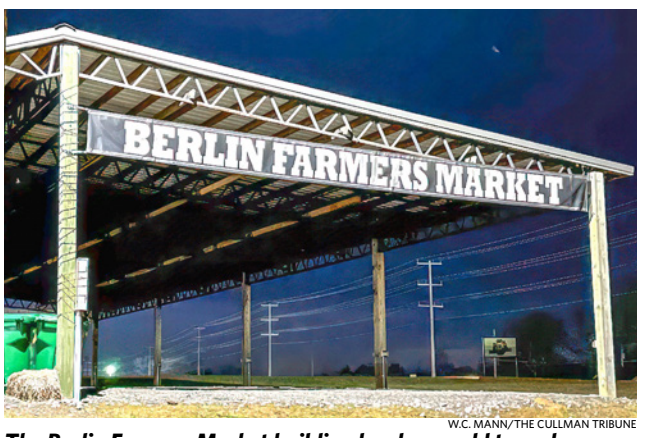
W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

BERLIN, Ala. — The Berlin Town Council on Monday proposed a salary for the mayor to go into effect after the next election. The $800 per month/$9,600 per year salary will be the first offered in Berlin's short six-year history. Neither Mayor Patrick Bates nor any council member has received any salary in that time, although the Town does offer reimbursement for certain expenses related to the officials' duties. The councilmen also proposed that they remain unpaid, seeming to take pride in their volunteer status.

"You get paid, and nobody else does," said Councilman Tony Duke to Bates.

"Come election next time, going into it, you ain't getting paid unless you're the mayor."

The council also voted to accept a bid for the sale of the Berlin Farmers Market structure located in front of Berlin Town Hall. » PAGE 6



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Berlin Farmers Market building has been sold to make room for a new market facility to be built on the site. The old structure must be removed by Jan. 10, 2025.

Cullman Theatre wins state title at Walter Trumbauer State Festival



CULLMAN THEATRE

The Cullman Theatre program, led by director Wayne Cook, celebrates winning the top honor, Best in Show, at the Walter Trumbauer State Festival, along with numerous individual awards, including Best Performer/Actor, Best Lighting Design and Best Sound Design.

Gauge Day
gauge@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Cullman High School Theatre program has once again proven its excellence by winning the top honor, the prestigious Best in Show award, at the Walter Trumbauer State Festival, Alabama's premier theater competition for high schools. This win marks the third time Cullman Theatre has achieved this feat in the past 11 years. The accolade comes with an invitation to represent Alabama at the Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) in Baltimore, Maryland, in March.

In addition to Best in Show, Cullman Theatre brought home a host of individual honors. This includes special awards for the One Act, "The Old Man and the Old Moon" for which Slade Turbyfield earned the Best Performer/Actor award, while the production received awards for Best Lighting Design and Best Sound Design. Bailee Henderson, Jameson Inscho and Cadan Fales were named to the All-Star Cast. Highlighting the unique aspects of the production, Jill Blocher won first place in Puppet Design for her work with shadow and hand puppets used in the show. The program's students also amassed 30 individual superior medals, with Lily Abbott achieving third place in Comedic Musical Theatre.

The state title is a high honor for Cullman Theatre and its director, Wayne Cook, who shared the significance of the achievement.

"The honor means a lot to me and these students. In Alabama, it is the highest honor you can receive in high school theater," Cook » PAGE 2

Wreck claims life of Cullman man

» PAGE 3

GUEST EDITORIAL

Generous-spirited angels



BEN JOHNSON

The garden gazebo at the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind North Campus with Dr. Shametra Miller, Nick Lee, Siler Philyaw and Noah Laney. » PAGE 5

Former Fairview standout Elijah Guyton named AFCA 1st team All-American



UWA ATHLETICS

Former Fairview standout and current West Alabama kicker Elijah Guyton has been named an AFCA first team All-American. "Guyton's stellar 2024 campaign was recognized with a plethora of awards with none standing above an AFCA First Team All-American selection. The Tigers' Placekicker earns this distinction after leading the country in field goal percentage for a large portion of the year. The redshirt sophomore ended the 2024 season 15-19 on field goals while knocking through 35 extra points, leading to 80 total points which ranks third in the GSC. Guyton buried four kicks from 40 plus yards, solidifying himself as the top Placekicker in Division II."

Hot cocoa and a Christmas movie

» PAGE 3

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Toasty Tot



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Toasty Tot » PAGE 2

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CRIME

Arrests and incidents reported Dec. 18

Cullman Tribune staff
Contributor

CULLMAN, Ala. — Below are the arrests and incidents reported Dec. 18, 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

Dec. 11

• criminal mischief-2nd degree; person; damage to '23 Honda Accord; $2,000; Hwy. 157

Dec. 12

• theft of property-4th degree; Wal-Mart; general merchandise; $9; Hwy. 157

Dec. 14

• duty upon striking unattended vehicle; person; damage to '09 Lexus; $800; Hwy. 157

Dec. 16

• domestic violence-3rd degree; domestic violence-3rd degree – harassment; criminal mischief-2nd degree; person; damaged property; $2,000; Margaret St. NW
• theft of property-4th degree; person; phone; $150
• theft of property-1st degree; person; cash
• leaving the scene of an accident; person; damage to '23 Hyundai; 4th St. SW

Dec. 17

• criminal trespass-3rd degree; person; Denson Ave. SW
• theft of property-1st degree; person; cash; Katherine St. NW

ARRESTS

Dec. 16-17

Brown, Carl G.; 22
• theft of property-3rd degree
• fraudulent use of credit/debit card

Fuller, Kagun D.; 29
• FTA – insurance violation (5 counts)
• FTA – driving without license (2 counts)
• FTA – improper lights
• FTA – fail to register vehicle
• FTA – expired tag
• FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree
• FTA – theft of property-4th degree (2 counts)

Farmer, Kimberly T.; 31
• FTA – criminal trespass-3rd degree

Riggs, Devon; 23
• FTA – insurance violation

Edmonds, Tammy L.; 54
• criminal trespass-3rd degree

Pack, David W.; 28
• domestic violence – assault

Powell, Daiquiri T.; 35
• possession of marijuana-2nd degree
• theft of property-4th degree

Howard, Gage T.; 19
• DUI

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests or incidents reported.

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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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 (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, Dec. 20 - 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.
• Saturday, Dec. 21 - 9-11 a.m. Drive-through food bank
• Sunday, Dec. 22 - 9 a.m. Van runs in the 5 Points Area. Call Betty Hays at 256-338-3728 for pickup. Breakfast at 9:30. Bible study classes for children, youth and adults at 10. Praise and worship and message by Pastor Bobby Dodd at 11.

Alcoholics Anonymous
Sundays, 3 p.m. at Cullman First Church of the Nazarene, 5415 Alabama Highway 157. CLOSED literature study. Handicap accessible.

TOPS (Take off Pounds Sensibly) Meetings
Fridays, 9:30-11 a.m., at the Donald E. Green Adult Active Center, 1625 Cleveland Ave. SW. The first meeting is free. TOPS, a national program, is a hands-on/pounds-off approach to weight loss and management through weekly meetings providing information, accountability, support and encouragement where you make the changes that make sense to you.

Cullman NAR-ANON Group Meetings
The NAR-ANON family group meetings are a worldwide fellowship for those affected by someone else's addiction. We offer Help by sharing our experiences, strength and hope. We carry the message of hope by letting others know that they are not alone by practicing the 12 Steps of NAR-ANON and changing our own attitudes. We Respect Your Anonymity. Our program is not a religious one, but a spiritual way of life. Meetings will be held at The Ruehl Building (Family Life Center of St. John's Church) Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. Contact Jamie Weathersby Smith 256-708-7122 or Don or Nancy McKenzie 256-736-3327 or 256-736-3470 for more information.

Cullman Al-Anon Meetings
The Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of friends and family whose lives have been affected by alcoholism. The Cullman Serenity Al-Anon Group meets each Monday at noon at 1519 St. Joseph Dr. NE. There is also a Zoom meeting each Tuesday at noon. The Courage to Change Al-Anon Family Group meets on Thursdays at 6 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church at 305 Arnold St. NE in the Carriage House, located between the church and the Arnold House on the corner. For more information call 256-734-2231 or 256-531-4429.

The 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.

21st Annual Winter Wonderland Christmas Light Display
Through Dec. 29, 5-9 p.m. at Sportsman Lake Park, 1544 Sportsman Lake Road NW. Admission is a cash donation of $10 cash per vehicle. In addition to over one million lights, there will also be a Christmas train, horse and carriage rides, snow machine, photo booth, hot chocolate and even a few visits from Santa himself.

Specific dates of operation:
• Dec. 19-22
• Drive-through only Dec. 26-29

Cullman Christkindlmarkt
• Depot Park, 107 Arnold St. NW, Cullman, AL 35055
• Through Dec. 23, Thursdays-Saturdays, from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sundays from noon-8 p.m. | Open seven days a week. Get more information at www.cullmanchristkindlmarkt.com.

6th Annual Christmas at the Grotto
Through Dec. 28, 5-9 p.m. at the Ave Maria Grotto, 1600 St. Bernard Dr. SE. Christmas lights return to the Grotto! Come and experience the beauty of Br. Joseph's work at night surrounded by lights and music! We have expanded this unique holiday experience to include a Christmas Tunnel at entry and also Santa's Workshop! We've also have added more dates! The weekend of Dec. 13-14 will feature even more to see and do, including musical performances, food trucks, kids' rides and horse-drawn wagon rides around St. Bernard's campus. Plus, Santa Claus will be here! Refreshments will be available every night.

Dates:
• Dec. 19-23
• Dec. 26-28

Admission:
• Adults - $10
• Seniors - $8
• Military/Veterans/First responders - $7
• Teens (13-17) - $8
• Children (5-12) - $7
• Children 4 and younger - free
• Wagon rides on Dec. 13-14 - $5
• Kids' rides on Dec. 13,-14 - $3

Free Christmas Meal
Saturday, Dec. 21, 11 a.m. till all food is gone! Free to all!! At The Foot Of The Cross Church, 2101 County Road 1435, Vinemont.

Cullman County Soil & Water Conservation District Quarterly Board Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 9:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center, 501-B Fourth St. SW in Cullman.



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Toasty Tot (from Front)

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — Toasty Tot, The Cullman Tribune's Pet of the Week, is an approximately 2-year-old Border Collie.

He exhibits medium energy but generally prefers to stay close to you. If you're looking for an observant pup, Toasty Tot is alert and attentive, but he does believe he is a lap dog. He understands leash etiquette.

He needs a job or task, so those who may be the perfect fit would be ones seeking a therapy, companion or hiking dog.

His caretaker at the shelter said, "I just love this fellow!"

Toasty Tot's adoption fee is $130, which includes neuter, DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet and microchip.

Visit the shelter at 935 Convent Road NE. It's open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. If you'd like to come by and meet Toasty Tot, just stop by. If he's been adopted, don't worry as he has lots of friends - both canine and feline - seeking forever homes!

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

Title (from Front)

said. "We are often validated by our community, but this is an honor bestowed upon us by those who also create and perform our craft. It means so much to be honored by your peers."

Cook continued by praising the dedication and creativity of his students, who put in countless hours to bring the production to life.

"These kids are so talented, but they also work very hard. We put time in during school and then these students put in at least six additional hours each week to prepare for this production, not to mention hours learning lines, songs and musical instruments," Cook said. "Our students designed the sets, puppets and were able to do all the sound effects for this show live. These students are great examples of many of the students at CHS — loyal, hardworking, creative and competitive. They are committed to being winners and therefore they are winners."

With the invitation to SETC, Cullman Theatre now faces the challenge of raising approximately $50,000 to transport and house the students for the national festival. The program has launched a fundraising campaign, seeking support from individuals and businesses.

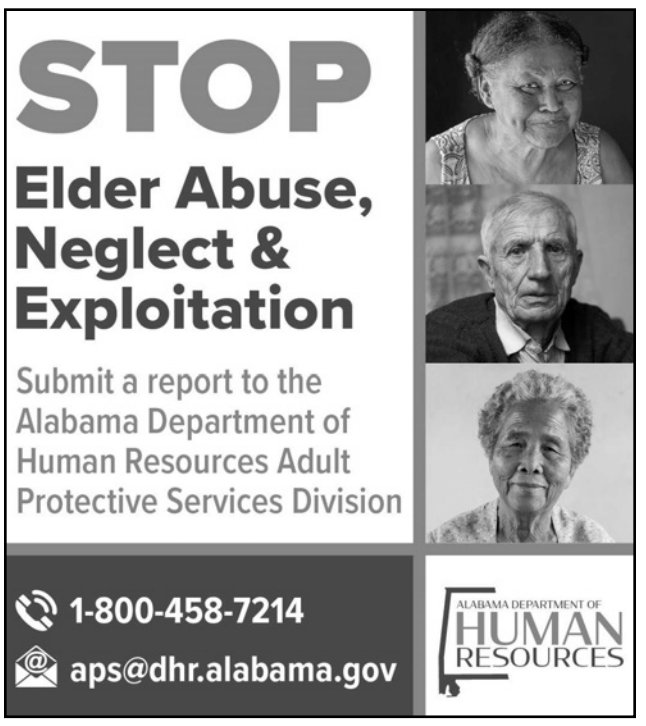
"We are given the opportunity to represent our city, county and our state at SETC," Cook said. "We are looking for people to join our championship club with tickets, social media shoutouts and a year-long display in our theater championing those who support our program."

To contribute to Cullman Theatre's fundraising efforts or to learn more, contact Wayne Cook at wcook@cullmancats.net.

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Movie (from Front)

Jen Baker
jen@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The main branch of the Cullman County Public Library System will host a special event this Saturday, Dec. 21, at 10 a.m.

For this month's special Saturday program, the library will show "The Grinch" and have a hot cocoa bar.

Guests are invited to come in their favorite festive pajamas to enjoy this holiday treat.

The library is located at 200 Clark St. NE in Cullman. The event is free.

Wreck (from Front)

Lauren Estes
lauren@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — A Cullman man was killed in a wreck Thursday, Dec. 12, at U.S. Highway 278 and Alabama Highway 157. Cullman County Coroner Jeremy Kilpatrick identified the victim as Dillon Stansell, 29.

According to authorities, the crash involved an 18-wheeler and a motorcycle and happened at approximately 4:50 p.m.

Kilpatrick said Stansell was declared deceased at the scene.

No further details are available.


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PREP BASKETBALL

Cullman earns 74-55 win over Hartselle; Lady Bearcats fall 54-40

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. – Cullman was back home at Bearcat Arena Tuesday night for a pair of varsity battles against their rivals from Hartselle and the Bearcats split their matchups. The Lady Bearcats fell behind early and made a late push in the second half to cut into the Hartselle lead but couldn't complete the comeback and fell to the Lady Tigers 54-40. In the boys' game, Cullman went into the locker room with a 3-point lead at halftime but outscored the Tigers 40-24 in the second half to earn a 74-55 win.

Cullman 74 – Hartselle 55 (Varsity Boys)

Gray Hopper laid one in to give the 'Cats a 2-0 start and after Hartselle responded with a couple baskets on the other end, Jake Dorough converted an and-one play at the line to keep Cullman in front 6-5.

Evan Wilson sank a pair of free throws to make it a 7-6 game and that's when Preston Gay caught fire.

Gay drilled a three from the left corner and was fouled on the shot, adding the free throw to make it 11-6.

Gay knocked down two more threes to keep Cullman ahead 17-14 as the quarter went on.

Dorough finished another and-one play to make it 20-16 Gay's third three-pointer of the period made it 23-16 and Owen Graves hit a pair of free throws in the final seconds of the first to give the Bearcats a 25-16 lead at the start of the second.

Brooks Loftin knocked down a pair of free throws to make it 27-19 early in the second quarter and Gay's fourth three of the night put Cullman in front 30-19.

After Loftin split a pair of free throws, Wilson laid one in to make it 33-26 but the Tigers were able to cut the lead down to 34-31 by halftime.

The 'Cats found their rhythm on the offensive end in the second half, starting with three-pointers from Jake Dorough and Emory Bonds early in the third quarter

Wilson scored inside and Bonds added a pair of free throws to give the 'Cats a 46-39 lead later in the third and after Dorough netted a pair from the line, Gay knocked down another three to make it a 51-43 game.

After Loftin laid one in, Graves scored through a foul and tacked on the free throw to put Cullman in front 56-43 with less than two minutes to play in the third.

Dorough and Graves each scored again in the final minute of the period to give the Bearcats a 60-45 lead at the start of the fourth quarter.

Back to back buckets from Loftin made it a 64-47 game early in the fourth and Sam Dorough drilled a three on the next possession to make it a 20-point game. Wilson buried a three from the top of the key to make it 70-47 midway through the period.

Jake Dorough hit two more free throws and Loftin scored one more basket to put the finishing touches on a 74-55 win for the 'Cats.

Gay led Cullman with 21 points in the win. Jake Dorough finished with 15 and Loftin added 13.

Hartselle 54 – Cullman 40 (Varsity Girls)

A pair of Molly Wilson baskets made it a 5-4 game early in the first quarter, but Hartselle dominated the remainder of the period 15-0 to take a 20-4 lead into the second quarter.

After Molly Dorough sank a pair of free throws, Kaylee Johnson banked in a long jumper to make it 24-8.

Two more buckets from Wilson cut it to 28-12 with three minutes remaining in the half but the Lady Tigers were able to move ahead 30-12 by the end of the period.

A basket from Rachel Hoffman and a pair of Wilson free throws trimmed the lead to 33-16 early in the third.

Dorough and Wilson each scored inside to make it a 38-20 game and Hoffman scored the final three points of the quarter for Cullman to hold Hartselle's lead to 43-23 going into the final frame.

Dorough buried back to back three-pointers to cut the lead to 45-29 at the start of the fourth and Wilson laid one in to make it 45-31.

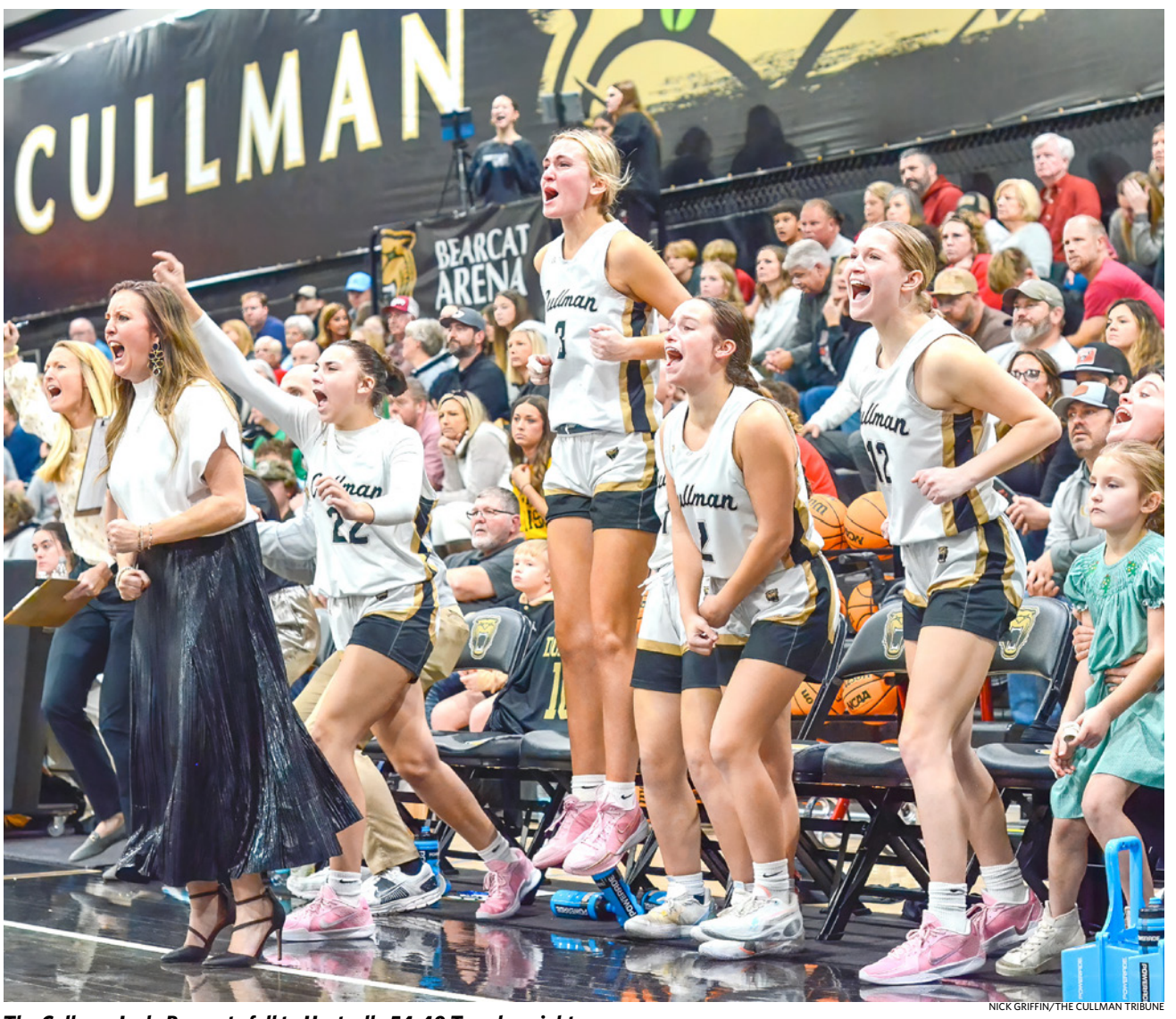
Another basket from Dorough made it a 45-34 game later in the period but Hartselle responded with a 9-0 run to put the game out of reach for the Bearcats and secure a 54-40 win.

Dorough led Cullman with 16 points in the loss, followed by Wilson with 14 and Hoffman with seven.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Preston Gray (0) led the Bearcats with 21 points in their 74-55 win over Hartselle Tuesday night.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman Lady Bearcats fell to Hartselle 54-40 Tuesday night.

OFF THE CHAIN: Johnson leads No. 2 Auburn over Georgia State 100-59

Jeff Shearer
AU Athletics

AUBURN, Ala. — With one big man in foul trouble and the other on the bench icing a sore shoulder, Chaney Johnson stepped in and stepped up to lead No. 2 Auburn over Georgia State 100-59 Tuesday at sold-out Neville Arena.

"Chaney Johnson was dominant," Auburn coach Bruce Pearl said. "I'm really proud of him. Nobody works harder than Chaney. (Assistant coach) Ira Bowman is in the gym with him all the time. He's got a really nice inside-out game."

Johnson scored 26 points and made 12 of 14 shots, his most prolific scoring performance at Auburn, adding eight rebounds and four assists.

"It's a great feeling," Johnson said. "I'm playing behind two of the best bigs in the country. It was a great feeling to get on the court a little more than usual and perform."

SEC Player of the Week Johni Broome exited after two minutes with an injury and Dylan Cardwell played only six minutes in the first half after picking up his third foul.

"His right shoulder came out and came right back," Pearl said.

"He did it a year ago, so he's had some experience with it. We'll know a lot more tomorrow. I hope he's going to be okay."

Chad Baker-Mazara added 19 points and went 11-for-11 from the free-throw line. Baker-Mazara led Auburn with six assists. Denver Jones made 5 of 7 3-pointers and scored 17 points.

"Just staying the course," said Jones, who's shooting 44 percent (22 of 50) from 3-point range this season. "Coming to the gym, staying consistent with my work ethic and it's finally paying off."

Leading by 12 at the half, Auburn pushed its lead to 20 thanks to an early 11-0 run that featured a Jones 3-pointer and two buckets after steals.

The Tigers outscored the Panthers 57-28 in the second half.

"To have a 31-point spread in the second half against a good Sun Belt team that's going to compete for that championship with Arkansas State, Troy and a couple other teams, it's good," Pearl said. "Our guys respected our opponent."

Auburn forced 20 turnovers while committing 11, yielding a resounding 30-9 edge in points off turnovers.

Jones added two more 3s on assists from Cardwell before Johnson brought the crowd to its feet by slamming home a lob from Baker-Mazara.

Johnson continued to play above the rim, grabbing a defensive rebound and going coast-to-coast for a thunderous dunk, then adding another slam on an assist from Baker-Mazara.

Baker-Mazara's final pair of free throws gave Auburn a 30-point lead before the last media timeout.

JP Pegues buried a 3-pointer to help Auburn reach the century mark as the Tigers ended the game with an 11-0 run in the last 2 minutes that also featured 3s from Chris Moore and Jahki Howard.

Johnson filled the stat sheet in the first half with 13 points, six rebounds and four assists, making his first five shots.

Tahaad Pettiford made the first-half highlights with two steals and flashy finishes, a right-handed slam and a right-handed reverse layup.

Johnson's old-fashioned 3-point play in the final minute gave Auburn a 43-31 halftime lead.

Seeking to improve to 6-0 this season at neutral sites, Auburn (10-1) plays No. 16 Purdue Saturday at 3:30 p.m. on ESPN and the Auburn Sports Network.



Attendees pack Ag Center for 2024 Cullman County Sheriff's Office Rodeo

The Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center was packed Friday and Saturday, Dec. 13-14, 2024, for this year's Jimmy Arrington Memorial Rodeo, hosted by the Cullman County Sheriff's Office.



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



MIKE WITCHER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

COLUMN

I'm getting ornamental

Joe Hobby
Contributor

By now, I'm sure most of you have your Christmas tree and home decorations up. Not me - I'm a world class procrastinator. Think I'm kidding? I still have a rotten jack o'lantern on my front porch. Of course, soon I will be forced to give in to my wife's persistent requests (aka nagging), and begin hauling up boxes from the basement to make our house a quaint holiday home - for about three weeks when it all goes back in the boxes again.

At the risk of sounding like Scrooge, all of this fuss putting out holiday decorations for only three weeks ranks right up there with prepping for a colonoscopy.

The first box I retrieve is the biggest and the worst - the dreaded Christmas tree. Ours comes in several parts which must be assembled just so in order for the lights to work. Then the limbs must be bent out in such a way to avoid "gaps" - the high crime of Christmas tree assembly. Finally, it must be ramrod straight and sturdy, so I end up using books as levelers until it meets the holiday standards.

I feel compelled to point out that in this process I am always labor, and my wife is always management - someone who is all too eager to point out the smallest mistake I make. More likely than not, an argument will break out before we're finished. That "peace on earth and goodwill toward men" stuff obviously doesn't apply to husbands and wives putting up Christmas decorations.

However, once I start pulling out the tree decorations, something unusual happens. My dread will slowly give way to fond memories. That's because each box is like a time capsule from a Christmas past.

For example, I can't reflect on a lifetime of ornaments without thinking of the first Christmas I had as a married man. My wife and I didn't have much - certainly not enough to buy a tree full of decorations. So we decided to make them ourselves. Using salt, flour and water we made dough and fashioned some crude holiday figurines that were baked in the oven and painted with cheap acrylic paint.

I'm sure that Martha Stewart would have turned up her nose at my first attempt. Talk about hideous! It was supposed to look like a holiday elf, but instead it came out of the oven looking like a creature from a Stephen King novel.

This thing could scare small children. Rather than toss it in the garbage, I painted it grotesque colors and named him Mr. Spock.

For many years Spock was a holiday fixture, wedged high on a tree limb because I forgot to put a string hole in his head. He lived long and prosperous for many years until the day he fell to the floor.

During that first holiday season, we did manage to find a box of cheap, plain wooden ornaments. I took them with me on a weeklong sales trip and painted them in my hotel room at night. It was more productive than drinking in a bar, I suppose.

Many of these original, homemade adornments still hang on our tree, along with a lifetime of others, including a collar from my beloved dog Precious, likenesses of Elvis given to me as practical jokes, a wristwatch my father wore and a giant stuffed pheasant that my then 7-year-old granddaughter "bid on" at an auction. There are also lots of primitive decorations our kids made at church and school. Some of them include photos of my boys when they were just boys, which makes me think about the simpler times of years past.

I've come to prefer the homemade tree ornaments to the fancy store-bought variety. Each one we make will almost certainly have a narrative connected to it, which is an important part of the holiday season. Believe me, telling a story about an ornament someone made is a heckuva lot better than just saying, "Uh, I bought that one at Wal-Mart."

Now excuse me. I've been told by management that it's past time to get the big box out of the basement.

Joe Hobby is a barbecue-loving comedian from Alabama who wrote for Jay Leno for many years. Find more of Joe's stories on his blog: https://mylifeasahobby.blogspot.com. Follow him on Facebook at Joe Hobby Comedian-Writer.

Angels (from Front)

Ben Johnson
Contributor

This real Christmas story has generous-spirited angels, wise men delivering gifts, shepherds guiding the way and carpenters like St. Joseph, the earthly father of the Christ child.

Students in the Construction Technology program at the Cullman Area Technology Academy (CATA) learned the nearby campus of the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind was creating a sensory garden and outdoor classroom for people of all ages with special needs.

In the center of this garden, which is being designed to celebrate plants like mint for tasting teas, velvety-leaved plants to touch, beautifully colored flowers for those with sight, the sound of wind chimes and fragrance like honeysuckle and evergreens, was to be a focal point: a garden gazebo.

Working hours this fall to create a holiday surprise, the industrious, skilled, charitable students transformed their classroom into Santa's workshop.

Their garden gazebo gift was transported last week on a rollback truck from Earl's Body Shop in Cullman and shepherded by driver Chris Henderson.

Alabama Master Gardeners added to the holiday spirit.

The transportation fee was covered by a Morgan County Master Gardener, and a specially designed Christmas "sensory wreath" with the aroma of fresh eucalyptus and the tinkling sound of jingle bells was created as a gift from Cullman County Master Gardener Ellen Hall.

Three wise young men from CATA: Nick Lee, project leader from the Building Science program, plus Siler Philyaw and Noah Laney of the Lineman program, met the truck to make certain their gazebo gift was carefully delivered and centered in the planned area.

The sturdy construction and treated lumber promise as much as 30 years in this lovely setting.

It is easy to imagine Alabama heroine Helen Keller, herself deaf and blind, and her renowned teacher, Miss Annie Sullivan, taking a break from their studies and sipping a cool glass of fragrant tea in a gazebo exactly like this CATA gift, now at AIDB North.

Recently at the Christkindlmarkt in Cullman, Cullman County Schools Superintendent Dr. Shane Barnette beamed a bright smile like the star atop a Christmas tree when I commended the CATA staff and students for their generous holiday gift.

Dr. Shametra Miller, interim executive director of AIDB North, said this about the garden gazebo: "We at AIDB North would like to thank Dr. Susan Patrick, principal at CATA; instructor Mike Burkett; and the students at CATA for their meaningful contribution to our campus.

"During this season of giving, we are thankful to you and your team for a true example of gift-giving, sharing both your time and your talent."

This magical story of goodwill to all harkens back to the first Christmas and the kindness which is shared throughout the world from the miracle in the stable.

Free community meal tonight, Dec. 19

Jen Baker
jen@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN, Ala. — The Link of Cullman County will host its last free community meal of 2024 on Thursday, Dec. 19, from 6 p.m. until the food runs out.

The meal is sponsored by the Home Street Home Ministries Cullman Chapter and will include chicken and dressing, two sides, bread and dessert.

The event will take place at The Gathering Place at 708 Ninth St. SE in Cullman.

"We cannot thank Home Street Home Ministries Cullman Chapter enough for partnering with us to add an additional community meal each month for our neighbors this year," said The Link in a statement.

"From summery pulled pork sandwiches to hearty spaghetti and meatballs and now festive chicken and dressing, these folks have worked hard each month to ensure our neighbors have access to a fresh, hot meal. Thank you, Home Street Home!"

Thursday's meal is free, and everyone is welcome.

Berlin (from Front)

Local resident Steve Clark offered the only sealed bid, in the amount of $500, which was opened during the meeting.

He will have until Jan. 10, 2025, to dismantle and remove the structure from the property.

The council plans to build a new and improved market structure at the site as part of an overall development that will include a playground, walking paths and bathrooms.

According to Bates, a request for bids for the new farmers market building will be sent out this week, overseen by St. John & Associates.

The Berlin Town Council meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at Berlin Town Hall.

The public is invited to attend.



LEGALS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STEVIE SHARP,
Plaintiff

Vs. Case Number: **25-DR-2024-900321.00**

SHANE M. SHARP,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

Shane M. Sharp, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Stevie Sharp's Complaint for Divorce by January 27th, 2025 or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against him in Case Number 25-DR-2024-900321.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 26th day of November, 2024.

Lisa McSwain
Lisa McSwain,
Circuit Clerk

PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY:
JASON KNIGHT
210 SECOND ST SE
CULLMAN, AL 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
LOUIE D. HUSSEY,
Deceased.
CASE NO.: PC 2024-179

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to CALVIN CLEMENT, as Personal Representative of the Estate of LOUIE D. HUSSEY, deceased, on the 17th day of December, 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.

Calvin Clement
Personal Representative

Melvin Hasting
Attorney for Petitioner
PO Box 517
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0517

TO: **The Publisher of The Cullman Tribune**

Please publish the above Notice once a week for three consecutive weeks and send an affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of
JAMES M. STEWART,
Deceased.
CASE NO.: PC2024-394

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to JACK C. STEWART, as Personal Representative, of the ESTATE OF JAMES M. STEWART, deceased, on the 3rd day of December, 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.

Jack C. Stewart
Personal Representative

Mitchell McNaylor, Esq.
McNaylor Law, LLC
3590-B Pelham, Parkway, #220
Pelham, AL 35124

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 3rd day of December, 2024.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of
MARRION KEY,
Deceased.
CASE NO: PC2023-333

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION OF PERSONAL REPRESENATIVE FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT and PETITION OF PERSONAL REPRESENATIVE FOR FINAL DISCHARGE

TO: JASON KEY AND ANY OTHER NEXT OF KIN AND HEIRS OF MARRION KEY, DECEASED.

Petition of Personal Representative for Final Settlement and *Petition of Personal Representative for Final Discharge* filed by Rhonda Key, Personal Representative, through Attorney, Pamela E. Nail, has been scheduled for the **13th day of February, 2025, 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 3rd day of December, 2024.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

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

Pamela E. Nail
Attorney for Personal Representative
200 Second Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR BIDS – FULL DEPTH RECLAMATION PROJECT

Sealed bids will be received until Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at Cullman City Hall located at 204 2nd Ave NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 and at said time bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for full depth reclamation on Graham Street SW. A bid package may be obtained at Cullman City Hall or requested via email at cityclerk@cullmanal.gov.

All bidders must be licensed and must show evidence of license before submitting bids. The City of Cullman reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality or irregularity in the bids received. Wesley M. Moore, Cullman City Clerk

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IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of
MARY SUE BANISTER,
Deceased.
CASE NO. PC2024-322

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION TO PROBATE WILL AND FOR LETTERS TESTAMENTARY

TO: REGINA WIMBERLY, DEBORAH SHASTEEN LONG, HUNTER SHASTEEN, J.J. SHASTEEN a/k/a JAMES S. SHASTEEN, III, DONNA CAGLE, AMANDA JONES, LARRY SEMEVOLOS, JERRY DILWORTH AND ANY OTHER NEXT OF KIN AND HEIRS OF MARY SUE BANISTER, DECEASED.

Petition to Probate Will and for Letters Testamentary filed by William Thomas Blankenship, Petitioner, through Attorney Clint L. Maze. A hearing has been rescheduled on this matter for the **14th day of January, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, Alabama.

All persons are hereby given notice to appear if they think proper.

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

Done this the 3rd day of December, 2024.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice four (4) successive weeks is said newspaper.

Clint L. Maze
Attorney for Petitioner
Wilmer and Lee, P.A.
725 North Brindlee Mountain Parkway
Arab, AL 35016

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of
STANLEY RAY HARPER,
Deceased.
CASE NO: PC2023-016

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

TO: MICHAEL SHANE HARPER AND ANY OTHER NEXT OF KIN AND HEIRS OF STANLEY RAY HARPER, DECEASED.

Petition for Final Settlement received the 1st day of July, 2024, made Court record the 2nd day of July, 2024, by Toni Jenkins, Personal Representative, through Attorney Dan J. Willingham. has been scheduled for the **13th day of February, 2025, at 10:30 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 3rd day of December, 2024.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

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

Dan J. Willingham
Attorney for the Estate of
STANLEY RAY HARPER
413 First Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of
RAYMOND G. BARBEE a/k/a
RAYMOND GLEEN,
Deceased.
CASE NO.: PC2024-391

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters Testamentary having been granted to TONYA ROBERSON formally TONYA COKER, as Personal Representative, of the ESTATE OF RAYMOND G. BARBEE a/k/a RAYMOND GLENN BARBEE, deceased, on the 3rd day of December, 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.

Tonya Roberson formally Tonya Coker
Personal Representative

Michael E. Sparkman
Attorney for Petitioner
P.O. Box 1166
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

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 3rd day of December, 2024.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on June 29, 2009 by Bonnie J. Mathews & husband Phil E. Mathews, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book MTG 1603, Page 500 in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the following described property will be sold at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door of said County, in Cullman, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on January 6, 2025:

Lot No. 29 in Golf Road Acres Subdivision, First addition, recorded in Plat Book 6, Page 115 (slide a336) in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.

Said sale is made for the purpose of paying the mortgage debt and cost of foreclosure.

EvaBank, Mortgagee
Thomas W. Russell
Attorney for Mortgagee
2915 Clairmont Ave. S
Birmingham, Alabama 35205

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: The Estate of
DANA LEE REYES,
An alleged incapacitated person.
CASE NO. PC2024-384

NOTICE OF HEARING
PETITION FOR LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP

TO: MARCELENA HERRERA, ANTONIO MONTEL TAYLOR, ERIC DERON TAYLOR, JANIE DIANE ABNER, AND ANY OTHER NEXT OF KIN AND HEIRS OF DANA LEE REYES.

Petition for Letters of Guardianship filed in the matter of Dana Lee Reyes, an alleged incapacitated person, by Cullman County Department of Human Resources, by and through its agent, Michael Key, Petitioner, through Attorney Diane L. Dunning. A hearing on this matter has been rescheduled for the **7th day of January, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.,** before Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County Courthouse, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Room 101, Cullman, Alabama.

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

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

Done this the 5th day of December, 2024.

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

To the Publisher: The Cullman Tribune

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

Petitioner's Attorney:
Diane L. Dunning
Assistant Attorney General
State of Alabama
Department of Human Resources
P.O. Box 13248
Birmingham, Alabama 35202-3248

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on April 7, 2006 by Max Wayne Starnes, Sr. and Barbara Ann Starnes, husband and wife, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book MTG 1468, Page 114 in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the following described property will be sold at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door of said County, in Cullman, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on December 27, 2024:

Part of the SE 1/3 of the SW ¼ of Section 34, Township 11 South, Range 2 West, Cullman County Alabama described as follows: Begin at the DE corner of said ¼ - ¼ section; thence run northerly along the ¼ - ¼ section line, 160.04 feet to the south line of a 30 foot right of way; thence 89 degrees 54' left along said line, 600.00 feet; thence 90 degrees 06' left, 160.21 feet; thence 89 degrees 55' left, along the south line of said Section 34 a distance of 600.0 feet to the point of beginning.

The following manufactured home to be auctioned separately and together:
One (1) 2002 Fleetwood Manufactured Home, VIN #TNFL126A59076SS12

Address of the property (for identification purposes only)
1900 County Road 532, Hanceville, AL 35077

Said sale is made for the purpose of paying the mortgage debt and cost of foreclosure.

EvaBank, Mortgagee
Thomas W. Russell
Attorney for Mortgagee
2915 Clairmont Ave. S
Birmingham, Alabama 35205
The Cullman Tribune-December 5, 12, 19, 2024

Highly pathogenic avian influenza confirmed in Alabama; over 115K birds killed in Cullman County

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a commercial broiler farm in Cullman County and in a backyard flock in Pickens County.

Samples from the flocks were tested and confirmed positive at the Alabama State Diagnostic Laboratory in Auburn, part of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.

APHIS is working closely with state animal health officials in Alabama on a joint incident response and action plan.

State officials quarantined the affected premises, and all birds on the properties (approximately 116,000 in Cullman County and approximately 70 in Pickens County) were depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease. All poultry within a 10-kilometer radius (6.2 miles) of the commercial Cullman site are being tested and monitored.

As part of existing avian influenza response plans, federal and state partners are working on additional surveillance and testing in areas around the affected flocks. The United States has the strongest AI surveillance program in the world.

ADAI and USDA are actively monitoring for the disease in commercial poultry operations, backyard flocks, live bird markets and in migratory wild bird populations.

HPAI is considered low risk to human health according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but is highly contagious to other birds, including commercial and backyard flocks of poultry.

While the virus is also not considered a food safety threat, infected birds do not enter the food supply.

ADAI Commissioner Rick Pate and State Veterinarian Dr. Tony Frazier released the following statement: "It is critical for commercial and backyard poultry operations to remain alert and closely monitor the health of their poultry. The detection of HPAI in Cullman and Pickens counties reinforces the need to continue following strict biosecurity measures, including keeping birds enclosed without access to wild birds or other domestic flocks."

HPAI symptoms include:

- Sudden increase in bird deaths in your flock
- Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing and nasal discharge
- Watery and green diarrhea
- Lack of energy and poor appetite
- Drop in egg production or soft or thin-shelled, misshaped eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles and hocks
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, comb and legs
- Ruffled feathers, listlessness and lethargy

ADAI urges the commercial poultry industry and backyard flock owners to increase biosecurity measures to protect their operations from HPAI.

Biosecurity measures can include:

- Cleaning vehicles and equipment
- Limiting unnecessary visitors
- Sanitizing shoes in clean foot baths
- Changing clothes upon contact with birds and more

People should avoid contact with sick/dead poultry or wildlife. If contact occurs, wash your hands and change clothing before having any contact with poultry and wild birds. For information on biosecurity measures, visit http://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov.

Report sick or dead wild birds to the Alabama Department of Natural Resources and Conservation at 334-242-3469.

Report sick or dead domestic birds and poultry to ADAI's Poultry Unit at 334-240-6584.

More information about HPAI or detections can be found at www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/avian-influenza/2022-hpai.

Alabama Cooperative Extension System addresses avian influenza in state

Justin Miller
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

AUBURN UNIVERSITY, Ala. — The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) confirmed two cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) Dec.16. The disease was detected in a Cullman County commercial broiler farm and a backyard flock in Pickens County.

Rick Pate, the ADAI commissioner, and Dr. Tony Frazier, the state veterinarian, released the following joint statement: "It is critical for commercial and backyard poultry operations to remain alert and closely monitor the health of their poultry. The detection of HPAI in Cullman and Pickens counties reinforces the need to continue following strict biosecurity measures, including keeping birds enclosed without access to wild birds or other domestic flocks."

What is HPAI?
Carried by migratory waterfowl, HPAI is a highly virulent disease that can cause high mortality. Because Alabama is located between two major migratory flyways, this disease can easily transmit to backyard and commercial poultry flocks in the state.

Dr. Maggie Thompson, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's poultry veterinarian, said if the virus is detected in domestic poultry, the entire flock must be promptly and humanely euthanized and the area quarantined.

"While there may be a lot of speculation as to the origin of this virus, it is important to realize that this disease circulates in wild, migratory waterfowl and detections occur almost every year during the migratory seasons," Thompson said.

While HPAI cases do occur most years, consumers do not have to worry about the safety of poultry meat, because HPAI-infected poultry does not enter the food supply.

Symptoms and transmission
In poultry, HPAI presents itself through several symptoms, including sneezing, gasping for air, coughing, nasal discharge, watery and green diarrhea, fatigue and a poor appetite. Thompson said most often, the only clinical sign observed is sudden, unexplained death.

The virus can be transmitted in several ways. Infected birds can shed the virus in secretions from the mouth, nostrils and eyes. They can also excrete the virus in their fecal droppings, which is a common source of environmental contamination and spread. If a backyard poultry owner suspects their flock has contracted HPAI, they should contact the Alabama state veterinarian's office at 334-240-7253.

Biosecurity measures crucial
Thompson said implementing strict biosecurity measures is the key to preventing and stopping the spread of HPAI in both backyard and commercial poultry flocks.

"Be mindful that many backyard and commercial poultry producers in Alabama are also beef cattle producers," Thompson said. "Cattle-watering ponds, frequently visited by migratory waterfowl, are often present in the immediate vicinity of domestic poultry. This highlights the need for vehicle and boot sanitizing stations, as well as poultry-house-dedicated footwear. It is important not to drive vehicles and/or walk around ponds and then enter poultry facilities."

Backyard poultry growers should also take extreme caution when attending poultry exhibitions, swaps, auctions and other events, particularly in areas where the HPAI infection status is unknown.

The following are some basic biosecurity guidelines to protecting poultry flocks:

- Isolate poultry from other animals and protect poultry from wild bird access
- Keep surrounding areas clean and uninviting to wild birds
- Restrict/minimize human access to poultry flocks
- Utilize disinfection stations to sanitize footwear between houses
- Disinfect all equipment entering and leaving the farm. Do not share equipment between farms.
- Sanitize houses and coops in between flocks
- Have an all-in/all-out policy when adding and/or removing birds
- Dispose of bedding material and mortality properly

More information
Whether raising a commercial or backyard flock, implementing a strong biosecurity program is important for maintaining the health and well-being of the birds. More details about HPAI and poultry biosecurity are in the following Alabama Extension publications at www.aces.edu:

- Avian Influenza FAQ (www.aces.edu/blog/topics/poultry/avian-influenza-faq)
- Biosecurity for Backyard Poultry Flocks (www.aces.edu/blog/topics/farming/biosecurity-for-backyard-poultry-flocks)
- Protecting Backyard Flocks (www.aces.edu/blog/topics/poultry/protecting-backyard-flocks)
- Submitting Samples to Alabama Diagnostic Laboratories (www.aces.edu/blog/topics/farming/submitting-samples-to-alabama-diagnostic-laboratories)

$3.4M in Community Services Block Grants awarded statewide

Staff Reports
Contributor

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Gov. Kay Ivey's office this week announced $3.4 million in Community Services Block Grants will be distributed to 18 community action agencies to provide services at the local level to eligible individuals and families in Alabama.

"Many Alabamians through unforeseen events can be temporarily derailed from a successful path in life," Ivey said.

"The support provided through the Community Services Block Grant program helps those people get their lives back on track. I am pleased to support this program."

The various agencies awarded the grants will use the funds for a range of programs including ones that train people in the skills needed to obtain jobs, help participants maintain the ability to stay in their homes and provide emergency assistance to prevent further declines in their lives.

The types of assistance are determined by the local agencies based on needs in their regions.

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) is administering the grants from funds made available by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"ADECA is pleased to join with Gov. Ivey in this program that allows people the opportunity to improve their circumstances and lead good, productive lives," ADECA Director Kenneth Boswell said.

Agencies, amounts and coverage areas include:

- Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama Inc. - $118,795 (Colbert, Franklin and Lauderdale counties)
- Community Action Partnership Huntsville/Madison and Limestone counties - $233,197 (Limestone and Madison counties)
- Community Action Agency of Northeast Alabama Inc. - $771,740 (Blount, Cherokee, DeKalb, Jackson, Jefferson, Marshall, and St. Clair counties)
- Community Action Partnership of North Alabama - $191,893 (Cullman, Lawrence, Marion, Morgan and Winston counties)
- Walker County Community Action Agency Inc. - $44,915 (Walker County)
- Community Action Agency of Talladega, Clay, Randolph, Calhoun and Cleburne counties – $186,359 (Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Randolph, and Talladega counties)
- Community Action of Etowah County Inc. - $76,539 (Etowah County)
- Pickens County Community Action Committee and Community Development Corp. Inc. - $17,048 (Pickens County)
- Community Service Programs of West Alabama Inc. - $308,333 (Bibb, Choctaw, Dallas, Fayette, Hale, Greene, Lamar, Perry, Sumter and Tuscaloosa counties)
- Community Action Committee Inc. of Chambers, Tallapoosa, Coosa - $67,571 (Chambers, Coosa and Tallapoosa counties)
- Community Action Partnership of Middle Alabama Inc. - $167,051 (Autauga, Chilton, Elmore and Shelby counties)
- Montgomery Community Action Committee and Community Development Corp. Inc. - $170,144 (Montgomery County)
- Alabama Council on Human Relations Inc. - $111,516 (Lee County)
- Macon-Russell Community Action Agency Inc. - $77,573 (Macon and Russell counties)
- Organized Community Action Program Inc. - $161,741 (Bullock, Butler, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Lowndes and Pike counties)
- Community Action Agency of South Alabama - $240,310 (Baldwin, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Marengo, Monroe, and Wilcox counties)
- Southeast Alabama Community Action Partnership Inc. - $172,297 (Barbour, Coffee, Geneva, Henry and Houston counties)
- Mobile Community Action Inc. - $340,122 (Mobile and Washington counties)

Obituary Announcements: Dec. 17-18

Jane Mabel Baker, 75
Jane Mabel Baker, age 75, of the Baileyton community, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024, at Falkville Health and Rehab. Services will be announced at a later date. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Mrs. Baker is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Euis Baker, Jr.; daughters, Loretta Woodard, Sheila Sterling; sisters, Barbara, Carol, Faye, and Ernestine. She is survived by her daughter, Sandy Baker; grandchildren, Leland Thomason, Carson Thomason, Christian Woodard, Annette Blakely, Brandy Blakely, Patrick Lewis, Wayne Lewis, Jr., Shaela Quick, Dalton Sterling; great-grandchildren, Gavin Lewis, Grady Lewis, Gracelynn Lewis, Adalynn Quick, Oaklee Sterling, Paisley Sterling, and Riley Sterling. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com tosigntheonlineguestbook.

Andrew Marston Tubbs, 46
Andrew Marston Tubbs, age 46, of Hanceville, died on Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024. A memorial service will be held at a later date for Andrew. Cullman Funeral Home is honored to serve the family. Please visit www.cullmanfuneralhome.com tosigntheonlineguestbook.

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