

Sylacauga Today

VOLUME XXVI ■ NUMBER 10 MAY 18 THROUGH MAY 31, 2022

City Council Negotiating Economic Development Agreement With Wharf Seafood Restaurant

SYLACAUGA – The Sylacauga City Council approved a resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Wharf Casual Seafood, LLC, that will expire in 180 days or once joint approval of a satisfactory economic development agreement is reached between the city and the developer. The action was taken at the Council's regular meeting on Tuesday, May 3.

The Council approved a resolution supporting a tax abatement application from Heritage Plastics, Inc., and submitted to the Talladega County Commission; Heritage Plastics, Inc., will complete a \$10,200,000.00 expansion at its facility located within the police jurisdiction of Sylacauga.

An ordinance was adopted authorizing the city's participation in the 2022 Back-to-School tax holiday on July 15-17, 2022.

During the meeting, Police Chief Kelley Johnson recognized police officers for distinguished service to the city. Recognized were Lieutenant Jason McNeill and Keith Thomas, 25 years; Scot Meador, Lieutenant Willis Whatley, and Harry Brown, 20 years; Sergeant Ryan Gaither and Sergeant Stephen Ledbetter, 15 years; Sergeant Lee Davenport and Sergeant Chris Vison, 10 years.

Johnson also recognized the Police Officer of the Year,



SYLACAUGA POLICE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

SYLACAUGA – Sylacauga Police Officers were recognized for distinguished service at the Sylacauga City Council meeting recently. Photographed, from left, are Sergeant Ryan Gaither, 15 years; Officer Keith Thomas, 25 years; Lieutenant Jason McNeill, 25 years; Lieutenant Willis Whatley, 20 years; Officer Harry Brown, 20 years; Sergeant Chris Vinson, 10 years; Sergeant Stephen Ledbetter, 15 years; and Police Chief Kelley Johnson. Not pictured is Officer Scot Meador, 20 years and Sergeant Lee Davenport, 10 years.

Officer William "Lamar" Taylor. Johnson said, "Officer Taylor was nominated and voted by his peers within the police department. In the nominations that I received, it was noted that Officer Taylor has a very strong work ethic. Officer Taylor is eager to learn and take on more responsibilities within the department. Officer Taylor volunteers to cover shifts when he is called upon to do so and is always in a good mood when he comes to work. Officer Taylor loves being a police officer and loves his fellow officers. Officer Taylor is a part of SPD's Field Training Officer program and

is active in giving our younger officers training on how to stay safe and how to perform their jobs effectively and efficiently. Officer Taylor's dedication and sacrifice to the City of Sylacauga is phenomenal. Officer Taylor gets to work early to prepare for his shift and is the last to leave usually because he volunteered to catch that call for service that came in just before quitting time. Officer Taylor was chosen in 2021 to be a part of our K9 team. He happily agreed to take on that responsibility and has done some great things in that role. Because of Officer Taylor's love for the



OFFICER LAMAR TAYLOR Police Officer Of The Year

job, and his dedication to the City of Sylacauga, Officer William Lamar Taylor is the recipient of the Officer of the Year for the Sylacauga Police Department."

The Council accepted a recommendation from Street Superintendent Reed Calfee, Interim Code Enforcement Director Mike Whetstone, and the City's consulting engineer, InSite Engineering, to declare emergency repairs to the city's right-of-way primary drainage canal located near Coosa Valley Medical Center/ Nursing Home; InSite Engineering has recommended immediate repairs in order to protect the public and to restore safe public transportation within the area; the action authorizes the city to

[Continued On Page 3]

Good Morning!

INSIDE:

Congratulations Class of 2022:

Childersburg High School
 Sylacauga High School
 Winterboro High School

Gary Rivers Appointed Principal of Sylacauga High School

Talladega County School Board Meets

Sylacauga City School Board Meets

And Much More!

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Officer Lamar Taylor Receives Applause

"I want to send an applause to Officer Lamar Taylor on being named Police Officer of the Year. When your peers select you for an honor such as this, it says a lot about your work habits and work ethics. Congratulations on this honor!"

Applause To Charmelle Lewis For Recipes

"I am calling to send an applause to Charmelle Lewis and the recipes she shares with us. Spring is a busy time and after working all day, spending time at the ball field, and then having to prepare meals I have used several of these easy recipes. I can find the ingredients locally, the preparation time is quick, and they are delicious! Thank you!"

Applause Sent To Sylacauga Today

"I want to send an applause to Sylacauga Today for providing us with local news that nobody else does. This is where I get my local news and the things going on in Sylacauga. We pick up our free copy in Stewartville and I have noticed that you give complimentary newspapers in Fayetteville, Winterboro, Childersburg, Sycamore, and Goodwater, too. You really get the word out! My wife and I especially enjoy reading Ginger Clifton's and Coach Lewis' articles. We love the newspaper!"

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the spirit of freedom of speech and expression, applauds are received anonymously from citizens in the community and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the staff of Sylacauga Today.

Gary Rivers Named Principal At Sylacauga High School

SYLACAUGA - The Sylacauga Board of Education has appointed Gary Rivers as principal of Sylacauga High School beginning with the 2022-2023 school year. The announcement was made following the resignation of current principal Matt Hodge.

Rivers began his teaching career at Sylacauga High School in 2000 where he taught Special Education for three years and was the Special Education Transition Coordinator for one year before being promoted to assistant principal at Nichols-Lawson Middle School (NLMS). He served in this role for six years and in 2010 was named principal of Pinecrest Elementary, where he served for six years. In 2016, Rivers was named principal of NLMS and has worked in this position for six years until receiving this new assignment.

Under Rivers' leadership, note-worthy achievements at NLMS and Pinecrest include developing a school-wide plan to decrease school office discipline referrals and increase student attendance; developing a master schedule to promote rigor in academic programs; and creating a leadership team to implement best practices through Founda-



GARY RIVERS

tions and CHAMPS programs. NLMS was honored with the Attorney General Safe School Award in 2006, 2017, and 2018 and the CLAS Banner School Award in 2008, and Pinecrest received the Banner School award in 2014.

Additionally, Rivers has collaborated with the Southern Regional Education Board to provide math professional development and evaluation; and worked with community agencies such as the Sylacauga Alliance for Family Enhancement, Sylacauga Police Depart-

ment, Coosa Valley Medical Center, B. B. Comer Memorial Library, Central Alabama Community College, and local businesses to partner with the school.

Rivers earned an associate's degree from Gadsden State Community College and attended New Orleans Theological Seminary. He earned a bachelor's degree in business marketing from Jacksonville State University, and later completed the master's in Special Education, School Administration, and Educational Specialist degree in School Administration.

He and his wife, Jaclyn, have two children, Carleigh Mae and Tripp.

Sylacauga superintendent Dr. Michele Eller said, "Gary Rivers has proven to be a great leader in every area of school administration in which he has worked. From starting out his career as a high school Special Education teacher and then working in administration at the elementary and middle school levels, Mr. Rivers has had a wide range of experiences that have improved the school environment at all levels. His energy and thoroughness will be a great asset to excellence at Sylacauga High."

An announcement regarding the new administration of Nichols-Lawson will be made at a later date. ■

McGhee Qualifies As Candidate For Alabama Republican Party Executive Committee, Place 1

SYLACAUGA - Jayne McGee has qualified for the Alabama Re-

publican Party Executive Committee, Place 1 for the primary on May 24, 2022. She is a life-long conservative republican and a member of the Talladega County Re-



Jayne McGhee

publican Party in the Fall of 2020. She was elected to the position of vice-chairman January 2021 and the position of interim chairman June 2021. Jayne continues to serve in the position of vice-chairman of the Talladega County Party. She has served on the Alabama Executive Committee

since January 2021.

Jayne's focus includes supporting the chairman and members, assisting with administrative duties and party activities, membership, support for local and state candidates, and election readiness.

Jayne is a native Alabamian residing in Sylacauga with her husband, Jack Green, who retired from Alabama Power with 30 years of service.

Jayne brings notable experience and education. Career highlights include General Mills, Marriott International, LaQuinta, Choice Hotels, and Hilton Worldwide. She was the founder of All About You Home Care, an in home care company taking care of the elderly and disabled. Jayne plans to retire with the City of Sylacauga managing the Human Resource

Office. She received her Master of Business Administration degree from Samford University.

Jayne continues to serve on the board of directors for the Sylacauga Chamber of Commerce with 11 years of service. She served as vice-president of the South Talladega Personnel Association. Jayne has served on the Sylacauga Planning Commission for the last three years. She continues to serve as the liaison to the Sylacauga Civil Service Board for the past seven years. Currently, Jayne assists with the Talladega County Anti-Litter Campaign.

Jayne looks forward to representing Talladega County and making a difference serving on the Alabama Executive Committee. ■

Know Your Neighbor!



Kelsey Byrd

Kelsey was born in Sylacauga and she has lived here for 20 years. She is a graduate of Sylacauga High School. She earned a B.S. degree in Human Services from Troy University. She is pursuing a master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Jacksonville State University. She is married to Shelby Byrd and is employed as a fitness trainer.

My Favorite Hobby/Pastime Is: "Watching Netflix."

My Favorite Television Show Is: "American Idol."

My Favorite Movie Is: "13 Going On 30".

My Biggest Accomplishment Has Been: "Graduating college."

The One Thing I Enjoy Most About Living In Sylacauga Is: "The local restaurants."

What Improvement(s) Or Change(s) Would You Like To See In Our Community? "Healthier places to eat."

One Thing Most People Do Not Know About Me Is: "I am left handed."

The Person I Would Most Like To Have As My Special Guest For Dinner Is: "Taylor Swift."

The Person Who Has Had The Most Influence On My Life Is: "My mom."

The Biggest Problem In The World Is: "There is not enough kind people."

The Best Advice My Parents Ever Gave Me Was: "Pick your battles."

Know Your Neighbor!



Judy Green

Judy was born in Lincoln Nebraska and she is a graduate of Santa Rita High School in Tuscon, Arizona. She and her husband, David, are parents of Michael and Matt. She is employed as executive director at the Comer Museum.

My Favorite Hobby/Pasttime Is: "Repurposing jewelry."

My Favorite Television Show Is: "Walking Dead".

My Favorite Movie Is: "Gone With The Wind".

My Biggest Accomplishment Has Been: "Being a wife, mother, and grandmother."

The One Thing I Enjoy Most About Living In Sylacauga Is: "The marble history."

What Improvements Or Changes Would You Like To See In Our Community? "More activities for children."

The Most Rewarding Experience I Have Ever Had Has Been: "Seeing my first grandchild."

One Thing Most People Do Not Know About Me Is: "I was a cocktail waitress."

The Person I Would Most Like To Have As My Special Guest For Dinner Is: "Katherine Hepburn."

The Person Who Has Had The Most Influence On My Life Is: "My husband, he has encouraged me every day to live life and enjoy it."

I Get On My Soapbox About: "Workplace ethics."

The Best Advice My Parents Ever Gave Me Was: "Never give up."



EDWARDS COMMITS TO UNIVERSITY OR NORTH ALABAMA

SYLACAUGA - Brayson Edwards, center seated, recently signed to commit to play football at the University of North Alabama. Edwards, who played quarterback for the Sylacauga Aggies will walk on with a chance to earn a scholarship at the university. Edwards is photographed with his parents, Jeff and Michelle Edwards and siblings along with the coaching staff at Sylacauga High School.



MISS SYHISCAN 2022 CROWNED

SYLACAUGA - The Sylacauga High School Journalism Department presented the Miss Syhiscaan beauty walk on Saturday, April 24. Miss Syhiscaan 2022, Lacey Wood, center, was crowned the winner. Photographed are grade winners, from left, Allison Terrell, tenth grade; Kendra Myles, twelfth grade; Miss Syhiscaan 2022, Lacey Wood; Alana Price, eleventh grade; and Bryanna Belser, ninth grade.



CIRCLE K CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

SYLACAUGA - Construction is ongoing with an anticipated August completion at the new Circle K convenience store and gas station located at 42675 U.S. Highway 280. FRONTIER Building is providing the ground-up full-site construction and fueling component for the retail structure. Situated on a 230,116-square-foot corner lot, the 5,200-square-foot store will include fueling stations and 53 parking spaces for cars and trucks.

Beautiful Sylacauga

UPCOMING DOWNTOWN EVENTS

MAY

TUESDAY, MAY 24 ALABAMA PRIMARY ELECTION

7:00 A.M. UNTIL 7:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, MAY 26 B.B. COMER MEMORI- AL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION EXERCISE

AUDITORIUM
7:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, MAY 26 SYLACAUGA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION EXERCISE

LEGION STADIUM
7:00 P.M.

JUNE

TUESDAY, JUNE 21 ALABAMA PRIMARY RUN-OFF ELECTION

7:00 A.M. UNTIL 7:00 P.M.

JULY

JULY 15-17 BACK-TO-SCHOOL TAX HOLIDAY

THROUGHOUT SYLACAUGA

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SENIOR CITIZEN GROUP "MEMORY KEEPERS" MEET MONTHLY; INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN

SYLACAUGA - The "Memory Keepers" senior adult group meets the first Thursday of each month at the Maxye Veazey Senior Activity Center at 10:00 a.m. The purpose is to help senior citizens keep their minds sharp, effective and have fun doing so. There are activities, guest speakers from time-to-time, and sharing of ideas. Senior citizens are encouraged to join in at the next meeting. For more information, contact Jim Griffin at 334/437-0255.

Council -

[Continued On Page 3]

contract with InSite Engineering for engineering services including preparation of emergency bid documents and inspections.

A three-year lease renewal was approved with Bobby Ray Green for city-owned parcel of land located on Lake Louise Drive; described as Lot No. 1 of Block 6, Section "B" of the Avondale Mills subdivision; lease renews effective May 1, 2022 and ends April 30, 2022; with the option of an additional three-year renewal, if agreed upon by both parties.

Travel/training expenses were approved for Interim Code Enforcement Director Mike Whetstone and Building Inspector Wayne Sayers to attend the Ele-

vation Certificate Basics course in Birmingham on June 16, 2022. There is no registration fee and no expenses will be incurred. Employees will carpool in a city-provided vehicle.

The Council approved a request from Parks and Recreation to reimburse the cost of new equipment trailer for hauling of mowers and lawn equipment from Trailer World, Inc., in the amount of \$7,800.00.

The Council approved a request from Police Chief Kelley Johnson to purchase a 2017 Dodge Ram from ADECA surplus at a cost of \$19,100.00 and a 2013 Ford Explorer four-door at a cost of \$7,400.00.

In his report, Mayor Jim Heigl proclaimed May 2-6 as Small Business Week. ■

Sylacauga Today

NEWSPAPER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

SYLACAUGA

- A&M Clothing, 115 North Norton Avenue
- Allen Food Mart #9, 1251 Old Birmingham Highway
- Allen Food Mart #44, 210 North Main Avenue
- Blue Bell Creameries, 423 North Norton Avenue
- Booker's BBQ, 217 North Norton Avenue
- Boothe Appliance, 401 West Fourth Street
- Carden's Gift Cottage, 407 West Fort Williams Street
- Dobson's Foodmart, 3503 Alabama Highway 21
- Fort Williams Pharmacy, 401 West Fort Williams Street
- Huddle House, 40930 U.S. Highway 280
- Giovanni's Restaurant, 42488 U.S. Highway 280
- Marathon, 1590 Old Talladega Highway/ Highway 21
- Marble City Pharmacy, 264 West Fort Williams Street
- Mercantile On Broadway, 207 North Broadway Avenue
- Mobil CV, 750 South Broadway Avenue
- Piggy Wiggly, 1244 Old Talladega Highway/ Highway 21
- Piggy Wiggly, 1351 West Fort Williams Street
- Snap Fitness, 207 James Payton Boulevard
- Sunoco, 307 West Fort Williams Street
- The Mercantile, 107 North Broadway Avenue

CHILDERSBURG

- Allen Food Mart #27, 33867 U.S. Highway 280
- Batter Up! 34405 U.S. Highway 280
- Childersburg City Hall/ Talladega County Annex, 101 8th Avenue SW
- Greater Coosa Valley Chamber of Commerce, 805 3rd Street SW

CHILDERSBURG

- Hometown BBQ & Grill, 33684 U.S. Highway 280
- Marathon Quality Food Mart, 34106 U.S. Highway 280
- Piggy Wiggly, 1070 1st St NW

FAYETTEVILLE

- Big Daddy's Cafe, 815 Sylacauga-Fayetteville Highway
- Dollar General Store, 58 W.W. Averitte Drive
- Lori Darlins, 8096 Sylacauga Fayetteville Highway
- Rick's General Store, 210 Talladega Springs Road

GOODWATER

- Allen's Food Mart #49, 10375 U.S. Highway 280

OAK GROVE

- Chevron Center Hill, 37121 U.S. Highway 280
- Good Ole Boys BBQ, 40471 U.S. Highway 280
- Mama Ree's Restaurant, 37801 U.S. Highway 280
- Merkel Mountain Shell Food Mart, 39360 U.S. Highway 280
- Town of Oak Grove Senior Center, 1042 Forest Glen Road
- U-Save Car & Truck Rental, 22 Airport Road

STEWARTVILLE

- Dollar General Store, 23868 U.S. Highway 231
- Shelton Creek Chevron, 24123 U.S. Highway 231

SYCAMORE

- Dollar General Store, 19 Main Street

WINTERBORO

- MAPCO Mart, 22065 Alabama Highway 21

Talladega County Board of Education Approves Recommendations

TALLADEGA – The Talladega County Board of Education held a called meeting on Monday, April 4, and approved Superintendent Dr. Suzanne Lacey's recommendations for personnel changes. On the agenda was the resignations of Jessica Boyd, Fayetteville CNP Assistant (6 hours), no reason given, effective March 29, 2022; Tristan Kolby Hughes, Childersburg Middle School Science teacher, personal reasons, effective May 27, 2022; Mack Samuel Jones, Drew Middle bus driver, retirement effective May 1, 2022; Bonnie Turner, Watwood Elementary Special Education teacher, retirement effective June 1, 2022; and Jessica Veazey, Itinerant Speech Pathologist, no reason given, effective May 27, 2022.

Employment was approved for Emily Black, Childersburg High secondary teacher, effective April 4, 2022; Brad Clay, Lincoln High School physical education/health teacher, effective August 2, 2022; Kristen Clay, Lincoln High physical education teacher, effective August 2, 2022; Cara Pflaum, Childersburg Elementary first grade teacher, effective August 2, 2022; and Kevin Walker, Maintenance Department HVAC, effective April 19, 2022.

Leave of absence was approved for Amanda Alderman, Winterboro Technology Integration Specialist, March 16 through

May 31, 2022, medical leave; and Jessica Veazey, Childersburg Elementary Itinerant Speech Pathologist from April 1 until May 10, 2022, medical leave.

The board held their regular meeting on Monday, April 18, and approved out-of-state trip requests for Lincoln High School (30 students, grades 6-12) to travel to Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida, on April 21-25 (1.5 school days). Munford Elementary School (23 students, Archery team) was approved to travel to NASP U.S. Eastern National Archery Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky on May 11-13 (two school days).

Chief School Financial Officer, Avery Embry, presented the financial report for March 2022 including revenues for the month, \$6,799,697.97; payroll including benefits, \$5,267,801.57; bills and accounts (all funds), \$4,245,228.52. Local school accounting included revenues of \$261,410.38 and expenses of \$235,826.28. Utility bills for March totaled \$234,515.09.

The board approved a request from Randy Roberts, CNP Coordinator, to participate in the Seamless Summer Program during June 2022 with B.B. Comer Memorial High School being the open site. Meals will be provided Monday through Friday of each week from 7:30 a.m. until 8:30 a.m.

For breakfast and lunch will be from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The program will begin with three CNP staff members and will increase as needed. The U.S. Department of Agriculture established the program to ensure that low-income children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session.

The board approved a proclamation proclaiming Friday, May 6, as School Lunch Hero Day.

A job description for a new position, Coordinator of Numeracy and Assessment, was approved.

In personnel matters, the board approved resignations from Amanda Alderman, Winterboro Technology Integration Specialist, retirement, effective May 27, 2022; Helen Calhoun, Stemley Road Elementary sixth grade teacher, retirement effective June 1, 2022; Monique Chatman, Drew Middle Technology Integration Specialist, no reason given, effective May 27, 2022; Juana Curtis, Munford Elementary Special Education Instructional Assistant/Bus Assistant, no reason given, effective April 18, 2022; Wendy Fannin, Transportation Department shop assistant, personal reasons, effective April 15, 2022; Andrea Gallman, Lincoln Elementary fifth grade teacher, personal reasons, effective June 1, 2022; and Rhonda Vanzant, B.B. Comer High

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Sylacauga Today

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- KEN BREWER** Publisher Editor
- NATHAN WINSLETT** Associate Publisher Circulation Director Social Media Editor
- GINGER CLIFTON** Remembrances
- CHARMELLE LEWIS** Columnist Cooking With Charmelle
- COACH EARL LEWIS** Columnist Sports Talk
- KENNON McARTHUR** Columnist
- DAVID PARRETT** Columnist Enjoying Your Garden
- CINDY PENNINGTON** Columnist Revenue Reporting
- NICHOLAS McDANIEL** Columnist B.B. Comer Tiger Beat
- JAYLA DUNCAN** Columnist Childersburg Tiger Tales
- RAAMIAH GADDIS** Columnist Coosa Cougar Corner
- ALAYNA McDANIEL** Columnist Fayetteville Wolf's Howl
- LEAH PLATT** Columnist Fayetteville Wolf's Howl
- ELIZABETH ATKINSON** Columnist Sylacauga Aggie Talk
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What's Going On?

Sylacauga Today puts forth every effort to provide our readers with a comprehensive community-based newsmagazine filled with news information relating to our community. We publish community events, social news, and obituaries free of charge. If you have a news story that you would like to report, call 256/245-8899.

Opinions

Sylacauga Today encourages comments from our readers in the form of letters to the editor or guest editorials. All letters must be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the sender. No libelous or slanderous letters will be published. Please limit to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for corrections and style.

Newspapers In Education and Hospital

Sylacauga Today provides complimentary copies of this newsmagazine to the following schools: B.B. Comer Elementary School, B.B. Comer Memorial High School, Coosa Central High School, Fayetteville High School, Indian Valley Elementary School, Nichols-Lawson Middle School, Pinecrest Elementary School, Sylacauga High School, and Winterboro High School. Complimentary copies of this newspaper are also provided to patients at Coosa Valley Medical Center, and to various agencies in the Sylacauga area.

Corrections

Sylacauga Today will correct any error published in this newspaper. To request a correction or clarification, please call 256/245-8899 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

Sylacauga Board of Education Meets; Approves Personnel Changes

SYLACAUGA – The Sylacauga Board of Education held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 26 and approved personnel changes including retirements for Charlotte Sims, Instructional Assistant, Nichols Lawson Middle School, effective June 1, 2022; Rita Ingram, School Secretary, Sylacauga High School, effective July 1, 2022; Debra Atkinson, Job Coach, Sylacauga High School, effective June 30, 2022; Nancy Lambert, Instructional Assistant, Sylacauga High School, effective May 31, 2022; Paul Sprayberry, Sylacauga City Schools Bus Driver, effective June 1, 2022; Lynn Haynes, Indian Valley Pre-K Lead teacher, effective

June 1, 2022; and Barrie Hamilton, Indian Valley Special Education teacher, effective May 26, 2022,

Resignations were approved from Samantha Carl, Nichols Lawson Middle School, Science teacher, effective May 26; Kayla Mosley, Nichols Lawson Middle School, English Language Arts teacher, effective May 26; Jennifer Donahoo, Nichols Lawson Middle School Cheer sponsor, effective May 26; Jason Porter, Pinecrest Elementary Assistant Principal, effective June 3; Ellen Kerce, Pinecrest Elementary, Special Education teacher, effective May 26; Lindsey Foster, Pinecrest Elementary Third Grade teacher,

effective May 26; Jennifer Trussell, Pinecrest Elementary Fifth Grade teacher, effective May 26; Rebecca Murphy, Pinecrest Elementary Instructional Assistant, effective May 26; Teri Owens, Indian Valley Part-time Instructional Interventionist, effective May 26; and Calvin Smith, Indian Valley Kindergarten teacher, effective May 26.

The board approved the Superintendent's recommendation for non-renewal for Mason Black, Sylacauga High School History teacher, effective May 26.

Employment was approved effective with the 2022-2023 school year for Frances Dates, Sylacauga

High School Media Specialist; Caitlyn Buie, Nichols-Lawson Middle School Special Education teacher; Janice Pittman, Sylacauga High School, Special Education teacher; Kacy Harmon, Sylacauga High School Special Education teacher; Shelby Farr, Nichols-Lawson Middle School, English Language Arts teacher; Nitha Storey, Sylacauga City Schools Homebound teacher, effective April 27, 2022; Pam Rollins, Nichols Lawson Middle School Instructional Assistant, effective August 1; David Wassermann, CNP

Substitute, Sylacauga City Schools, retroactive April 4; Hannah Harris, CNP substitute, Sylacauga City Schools,

effective April 27; Mahogany Rowell, Substitute teacher, Sylacauga City Schools, effective April 27; Lauren Lance, Substitute teacher, Sylacauga City Schools, effective April 27; Sierra Welch, Substitute teacher, Sylacauga City Schools, effective April 27; France Proctor, Substitute teacher, Sylacauga City Schools, effective April 27; Emily Sullivan, Pinecrest Elementary Stem Camp Tutor, effective June 11; Olivia Harmon, Pinecrest Elementary Stem Camp Tutor, effective June 1; Carrie Bradford, Pinecrest Elementary Stem Camp Tutor, effective June 1; Skye Bullard, Pinecrest Elementary Stem Camp Tutor,

Wendy DRAPER
STATE SENATE

President Trump Put Alabama First ...
... and so will

**CONSERVATIVE
WENDY GHEE
DRAPER.**

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STATE SENATE MAY 24, 2022

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Oak Grove Council Moves Forward With Ampitheatre Construction

OAK GROVE – The Town of Oak Grove Council unanimously approved expenses of \$9,984.10 to construct a new 20' x 28' amphitheatre/pavilion at their municipal park to be used for special events. The stage will be constructed of blocks, concrete, and bricks and will also have a wooden roof. Mayor pro tempore David Harris said the footer, gravel spreading, installation of rebar and plastic as well as other miscellaneous duties and clean up will be down by

town employees. The action was taken at the Council's regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 10.

Mayor Tony White was not present at the meeting. Reports were presented by Fire Chief Charlie O'Barr, who said his department received 51 calls in April with two structure fires, nine fires, 38 EMS only calls, two non-fire non-EMS calls, two aid given, two aid received, 47 non-aid calls with seven calls in Oak Grove and 44 calls outside of Oak Grove.

The Council accepted a recommendation from O'Barr to purchase firefighting foam at a cost of \$1,194.00.

Chief O'Barr's recommendation to purchase lights for the 2022 Ford F250 at a cost of \$1,758.00 was approved. A purchase of two fire rated exterior doors for the Street Department was approved not to exceed \$1,500.00.

A number of items were tabled until the next meeting including road repairs on

Gantts Junction Road, a resolution authorizing the participation in the National Flood Insurance program, and reorganization of the Security Department.

The Council approved Resolution 582, updates for the employee handbook/policies.

Payment was approved to Ponder Plumbing in the amount of \$620.00 for emergency sewer line repairs at the senior center.

The Council approved Resolution 583 for participation in the Talladega County Solid Waste Management Plan.

Also approved was a request for two employees to attend the Alabama Gov-

ernor's Safety and Health Conference to be held in Orange Beach, Alabama on August 29 through August 31. Registration is \$400.00 per person and hotel, travel, and meals will be incurred.

The Council discussed purchasing speed limit signs for entrances to the town but did not take any formal

action until clarification from the Talladega County Road Department is obtained on the signs they are installing in the town.

Harris reported that the infrastructure work at Spring Creek subdivision phase II has been completed and construction of 20 new houses will begin soon. ■



RIBBON-CUTTING AT FRONT PORCH REALTY

SYLACAUGA – Ribbon-cutting ceremonies was held at Front Porch Realty located at 2645 Alabama Highway 21 – just north of Fairmont subdivision on Thursday, May 5. Becky Bolton, owner, welcomed colleagues and guests to the grand opening of her new location. Front Porch Realty specializes in residential and commercial real estate. For more information call 256/369-2887.



Revenue Reporting 2021 Property Tax Year

by CINDY PENNINGTON,
TALLADEGA COUNTY REVENUE COMMISSIONER

The property office held our online lien sale recently for any unpaid 2021 taxes. Those parcels now have a lien on them, but the property owner has three years to redeem (pay the back taxes) on his parcel.

In the next few weeks, our office accountant and her assistants will be working on closing the books on the 2021 property tax year. The last distributions will be made to agencies (schools, cities, etc.). And then comes what is called "final settlement" with the State Comptroller's office. The state folks look at our books from the past year, and make sure we have not over or under paid them. If we are short, the official must pay the difference out

of his or her pocket. Generally, it balances almost to the penny.

After final settlement is accomplished, our books "roll over" in preparation for the new tax year. By August, we have an "abstract" sent to the Comptroller's office and other state agencies. This tells them how much we should be collecting over the tax year beginning in October. The County Commission and some municipalities look at these numbers to aid in budget planning. It is a cycle that works year after year.

If readers know of any organization that would like me to come and speak to them, please let me know. I can be reached at (256) 761-2123 or (256) 493-2469.



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VOTE FOR MIKE ROGERS MAY 24TH

PAID FOR BY MIKE ROGERS FOR CONGRESS

From The Recipe Box In My Kitchen... To Yours

Cooking With Charmelle

by CHARMELLE LEWIS, charmellelewis@gmail.com



Delicious Simple Salad With Vinaigrette Dressing

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 heads romaine lettuce, thinly sliced
- 2 tomatoes, large diced
- 1 cucumber, large diced
- 1 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons sour cream
- 1 teaspoon fresh oregano, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- Kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper

DIRECTIONS:

Combine the romaine, tomatoes, cucumber, and onions in a large bowl.

Whisk the olive oil, vinegar, sour cream, oregano and garlic in a small bowl to make the vinaigrette.



Pour the vinaigrette over the salad, season with salt and pepper and toss to combine. Serve with more freshly cracked black pepper over the top.

NOTE: Add feta and olives to make it a Greek salad.

Watermelon Cucumber Salad

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 cups cubed ripe seedless watermelon (1 8-pound watermelon)
- 2 organic mini cucumbers or 1/2 English cucumber (1 cup sliced)
- 2 ounces Feta cheese crumbles
- Zest of 1/2 lemon
- 4 basil leaves
- Sea salt, for garnish

DIRECTIONS:

Chop the watermelon into cubes. Slice the cucumbers (if using an English cucumber, slice it into half moons). Chop the basil. Zest the lemon.

Arrange the watermelon and cucumbers on a platter. Sprinkle with feta crumbles, lemon zest, and sea salt. Taste and adjust flavors as desired. (If you'd like, you can add freshly ground black pepper or a



drizzle of olive oil.) Serve immediately. If making ahead, refrigerate the cubed watermelon separately: it releases a lot of water after it is cut. Then assemble the salad directly before serving.

Grilled Corn Salad

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 ears corn (about 5 cups kernels)
- 1/2 cup diced red onion
- 1/2 cup cherry tomatoes
- 1/4 cup roughly chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons sour cream
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 1/4 teaspoon each chili powder, garlic powder, cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Feta cheese or Cotija cheese crumbles (optional)



Strawberry Spinach Salad

INGREDIENTS:

For the strawberry vinaigrette salad dressing . . .

- 1 1/2 cups sliced strawberries
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

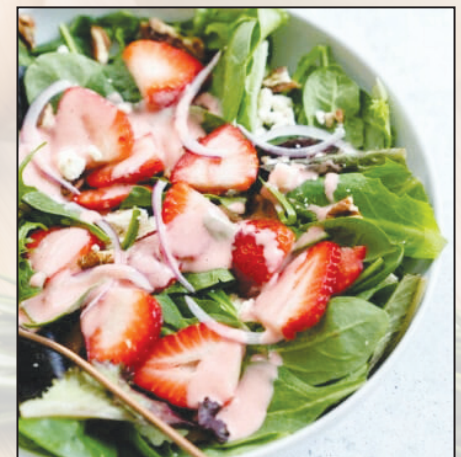
For the strawberry spinach salad . . .

- 1 cup sliced strawberries
- 1 handful thin sliced red onion
- 5 cups baby spinach leaves
- 3 cups mixed greens
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans
- 1/4 cup feta cheese crumbles (optional)
- 1/2 cup Strawberry Vinaigrette Salad

DIRECTIONS:

Make the strawberry salad dressing: In a standard blender, blend all ingredients until smooth. (An immersion blender and small blender are the quickest, but you can also use a standard blender: just blend for a few minutes until fully combined.)

Slice off the tops of the strawberries,



then slice them long-wise. Thinly slice the red onion. Chop the pecans and lightly toast them to enhance the flavor.

Place the greens on plates and top with all ingredients, then drizzle with the strawberry vinaigrette salad dressing (about 2 tablespoons per serving). Refrigerate the remaining dressing for up to one week.

Simple Carrot Salad

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tablespoon white wine vinegar
- 1/2 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons olive oil (canola is fine)
- 1 pound carrots, julienned (3 cups)
- 2 green onions
- 3 tablespoons chopped parsley

DIRECTIONS:

In a medium bowl, whisk together the white wine vinegar, Dijon mustard, sugar, and salt. Gradually mix in the olive oil.

Julienne the carrots using a julienne peeler, with the grating blade on a food processor, or using the large grate holes of a box grater (this will do but the pieces aren't as pretty).

Thinly slice the green onions. Finely chop the parsley.



Add all the vegetables to the bowl with the dressing and stir to combine. Serve immediately or refrigerate for up to three days.

DIRECTIONS:

Heat a grill to medium high heat (375 to 450 degrees). Shuck the corn. Use your hands to rub oil on each corn cob evenly. Place the corn directly on the grill grates and cook until it begins to blacken, then turn. Cook about 12 to 15 minutes total, until blackened on all sides. (Alternative method: put the corn directly on the gas range top or broil in the oven. Watch closely! It will not take more and a min-ute or so on each side

with direct heat.)

Use a sharp knife to slice down and remove the corn from the cob.

Mince the onion. Dice the cherry tomatoes. Finely chop the cilantro. (I am not a fan, so I eliminate this ingredient.)

In a medium bowl, mix together the sour cream, mayonnaise, lime juice, chili powder, garlic powder, cumin, and salt.

Mix together the grilled corn, vegetables, and dressing. If desired, top with feta cheese crumbles.

IN BRIEF

Friendship Quilting Club

SYLACAUGA – The Friendship Quilting Club of Sylacauga is welcoming new members. Quilters meet every Wednesday at the Maxye Veazey Senior Center adjacent to J. Craig Smith Community Center from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Beginners to experienced quilters are cordially invited. For additional information contact Betty at 256/245-3410.

Beautification Council Encourages Members

SYLACAUGA – The Sylacauga Beautification Council encourages citizens to become a member of the organization. The Beautification Council meets on the first Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m., at the Sylacauga Chamber of Commerce. Membership is open for individuals/family, \$25; clubs, \$50; patrons, \$75; business, \$100; benefactor, \$150; sustaining member, \$250; and corporation, \$1,000.

Veterans Are Invited To Breakfast/Meeting

SYLACAUGA – The Veterans social breakfast is held every Tuesday morning at the American Legion Post 45 located at Hammett Avenue. Coffee and breakfast is served at 7:30 a.m. Business meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month after breakfast. All veterans are welcomed. One or two veterans will be available to assist with Veterans Administration claims.

Childersburg Veterans Monthly Meetings

CHILDERSBURG – The Buck Thompson/Rufus Hill American Legion Post 68 in Childersburg meets the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m., at the Childersburg Community Center. All veterans are invited to attend. For more information, contact Commander, Joe Teel, Jr., at 256/452-0048 or Post Adjunct Jeff Curtis at 256/404-1969.

Sylacauga's Social Scene

Socially Speaking

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO REBECCA YATES

White, Denise Wallis, and Cabot Barden, May 18;

Cindy Wood Teel, May 19; Alison Griffitt Peterson

and Laura Machen Pearson, May 20; Carla Pressley,

May 21; Jim Zeigler, May 23; April White Welch and

Tosha Landers-Williams, May 24; Myles Jacobs,

May 25; J.D. Tyler, Trina Isbell Ezekiel, Cindy

Benefield Taylor, Kellie Myrick Williamson, and

Summer Newman Ernest, May 26; Carmon Leach,

May 27; Kevin Whitman, May 28; Mitzi Martin Smith,

May 29; Jeremy Ballard, Josh Ballard, Joel Cochran,

Rhonda Jones Payton, Robin Harris McGinnis, and

Corine Honeycutt, May 30; Freida Clark Nugen,

Carla Brown, Peggy Boothe, and Jessica Shierling

Morris, May 31; Matt Hebson and Caleb Connelley,

June 1; Linda Dickson, June 2; Kelli Cobb, June 3; Linda

Weathers, Kathy Smith, Julia Shirazifard, David

Taylor, Tracey Brooks Allen and Becky Bolton, June 6;

Penny Brooks, June 7; Deven McGrady Roland and

Kathryne Clark Flippo, June 8; Zachary Brooks, Patty

Nelson Gray, Dolores Catchings, Brad Norred, and

Felicia Pope Kelley, June 9; Dana Vansandt, Tolbert

McGrady, and Amanda Treadwell, June 10; Brad Porch,

Caleb Guy, Leslie Phurrough and Lainey Wallis, June 11;

Teresa Minor, June 12; Caitlyn McTier, Josh Vandiver,

Adam Jones and Dione Vick, June 13; Georgia English

Peters, Nicki Reed Bryant, Laurie Gardner Pruitt,

Angelo Showers, Doo Chandler and Kayden Johnson,

June 14; Maddie Grier and Tyler Wright, June 15.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SENIOR CLASS OF 2020 ON your upcoming graduation ceremonies. The majority of these events will be held on Thursday, May 26, and this year's seniors are anxiously awaiting the pomp and circumstance so the celebrations can begin. Keep in mind that most of these events are not open to the public . . . and an admission ticket is required to attend. In the event you are invited and have a ticket . . .

See you there!

SYLACAUGA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1982 REUNION PLANNED FOR JULY 23; ALL CLASSMATES INVITED

SYLACAUGA – The Sylacauga High School Class of 1982 is hosting their 40 year reunion at Harvey's On Noble on Saturday, July 23, at 6:00 p.m. All classmates are encouraged to attend this wonderful celebration. For more information contact Teresa Vick Minor or Lynn Cochran Payton.

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Childersburg High School Announces 63 Candidates For Graduation

CHILDERSBURG – Baccalaureate service for the Childersburg High School Class of 2022 will be held at Grace Baptist Church on Sunday, May 22, at 4:00 p.m.

Graduation Exercise will be held at the Childersburg High School Foot-ball Stadium on Thursday, May 26, at 7:00 p.m. Ad-mission tickets will be re-quired.

Summa cum laude graduates are Jayla Duncan, Julianne Ford, McKinzey Sims, Haley Mizzell, and Albert Geyer.

Magna cum laude graduates are Diara Garrett, Tamia Hancock, Austin Glenn, Chloe Unger, Destinee Davis, Mason Foy, Myles Morris, Malachi Fluk-

er, Julio Martinez-Rosiles, Ta'Kayla Swain, Bradley Glenn, Skyler Rice, Myricale McMillian, and Elijah Sims.

Candidates for diploma are Quinnicia Baker, Braxton Benefield, Christian Blair, Kumia Borden, Braeden Calvert, Destinee Davis, Katelin Dill, Jayla Duncan, Malachi Fluker, Julianne Ford, Mason Foy,

Brianna Gamble, Deshawna Garrett, Diara Garrett, Rachel Garrett, Albert Geyer, Austin Glenn, Bradley Glenn, Tamia Hancock, Jacob Isaacs, Angel Jews, LaCedric Kirkland, Dang Le, Julio Martinez-Rosiles, Carenavia McMillian, La'Ryanique McMillian, Myri-



CHILDERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR CLASS OF 2022

pher Millender, Haley Mizzell, Leyton Moeser, Myles Morris, Devondre Noble,

Gabriel O'Neal, Trinity Plier, Dartavious Pointer, Savannah Pressley, Allison Pugh, Lori Reason, Rosaline Reeves, Skyler Rice, Jaden Robinson, Adam Sabil, Jordan Sanders, Elijah Sims, McKinzey Sims, Jacorrior Stone, Jayden Strickland, Savannah Surles, Caleb Swain, Jamario Swain, Jatori Swain, Kayja Swain, Ta'Kayla Swain,

Markaysha Thomas, Jamari Threatt, Chloe Unger, Keynija Varner, Makylah Waters, Braniya White, Mary Wildsmith, Andarius Woody, and Hannah Yates. ■

Winterboro High School Announces 50 Candidates For Graduation

ALPINE – Baccalaureate Service for the Winterboro High School senior class of 2022 will be held at Mt. Zion C.M.E. Church in Alpine on Sunday, May 22, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. Roger "RJ" Burns, Jr. will be the guest speaker.

Graduation Exercise will be held at the Winterboro School Gymnasium on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Magna cum laude graduates are Destiny Butler, Tra'Nyia Chatman, Ivan Delgado-Navarro, Amiya Garrett, Devon Jones, Chloe Sanders, and Diamond Seals.



MAGNA CUM LAUDE GRADUATES

ALPINE – Winterboro High School magna cum laude graduates are, from left to right, are Diamond Seals, Tra'Nyia Chatman, Chloe Sanders, Amiya Garrett, Devon Jones, Ivan Delgado-Navarro, and Destiny Butler.



WINTERBORO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2022

Candidates for diploma are Evy Lee Alderman, Junice Marlynn Baker, Maeson Mckinley Barnett, Zade Bowie Blackwood, Destiny Faith Butler, Kelis Shamia Carter, Tra'Nyia Lashauntae Chatman, Kaylee Grace Chaviers, Chance Syboyisus Dandridge, Cameron Lamar Dates,

Ivan Delgado-Navarro, Tanner Lee Floyd, Morgan Cordai Fluker, Savannah Joe Gable, Amiya Nycole Garrett, Brianna Totishaylu Garrett, Jazlyn Janae

Garrett, Eric Tyler Hall, Jonathan Onassis Headen, Marshall Allen Horn,

Jordan James Ivey, Raquel Niasontae Jackson, Jashaslin H'eny James, Gabriel Watson Lee Jeffers, Tamia Paris Jemison, Devon Rashod Jones, Jaelyn Morgan Jones, Daisy Marie Belk King, Daniel Datron King, Scotty Dakota McDaniels, Troy Xavier McKinney, Jordan Leigh Morris, Dawson Ross Mosley,

Myles Bailey Parker, Katelyn Mackenzie Pettus,

Devin Creed Phillips, Michael Kyle Popham, Chloe Makenzie Sanders, Diamond Paris Seals, Aiyana Nychelle Smoot, Katherine Diana Spidell, Carli Marie Sturdivant, Jadion Louis Swain,

Keely Serene Tetro, Cal'Von Arkel Thomas, Isabella Brooke Thomas, Christopher Jake Travis, Jayden Sean Twyman, Justin Tyler Wilson, and Isabel Macevoy Wright. ■



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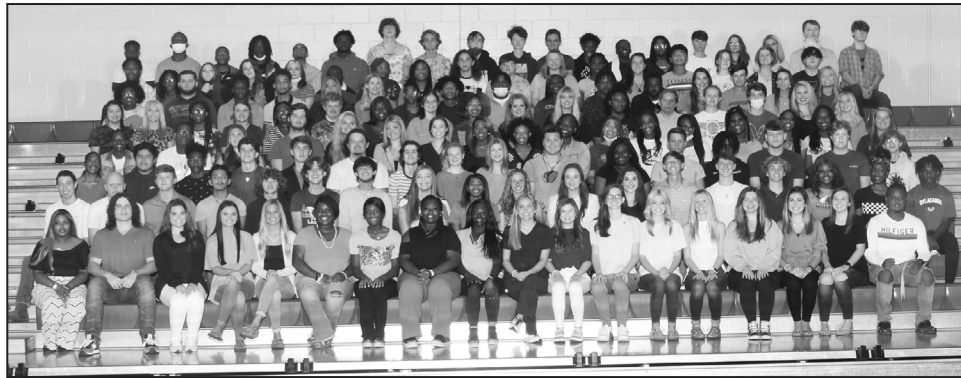
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ALABAMA PRIMARY ELECTION • Tuesday, May 24

Sylacauga High School Announces 160 Candidates For Graduation

SYLACAUGA – Graduation Exercise for the Sylacauga High School Class of 2020 will be held at Legion Stadium on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Admission will be limited to individuals with ticket.

Candidates for diploma are Asiah Necole Adair, Brogan Marion Allen, Taylor Alexis Allen, Karsten Thompson Aman, Heather Kaitlyn Atkinson, Mallory Leigh Atkinson, William Perry Austin II, Lexi Monae Averette,

Connor Reid Bailey, Caitlyn Jade Barnett, Caymen Luke Barron, Hayden Michael Basinger, Riley Wilson Basinger, Benjamin Malcolm Bates, Taylor Danielle Blankenship, Katlyn Lee Boozer, Mackenzie Grace Bowen, Preston Grant Bowen, September Elise Bowen, Haley Evona Bradford, David Brantlee Brasher, Lilly Grace Brewer, Mackenzie Carol Bridges, J Qwon Ramon Brownfield, Janey Lorel Bryant, Shelby Lynn Bryant, Christen Chyann Burdett, Lavaria Dekaira



SYLACAUGA HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR CLASS OF 2022

Butler,

David Creed Clardy, Cochran Kashad Shyeed Cochran, Camron Duane Cook, T'Keyah Armani Cook, Kinsley Reese Cotney, Joshua DeQuaveon Darby, Ciarra LaChele Dates, Sejada Kiyae' Davis, Thomas James Deale, Olivia Ann Dean, Savannah Grace Deason, Makalei Jordyn Dew, Jesus A. Dolores, Justin Michael Douglas, Brooklyn Denise East, Brayson Alan Edwards, Sydney Lane Ezekiel, Sara Bailey Fahy, Camden Luke Faircloth,

Morgan Elizabeth Flora, Caden Ryan Foreman, Brandon Kyle Foshee, Lexas Tye Franklin, Alexandra Gabrielle Franks,

John Wesley Garris, Jacques Armon Goggins, Shandarous Tremanie Grant, Makeyta Lashay Hale, Sabrina La'Trice Hall, Brodie Jake Hammonds, Harlana Mallison Harris, Jarnyce Jade Harris, Brodie Lee Hawkins, Margie Samaria Hawkins, Brielle McKenlie Hay, Kalicia Monai Hill, Hudson Fredrick Hodges, Ethan A. Holmes, Hayden

Jolee Hope, Emma Grace Hopkins, Laura Olivia House, Samahdj Qvavon Houston, Kyran Malik Hughes, Maria Magdelane Hughes, Robert Francis Hughes,

Ke'Shaun Deloran Jackson, Za'Kandria Teondra Jordan, Abbigail Elise Kelly, Emma Marie Kirkpatrick, Trenton Michael Klingler, Deanna Rose Lacey, James Kaleb Lankford, Taylor Allison Manley, T'Shayla Kinya Maxwell, Savannah Rhayne McCartney, Natalie Megan McDonald, Jamiah Loventrice McGhee, Kiyla

Michelle McNealey, Undraona Marie Meadows, Alyssa Brooke Miller, Amori Jhamai Dantavia Moon, Chloe McKenzie Morgan, Aniah Gehnay Morris, Ta'Shauria Diavione Morris, Taylor Elizabeth Murphy, Kendra Sharay Myles, Dai Bao Nguyen, Laila Jene Nix, Isaiah Ahmad Norris, Jeremy Dequan Oden, Maliyah Tasha Oden, Kiersten Elise Owens,

Curtis Wayne Pate, Kaylee Alise Patterson, Steven Dewayne Peppers, Franklin Baldemar Perez-Vasquez, Grayson Danielle Phurrough, Skyler Maurice Player, Ammon Semaj Pope,

Sedrick Maleek Pope, Javien Kendale Pouge, Fredrick Cornelius Powell, T'Deria Arianna Donay Powell, David Braeden Presley, Justin Tyshun Reese, Savannah Nicole Reeves, Zurisadai Rivera, Katlyn JoAnn Roberts, William Alexander Roberts, Adam Parker Robertson, Daysia Renae Robertson, Christopher Ja-Michael Robinson, Jason

Todd Robinson, Micah Renee Robinson, Cameron Don-tae Rogers, Connor Blaise Rogers, Aaron Tyler Roland, Samoria Asiona Russell, Jamori Latori Dontavio Sanders, Noah Daniel Seaborn, De'Liyah Korriyana Sha'Quale Smith, Connor Clay Spivey, T'Adria Jaleigh Stone, Mya Di'Shala Stowe,

Dexter Sylvester Tai, Marilee Rylyn Taylor, Michri LeBron Taylor, Tiffany Grace Taylor, Kodie Jade Thomas, Kynlee Jade Thomas, La'Brieshia Teaira Thomas, Raydarius Bre'Shon Thomas, Luke Andrew Thompson, Brianna Kashay Townsend, Austyn Phillip Vincent,

Ansley Elizabeth Walker, Bevin Elise Walker, Christopher DaShawn Walker, Landon Taylor Walker, Marlee Adair Watkins, Makylah Carol Watters, Charles Wayne Willard, Dai'Sha Tanae Williams, Tijuana Nykia Williams, Raegan Meshell Wills, Thomas Jay Wills, Jordan Martez Wilson, Ariel Seymon Winston, Abbygail Frances Wood, Lacey Rebecca Wood, and James Tankersley Wright. ■



*Congratulations and Best Wishes
to the area's
Graduating Class of 2022*



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REMEMBRANCES OF SYLACAUGA



Shel Silverstein Comes To The Magic Of Marble Festival In Sylacauga

by GINGER CLIFTON

Shel Silverstein came to my elementary school classroom via my son, the year I became a public school teacher in 1980 and Ray went to the University of Alabama as a freshman. Ray and I were both poetry lovers, but *Where the Sidewalk Ends* was a different style of poetry than the poems I read him as a little boy, the poetry of Eugene Field and Robert Louis Stevenson. It was Ray's first adult gift to his mother, and I treasured it and shared it with children my entire teaching career.

I did not know anything

about Silverstein then, except that he was a rugged-looking Jewish man. I soon found that he wrote books for adults as well as children and articles/cartoons in *Playboy*, a magazine definitely not on my reading list. Silverstein was born in Chicago and was drafted into the Army soon after entering university. There he used the gift he had discovered in early elementary school, drawing cartoons, for the *Pacific Stars* and *Stripes*. I later learned that he was a playwright, and a song writer, even the writer for Johnny Cash's big hit "A Boy Named Sue." I contin-



ued to get each new Silverstein children's book. *The Giving Tree* was his first prose book. I acquired it, and it touched me with the tenderness and self-sacrificial love it portrayed.

The book came to the Magic of Marble Festival by way of Warren Strickland. *The Giving Tree* was shared with him by a friend at a time when it spoke to his heart because of some things going on in his life. As an artist who created mostly with clay, wood, and soapstone, it was ironic that a beautiful piece of pink alabaster from Colorado became his focus for the stump of a tree. Thinking through his project, he looked at many stumps, drawings, and photographs of stumps. When he began his work, he did so without first making a clay model. It is beautiful. If you wonder why he did not use Sylacauga marble, this year was his first time to sculpt at the Sylacauga festival. When he visited last year, Dr. Ted Spears invited him back to participate, and Warren is excited about the event and

the opportunities to learn techniques, etc., from resident sculptor Craigger Browne, the Italian sculptor, and others who attend.

The magic continued when librarian Teresa Offord who is retired from B.B. Comer School, volunteers at Knollwood Christian School, and is also librarian at First Baptist Church in Sylacauga was working in the sale room for the festival. Her eyes and her heart were immediately drawn to Warren's piece with Silverstein's book standing beside it. Since it attracted attention from many other visitors, Teresa was afraid it was going to sell before she could devise a way to buy it.

Mulling over where she could put it in her home, she thought of where it might be visible for more people, especially for children who love the book. An expensive piece for a school, another thought came to mind. Jeannine Parrish, beloved deceased First Baptist librarian, had money left to the library by her family to honor her service to Christ in that place.



First Baptist children gather around *The Giving Tree* sculpture by Warren Strickland, given in memory of Mrs. Jeannine Parrish by her family.

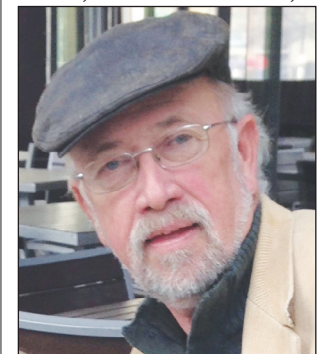
Immediately Teresa set the wheels in motion to purchase *The Giving Tree*.

She knew the perfect place in the recently remodeled church, in the library window where it would be visible to everyone. A talented church friend made a beautiful oak table for the alabaster piece which sits on a green marble base. The Bright Parrish Media Library is a focal point at First Baptist's newly remodeled Fort Williams entrance.

A First Baptist Church library was first established by Mrs. Catherine (Woodrow) West in 1943. In 1970 it was named for E.T. Bright, beloved FBC Sunday School Director. In the early 1980's, Mrs. Parrish and the library were recognized with a Merit Achievement Award presented by the Baptist Sunday School Board for meeting all the standards set up by them for media center excellence.

That was when Parrish's name was added to Mr. Bright's, and the library became officially the Bright Parrish Media Center. Space prevents naming all of those who have contributed time and money to make it a great library. Mrs. Offord and staff continue to enrich lives with the resources it provides. In its first Sunday at the church, the alabaster stump from the book was recognized by an excited child. I hope that if you do not know this book, you will make it a point to read it, and better yet, stop in to see the sculpture.

So, Warren Strickland, a



Warren Strickland, Sculptor Birmingham, Alabama

Birmingham sculptor, provides for First Baptist Church a beautiful reminder of the power of sacrificial love. The book and the sculpture will be shared with countless people, young and old, and Christ is honored through the power of love.

Warren has a basement studio in Birmingham where
[Continued On Page 16]

Little Miss Sylacauga and Marble Valley Pageant Held On Saturday, April 30



YOUNG MISS SYLACAUGA AND MARBLE VALLEY WINNERS SYLACAUGA - From left, Bentley Grayce Tyler, first alternate Young Miss Marble Valley; Jada Butler, Most Talented, Most Photogenic, and Young Miss Marble Valley; Abigail Kirkland, Most Talented Young Miss Sylacauga; Henley Connell, Young Miss Marble Valley and Most Photogenic Young Miss Sylacauga; Harper Sims, first alternate Young Miss Sylacauga

TEEN MISS MARBLE VALLEY SYLACAUGA - Alayna McDaniel was selected Best Interview, Most Talented, and Teen Miss Marble Valley.



LITTLE MISS SYLACAUGA AND MARBLE VALLEY WINNERS SYLACAUGA - From left, Josie Harrison, Most Photogenic, Most Talented, and first alternate Little Miss Sylacauga; Saniyah Thomas, Best Interview and Little Miss Marble Valley; Harper Patterson, Best Interview and Little Miss Marble Valley; and Madelynn Vanzant, Most Photogenic, Most Talented, and first alternate Little Miss Marble Valley.



TINY MISS SYLACAUGA AND MARBLE VALLEY WINNERS SYLACAUGA - From left, Kalani Coleman, Tiny Miss Sylacauga and Most Photogenic Tiny Miss Sylacauga; Angie Kate Carter, first alternative Tiny Miss Sylacauga and Most Photogenic Tiny Miss Marble Valley; Raynzlee Denhan, Tiny Miss Marble Valley; and Crimson Peoples, first alternative Tiny Miss Marble Valley.

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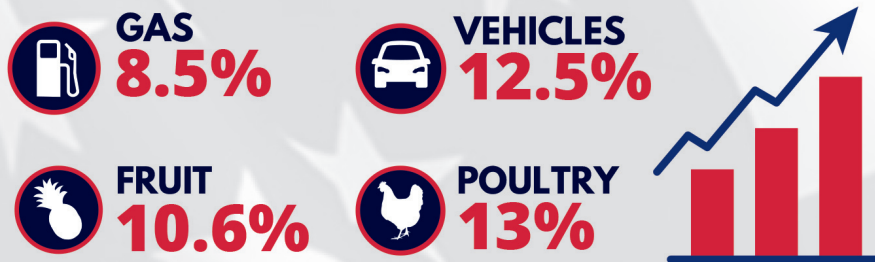


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B.B. COMER MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL
 **Tiger Beat**
 by NICHOLAS McDANIEL 

Welcome back to the *Tiger Beat*! This will be the final time I report to you all for the 2021-2022 school year as well as my final time writing the *Tiger Beat*.

Although the school year is almost over, there are still a few key events to look forward to! The senior baccalaureate service will be held on May 22, at the First Assembly of God Church. Due to limited

seating, you must have a ticket from one of the graduating seniors in order to attend. We would love to have tremendous support for each of our seniors as I know we have all worked extremely hard to accomplish all of our endeavors.

Graduation will be held on May 26, at our school auditorium. Due to limited seating, tickets will be given to seniors to distribute for this event as well. All of our seniors, including

myself, are very excited to walk across the stage! While it is extremely sad to finally disperse the class of 2022, I am excited to see the amazing things my classmates will accomplish in the future.

Thank you all for your continuous support over the past two years. I am extremely thankful for the honor I have had writing this column for my school, and I wish the best to the next writer of this column. I am forever proud of B. B. Comer Memorial School. It is always a great feeling to be a Comer Tiger! ■

CHILDERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL
 **TIGER TALES**
 by JAYLA DUNCAN 



The Childersburg High School class of 2022 is finally at the end of their time with CHS. All sixty-three seniors are excited to close this chapter of their lives and start a new one. Many seniors took advantage of the CHS career technical classes and will be entering the work force after high school. Others will be attending college.

Seniors, Elijah Sims and Jayla Duncan recently committed to playing sports at the collegiate level. Elijah Sims will attend Hunting-ton College in Montgomery, Alabama in the fall on a football scholarship and Jayla Duncan will attend Samford University in Home-wood, Alabama in the fall on a cheerleading scholarship.

Others seniors from

CHS will be attending Central Alabama Community College, Jacksonville State University, The University of Alabama, Jefferson State Community College, Auburn University, Southern Union State Community College, and The University of Alabama at Birmingham.

CHS seniors will graduate on May 27, at 7:00 pm. Childersburg High School is extremely proud of the class of 2022 and hope to see them remain #committed to all of their future endeavors. ■

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL COOSA COUNTY
 **COUGAR CORNER**
 by RAAMIAH GADDIS 

Greetings citizens and friends of Coosa County. I hope everyone is well. First I would like to mention that the Central Elementary and High School bands played their Spring Concert for family and friends in the Central gym. The beginner band played three pieces while the high school band played four. It was also a sentimental night for senior Lexie Griffin who has been in band for seven years, as she will be graduating in the next few weeks.

Students in grades K-6 had the opportunity to take a field trip to the

Alabama Nature Center. Participants interacted with different animals including turtles and snakes, participated in resource sorting activities, built nests from resources found on the property, and visited the Discovery Museum. Thank you to our teachers and parent chaperones, these trips are a lot of extra work, but provide the students the opportunity to discover and learn new things.

Prom 2022, Hollywood Nights, was a hit! The students looked like Hollywood celebrities making their way down the red carpet and having fun dancing

the night away. The students ended the night by voting for their prom prince and princess, Ry Gilbert and Kieasia Tuck, and their prom king and queen, Jon Kelly and Raamiah Gaddis. This was all possible because of our prom sponsor, Mrs. McDonald.

Our Lady Cougar softball team dominated on the field for their senior night with an 18-8 victory over Winterboro. Daja Pearson and Brynli Mitchell were both honored on this sentimental night for their hard work and determination on the team; they will truly be missed.

As you know, the year is coming to a close and this will be my last column. I have truly enjoyed sharing all the good news from Central Coosa schools this

FAYETTEVILLE SCHOOL
 **Wolf's Howl**
 by LEAH PLATT 

Welcome back to the *Wolf's Howl* column! Sadly, this will be the last edition for this school year. As the school year is coming to an end, everything is winding down. Congratulations to the softball team for winning their area title. They attended regionals in Montgomery, Alabama on May 10, 2022! This is a huge honor and their hard work throughout the season paid off. Shout out to the Fay-etleville Varsity baseball team for making it to the Elite 8 in the playoffs. Sadly, the baseball program will lose nine seniors. This team truly embodied what it meant to be a family.

Congratulations to the fishing team for placing third in small school on

Logan Martin. Throughout the season, several anglers have placed in different tournaments. This is an awesome achievement and every member should be very proud of themselves.

As academics for the 2021-2022 school year are almost through, students were honored through awards ceremonies. Kindergarten graduation is on May 20, 2022. Elementary awards day was on May 16, Pre-K on May 17. Middle school awards will be on May 18, and high school will be on May 19.

The graduation ceremony for seniors will be May 26. This is always a bitter-sweet time of the year where we bid fellow students and friends goodbye.

Overall, every student should be very proud of

their completion of this school year. It was nice to have a more normal year after COVID tampered with full-time learning in the school building. Each year is a step closer to graduating and becoming independent. What we learn now will better prepare us for the future.

We would like to give a big thank you to all of the teachers this year. Teachers are the building blocks of the future. They are educating the next generation: the next business leaders, healthcare heroes, and so much more. Without them, there is no hope for the generations to come. Each of you have made an impact on our students. Thank you to the administration, as well, for guiding us and embodying true leadership characteristics.

I hope everyone has a great summer and stays safe! It has been a true honor to write for this column. Go Wolves! ■

SYLACAUGA HIGH SCHOOL
 **Aggie Talk**
 by ELIZABETH ATKINSON 

As the spring semester ends, Sylacauga High School is as busy as ever. Seniors are preparing for graduation, exams are making way, and spring activities are wrapping up.

Graduation is approaching quickly for the class of 2022 and will be on Thursday, May 26, at Legion Stadium. Seniors had their awards day as well as their senior breakfast and walk through of Indian Valley Elementary this week. The only thing left for the class of 2022 is graduation before they leave SHS as alumni; therefore, we are proud of their accomplishments

and cheer them on as they welcome a new chapter in their lives.

In other news, our freshman, sophomores, and juniors also had their awards day this week.

Along with awards day being this week for our students, it is exam week. Students have exams Tuesday through Friday and can checkout after exams if they bring a note. Many of our students are also exempt from various class exams if they met the proper grade and attendance requirements.

Last Friday, May 13, our school hosted the annual Powderpuff game against

our junior and senior girls. Additionally, Aggie News Network released their film, Too Bad, that has been in production for months for the first time to the student body, faculty, etc.

Additionally, Sylacauga High is proud of all the sports teams and their hard work. These teams exceeded expectations, made new record highs, and advanced past their scheduled seasons.

Lastly, the Sylacauga Freelancers hosted The Last Rodeo dance, last Friday, May 13, creating a fun way to end the year.

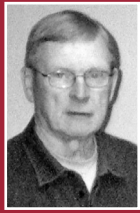
To conclude, the 2021-2022 school year has reached its end. We look forward to the summer ahead. See you next year SHS! As always, Go Aggies! ■

year and was humbled by the opportunity to represent our school system. As

I enter Troy University in the fall I will continue to remember the motto of

Central Coosa Schools, Dream It, Believe It, and Achieve It. Raamiah out! ■

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SPORTS TALK RAMBLINGS

by COACH EARL LEWIS

Although there is quite a bit of action going on right now in high school sports, it is an unfortunate fact that neither Sylacauga High nor B.B. Comer have teams involved in state championship competition. All local teams were eliminated early in the 2022 playoffs. In fact, there have been long dry spells for both schools since having championship contenders. Sylacauga has 28 State Championships in nine different sports, but the basketball title from 2018 is the most recent. Prior to that, the most recent champions were in the banner year of 1998 when SHS took state titles in Boys Tennis, Girls Basketball, and Baseball all in the same year.

Comer only has one State Championship in its history, that being in 1968 when the Tiger basketball won it all. To their credit, the Tiger football teams have gone deep into the playoffs during the past couple of years, and in 1995 they were the State Runners up to Cordova.



COACH TOM CALVIN AND
COACH LENNETTE CALVIN

MRS. LENNETTE CALVIN IS ON THE SICK LIST

Some unpleasant news to report concerns Mrs. Lennette Calvin, the widow of the long-time Aggie football coach, Tom Calvin. Coach and Mrs. Calvin served Sylacauga athletics and our community for over 20 years in the 1950's, 60's and 70's. The two of them positively impacted thousands of lives. Mrs. Calvin is now in her mid-nineties, and she had a fall and a possible stroke at her home recently. She is currently in room 107 at River City Care & Rehab, 1350 14th Avenue SE, Decatur, Alabama 35601. She may be transferred to a different facility soon, and she will probably appreciate cards but no visitors except

family and very close friends right now. Prayers for Mrs. Calvin are definitely appropriate.

Moving on now, if you will bear with me, I want to do a little editorializing about a couple of subjects that are important to me and hopefully they are important to you as well.

SWIMMING POOLS

In my weekly swipe at our city officials and their unwillingness to make an immediate move to provide a pool for our citizens, I'm going to do something I have not done before, and that is to call names. City Council members - Lee Perryman, Ashton Fowler, and Tiffany Nix - and their refusal to listen to public opinion have continued to kick the swimming pool can down the road to the point that it is swimming season again and for the third year, no pool. The only real movement on the issue is to release statements that were not accurate, appoint committees, and spend taxpayer's money. This is not a personal issue between me and those three folks, because I know them all as good people. However, they have taken the tunnel vision approach to this issue. The smart thing to have done, or to do now, would be to repair the old pool and get 6 to 8 more good years out of it while planning and fund raising, etc., for a new recreation complex developed. Council members, Nate Brewer and Laura Heath, and Mayor Jim Heigl seem to be in favor of some form of that plan, but the other three can't be swayed. The only smart move so far has been to junk the idea of a splash pad on the site of the old pool.

I realize that the issue involving the condition of the Verlie Collins Center in Drew Court complicates the matter. It certainly is sad that after many years of recreation facilities for the people of that neighborhood, now they have nothing - no recreation center, no swimming pool, no school, etc. In case you don't remember, there was the Mountainview Pool next to Mountainview School. It was well used during the summer and by Physical Education classes from East Highland. I don't know the solution to that problem, but it should not be used to preclude the providing of a public pool for the entire city.



1998 SYLACAUGA HIGH TENNIS TEAM

SYLACAUGA - Sylacauga High School's tennis team keeps a streak going by winning its third consecutive state championship. From left are coach John Blackmon, Ryan Hathcock, John Graham, Paul Wright, Larry Prince, Matt Wright, Jeremy Jones, Michael Sims, Brandon Brown, and coach Herschel Jones.

I've said most of this before, but I am going to keep pounding at the subject until something happens. Hopefully, you as Sylacauga citizens will join me in challenging to City Council to do something that won't reach further into the future. It is hurtful to me and others in this community who know the values and rewards that can result from having a swimming program. Not the least of those is the safety issue that appears when there is no provision for youngsters to learn to swim properly.

WHERE IS COLLEGE FOOTBALL HEADED?

As badly as I hate to say it - or even think it - I think that college football is destroying itself. It probably will survive in some form, but it will probably will never be the same because of the NIL and the transfer

portal. Another factor in the decline of the game is the fact that so many players opt out of playing in bowl games and other post season events. What happened to loyalty and school spirit.

There is definitely an "out of focus picture", when coaches make millions and schools make even more, while the players don't get financial benefits. But that raises a question that has a simple answer. The players do, in reality, receive benefits with a great deal of value. First of all, if they stay around and graduate as they should, they get an education that is worth somewhere in the \$50,000 to \$80,000 range. Yes, they work hard, and they have to attend class and study, but think about what they get as opposed to a regular student who has to pay his or her own way. Besides the educa-

tion, there are many perks. Their housing is first class; they get world class medical treatment; they are provided with tutoring and all of the latest technology that helps them academically; they have advisors available for every phase of life; they do get a small amount of money for daily expenses and more when they travel, especially in the post season. Maybe the most important of all are the facilities they use. Their food choices are at the very top of the list. There are specialists in nutrition that provide the food and a variety of supplements that are available daily. The training regimen they go through is worth thousands of dollars if they were paying for it. That's not all, but the bottom line is that they live a life style that is unknown to most 18 to 21 year old youngsters. Their environment in the practice areas, dressing facilities, lounge, and dining areas are nothing short of luxurious. The benefits they receive from playing football, and other sports, already prepare them to go out into the world and be successful if they so choose.

I feel that the NIL money will create jealousy among players, and the transfer portal will destroy any sense of loyalty to their schools, their teammates, and their coaches. I am very afraid that those two developments will eventually destroy the true spirit of the game as we have known it in the past. ■

Daybreak

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5:30 AM - 7:30 AM

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HEALTH, FITNESS, AND WELLNESS

X Factors of Stress

by KENNON MCARTHUR, CHEK IMS 1

@catchinglessons on Twitter;
kennonmcarthur@gmail.com

It's great to see so many people talking about the importance of healthy stress management, and there's no doubt that awareness is at an all-time high. Unfortunately though, the options for quality stress management can be difficult to identify and they're not always easy to access. Connections in life are what really matter to us and establishing who we are as an independent being must be navigated first. Most people don't satiate the issue, instead they mask the pain. So if you're struggling to deal with stress in your daily life, I hope this article helps.

According to Merriam Webster, vitality is the peculiarity distinguishing the living from the nonliving; or the capacity to live and develop. Interestingly, many of us have neglected our own personal growth and development for so long that we've forgotten how it feels to truly be alive. "We humans are a holistic integrated being," and

need growth, and have hunger for mental and emotional stimulation. And once we stop developing, we stop living.

When one's body is unhealthy it lacks vitality. That unvital person must then prioritize themselves, consequently becoming more egocentric. As vitality diminishes, the more self-oriented one must become just to survive. At this point the capacity for positive influence on others is greatly diminished, and eventually that person will become codependent.

That being said, we must feed these needs independently through connection with our true self. The physical body thrives with the help of nutrient dense, organic foods. The emotional body feeds off of the power of emotion, and the mental body gains wisdom through thoughts. Deficits in the emotional body will imprint themselves into the physical body and until one recognizes that deficit, it's highly likely that something

detrimental to the system will be used to fill that void.

Recognizing the need for connection with oneself versus understanding how to navigate that connection are two entirely different things. And while everyone is quite unique in their own situation, the X factors of stress are directly connected to the relationship we have with ourselves, our spouse, and our source. These relationships are often medicated or numbed at a physical level through food, non-foods, drugs, etc., which will eventually lead to an emotional sense of unease, due to unawareness.

Vitality comes from within and can be reignited in a number of ways. First, listen to your body and tune into your own needs. These include physical, mental and emotional development and can literally be anything that stimulates your system in a productive manner. Additionally, feed your system the good stuff, including food, thoughts and feels. Connect as often as you can with yourself, your spouse, and your source, and remember what it feels like to truly be alive.

In health and happiness.... ■



Enjoying Your Garden

by DAVID PARRETT, MASTER GARDENER

It's a beautiful, sunny day of May as I am writing this. Hope you are staying ahead of those pesky invaders called weeds. Don't let them go to seed or you'll have double trouble for years to come.

Growing sweet potatoes in the home garden:

I love sweet potatoes, any way they are cooked. And they are especially good for you being high in iron and beta carotene. They are also easy to grow. A few years ago, a friend gave me 25 plants or slips, as they are called. I planted them about 18" apart in the row. By Fall harvesttime, I dug over 400 pounds of sweet potatoes from those 25 plants! A neighbor and I used to work together on a sweet potato patch every year. Starting in mid-March, we made a bottomless wood frame sized to fit an old storm door I had picked up on the roadside for free to make a bed to raise the slips. We bought

soil and cow manure to put into the box, laid sweet potatoes on the soil, then covered them allowing about two inches of soil on top. Then after a watering from the hose, we placed the storm door on top to cover the frame, similar to a coldframe. Around mid-May, the slips were large enough to pull off and set in the garden. This would give us about 1800-2000 sweet potato plants. We set the slips 16"-18" apart in the row with rows 36" apart. We made furrows to set the slips in leaving and open space between the plants. Then water was added to settle the soil around the roots. The next week, we would put a handful of fertilizer in the furrow between each plant and then cover the fertilizer. The only work then was to keep the patch weed free until the plants covered the rows and middles. Don't work a lot of dirt to sweet potatoes like you would white potatoes. Just keep enough dirt toward the row to keep the potatoes covered.

There are quite a few varieties of sweet potatoes: Such as Centennial, Beauregard, Porto Rican Red, Oklahoma Red, Golden Nugget, Rose Nugget, just to name a few. Centennial and Porto Rican Red are my favorites, though becoming harder to find.

Harvesting sweet potatoes is pure joy even though there is some work involved. Sweet potatoes are

dug from the earth about a month before Fall frost. They need curing before storing for the winter. To cure a small harvest, place in an open shed or garage to keep them dry. They should be off the ground or floor on shelves or racks to allow air circulation. For larger amounts, we spread a tarp on the ground outside and spread the potatoes on the tarp. Then cover with another tarp to hold in the heat and keep them dry. After a week, check the curing by cutting a potato in half. Lay both halves up 1-2 days. If the cut ends turn green, they need more curing time. If the ends turn white and callus over like a wax, then they have cured and will store for winter. They can be stored in a cool, dry basement or in boxes underneath a bed. We did as our ancestors did and stored them in a mound or clamp. To make one, lay about a foot of pine straw or wheat straw on the ground. Place the sweet potatoes on the straw in a pile. Cover with about 12"-18" more straw. Then till up the soil around the straw and throw loose soil on top of the straw covering all the straw with a least 6"-8" of soil. This leaves a ditch around the mound so water will drain away. Lay a piece of something solid on top such as metal, plywood, etc. to keep rain from coming in. These storage mounds or clamps can be used also for apples, cabbage, white potatoes, red potatoes, etc. To open, just pull back the dirt and straw at one end, remove some potatoes, close the hole back up.

Until next time, see ya'll in the garden. ■

Clifton –

[Continued From Page 12]

he and his wife reside. He works as a contractor. At the local festival, he worked tirelessly with a piece of Sylacauga marble. At a later date, I plan to share pictures he sent me about the process from stone, to

plans, to completion. Thanks, Shel Silverstein and Warren Strickland who touch our hearts with art and beauty. The Magic of Marble Festival was aptly named, and this story is part of that magic that happened right here, and not so long ago at that. ■

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Memorials

BOYD EDWARD HORTON

SYLACAUGA - Mr. Boyd Edward Horton, 56, died on Wednesday, April 13, 2022. Arrangements will be announced by Community Funeral Home.

MYRTLE JANE WESLEY

CHILDERSBURG - Celebration of Life service for Mrs. Myrtle Jane Wesley, 88, was held at Mount Olive Baptist Church on Saturday, May 7, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. Burial followed at Davis Cemetery. Mrs. Wesley died on Thursday, April 14, in Atlanta, Georgia.

She is survived by one daughter, Debra Wesley; one son, Lonnie Wesley; one granddaughter, Chanita (Daniel); one great-granddaughter, Jordyn; one brother, Abednego Ingram; and a host of nieces and nephews, other relatives, church family and friends.

Community Funeral Home directed.

KIM GASPAR

SYLACAUGA - Memorial service for Mrs. Kim Gaspar, 42, was held at Curtis and Son Funeral Home North Chapel on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. Mrs. Gaspar died on Monday, April 25.

She is survived by her husband, Armando Gaspar; her mother, Diane Ryder (Larry); three step-brothers, Ron Ryder (Ruth), Jeff Ryder (Leslie) and Brad Ryder; three fur babies, Ella Gaspar, Benji Gaspar, and T.J. Gaspar; and her numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Curtis and Son Funeral Home directed.

MONZA FULLER

SYLACAUGA - Grave-side service for Mrs. Monza "Sissy" Fuller, 78, was held at Marble City Cemetery on Saturday, April 30, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. Brother Brian Ward officiated the service.

Mrs. Fuller died on Thursday, April 28, 2022.

She is survived by two sons, Tommy Fuller and Chris Black; one daughter, Michelle Godwin; one nephew, Wade Fuller (Deanna); one brother, Phillip Lee (Judy); one brother-in-law, Jerry Fuller (Barbara); and numerous grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Radney-Smith Funeral Home directed.

STEELE FERGUSON HODGES III

SYLACAUGA - Memorial service for Mr. Steele Ferguson Hodges III, 37, of Sterrett, Alabama, will be announced at a later date. Mr. Hodges died on Saturday, April 30, 2022.

He is survived by two sons, Aiden Hodges and Steele Hodges IV; one daughter, Baeleigh Bonfonti; his father, Steele Hodges Jr.; his step-mother, Gena Hodges; two sisters, Sara Hodges and Katie Hodges; and one brother, Aaron Jackson.

Curtis and Son Funeral Home directed.



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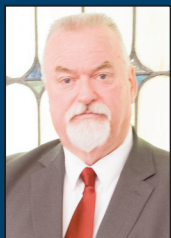
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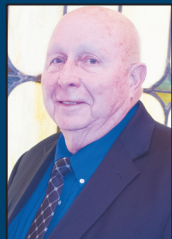
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Memorials –

[Continued From Page 16]

LIONEL ANDERSON

SYLACAUGA – Mr. Lionel Anderson, 65, died on Thursday, April 28, 2022. Arrangements will be announced by Community Funeral Home.

TRACEY G. DAVIS

SYLACAUGA – Tracey G. Davis, 52, died on Thursday, May 5, 2022. Arrangements will be announced by Community Funeral Home directed.

JESSE JAMES KELLEY, SR.

SYLACAUGA – Celebration of Life service for Mr. Jesse James Kelley, Sr., 71, was held at Friendship Baptist Church on Saturday, May 7, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. Burial followed at Friendship Baptist Church Cemetery. Mr. Kelley died on Thursday, April 28.

He is survived by his wife, Rebecca Kelly of Sylacauga; seven sons, Demetrius Kelly of Opelika, Charles Parks of Birmingham, Stephen Huntley, Marcus Huntley, Quanterrick Huntley and Jesse James Kelly, Jr., of Sylacauga, and La-Shaun Huntley of New York, New York; four daughters, Lucy Parks, Tomika Parks, and LaToya Parks of Birmingham, and Se'lecca Huntley of Sylacauga; three brothers, Jo-seph Kelly, Lee (Betty) Kelly, and Denise (Viola) Kelly; four sisters, Susan (Joe) Hill of Hayneville, Ala-bama, and Annie Marie Kelly, Carolyn Kelly, and Brenda (Cleveland) Fox of Birmingham; one aunt, Sarah Bonner of Chicago, Illinois; 24 grandchildren, Reggie Byron, Reginae Byron, Isaiah Kelly, Temariom Rutledge, Jackson Rutledge, Gavin Rutledge, Terry Miller, Shameria Prince, Daquon Parks, Dmonyae Parks, Jakeem Parks, Ra-keem Parks, Jaylyn Goins, Jamaya Parks, Jeremy Parks, Brielle Hale, Madelyn Huntley, Rylan Knight, Marcus Huntley, Jr., Maxxon Huntley, Jordyn Huntley, Tobias Huntley, Keisyn

Nettles, and Rory Peyton; other special loved ones, Katara (Eric) Clark, Janika Kelly, the late Timothy Kelly, O'Neal Adair, Jasmine Huntley and Perry Sanders.

Community Funeral Home directed.

LEXIE MAE DARDEN

SYLACAUGA – Grave-side service for Mrs. Lexie Mae Darden, 97, was held at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Reverend Tommy Thornton officiated the service. Mrs. Darden died on Tuesday, May 3, at her residence.

She is survived by two sons, Randall (Diane) Morris and Roger (Linda) Morris; two grandchildren, Janet Hennes and R.D. (Meg) Morris; two great-grandchildren, Bridget Glenn and Mary Griffin Morris; one great-great-grandchild, Trent Burks; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Radney-Smith Funeral Home directed.

GERALD VON LAMAN

SYLACAUGA – Funeral service for Mr. Gerald Von Laman, 86, was held at Radney-Smith Funeral Home Chapel on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. Burial followed at Talladega Springs Cemetery. Brother Joe Kelley officiated the service. Mr. Laman died on Sunday, May 8, at his residence.

He is survived by two sons, Donnie Laman and Lonnie (Sherry) Laman; one daughter, Sonya (J.T.) Champion; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Michael Owings, Andy Owings, Jonathan Owings, Lonnie Laman Jr., Cody Laman and Trey Laman.

JIMMY R. GREEN

SYLACAUGA – Funeral service for Mr. Jimmy R. Green, 82, was held at Curtis and Son Funeral Home North Chapel on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. Burial followed at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery.

Cleo Garrett and John Woodall officiated the service. Mr. Green died on Sunday, May 8, at his residence.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Jane Green; one son, Earl Green and wife, Diana; one daughter, Vickie Watts and her husband, Dan; three grandchildren, Ryan and wife Regina, Sarah and husband Daniel, and Katie and husband Chris; six great-grandchildren, Riley, Evie, Tori, Thomas, Jordy and Jacob; sisters, Tina Wade, Beverly Kelly and Teresa Boatwright.

Pallbearers were Kerry Dowdy, Stuart Dowdy, Lance Logan, Alan Logan, Michael Cleveland and Kenneth Sinclair.

ANN WILSON GILL

SYLACAUGA – Funeral service for Mrs. Ann Wilson Gill, 86, was held at Radney-Smith Funeral Home Chapel on Friday, May 13, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. Burial followed at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery. Brother Keith Owensby officiated the service. Mrs. Gill died on Monday, May 9.

Ann is survived by one sister, Rose Morris; one daughter, Wanda Thompson (Heath); six grandchildren, Gina Wilcox (Derek), Mitchell Osbourn, Alan Thompson, Anthony Grogan (Beth), Mark Grogan, and Kevin Grogan; and four great-grandchildren: Matthew Grogan, Bella Wilcox, Stella Ruth Wilcox and Mariella Wilcox.

TINIE M. MCGILBERRY

CHILDERSBURG – Memorial service for Mrs. Tinie M. McGilberry, 69, will be held at a later date. Mrs. McGilberry died on Monday, May 9, 2022.

She is survived by her ex-husband, John T. McGilberry; one daughter, Emily McGilberry (Dee Jay Wetuski); three sisters, Janis Coker, Loretta Acklin, and Judy Thomas; and one brother, Terry Northcutt.

Curtis and Son Funeral Home directed the arrangements.



B.B. COMER SOFTBALL COMPLEX CONSTRUCTION

SYLACAUGA – Construction on the new softball complex at B.B. Comer Memorial High School is progressing as the weather has enabled workers to move forward. If weather continues to cooperate, construction will be completed within the next month and landscaping will begin. The complex is located on West Eighth Street adjacent to the boys baseball field.

Sylacauga –

[Continued From Page 5]

effective June 1; Laura McGilberry, Pinecrest Elementary Stem Camp Tutor, effective June 1; Gay Coley, Nichols Lawson Middle School Summer School teacher, effective May 31; Joey Fleaman, Nichols Lawson Middle School Summer School teacher, effective May 31; and Mandy Reams, Nichols Lawson Middle School Summer School teacher, effective May 31.

Additional hours were approved for Lindsey Kissic, Pinecrest Elementary

teacher, effective Summer 2022; Terra DeLoach, Indian Valley Elementary teacher, effective Summer 2022; and Kari Layton, Sylacauga High School teacher, effective Summer 2022.

Leave of absence was approved for Shirley Leonard, Instructional Assistant, Nichols Lawson Middle School, effective retroactive March 14 through May 4, 2022; Daniel Harris, Social Studies teacher, Sylacauga High School, effective retroactive April 22 through May 23, 2022; Lauren Layton, Language Arts, Sylacauga High

School, effective August 4 through September 26, 2022; and Danielle Stevens, secretary, Nichols Lawson Middle School, effective May 13 through July 11, 2022.

The board recognized NASA Airborne Astronomy Ambassador Amy Dennis.

The board approved a recommendation to approve a board policy for earning credits in middle school.

Payroll, accounts payable, and financial statements were approved. ■

Talladega –

[Continued On Page 18]

Instructional Specialist, retirement, effective June 1, 2022.

Employment was approved effective August 2, 2022 for Ann Brooks, Childersburg Middle School science teacher; Brittany Brown, Stemley Road Elementary first grade teacher; Tanner Gamble, Childersburg High School Social Studies teacher; Griffin Harris, Childersburg Middle English teacher; Mistie Martin, Childersburg High English teacher; Elizabeth Mozley, Drew Middle English teacher; Macy Price, Childersburg Middle secondary teacher; Marleigh Shoemaker, Itinerant

Speech Pathologist; Mary Louise Wesson, Munford Elementary teacher; Abby Whisenhunt, Lincoln Elementary Special Education teacher; Carson White, Lincoln Elementary teacher; and Levi Wilson, Childersburg High Building Construction teacher.

Transfers were approved for Morgan Bible, from Munford Middle Business Education teacher to Drew Middle Technology Integration Specialist, effective July 26, 2022; McKenzie Calvin, from Stemley Road Elementary fourth grade teacher to Lincoln Elementary fifth grade teacher, effective August 2, 2022; Debbie Palmer, from B.B. Comer High bus driver/Career Tech

route to B.B. Comer High bus driver, effective May 27, 2022; Elizabeth Trotter, from Drew Middle Special Education teacher to TMIC Instructional Specialist – Special Education, effective July 22, 2022; and Maria Wesson, from Lincoln High science teacher to Winterboro Technology Integration Specialist, effective July 26, 2022.

Leave of absence was approved for Tinna Pickens, TCCHS math teacher, March 31, 2022 until June 1, 2022, medical leave.

The board approved Tammy Bailey, Drew Middle mathematics teacher to a TEAMS 95 contract days, effective January 10, 2022 (not eligible for tenure). ■

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• EMPLOYMENT •

KOCH FOOD, 515 Tyson Road, Ashland. Immediate openings. Apply in person or call 256/354-1940 256/354-1953.

CLASSROOM TEACHERS – Lineville Elementary School is hiring classroom teachers. Go to www.claycountyboe.org or call 256/396-1420

COOSA PINES GOLF COURSE, 16615 Plant Road, Childersburg. Full-time employment, 40+ hours. Apply in person.

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• EMPLOYMENT •

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FACTORY CONNECTION, 36700 U.S. Highway 280, Sylacauga – Seeking third key manager, need part-time upbeat outgoing candidate with retail experience and sales ability. Apply in person.

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• EMPLOYMENT •

SERVERS AND KITCHEN HELP – Batter Up Restaurant, 34405 U.S. Highway 280 in Childersburg is looking for two servers, and people to work in the kitchen. Apply in person.

MEDICAL POSITIONS – Coosa Valley Medical Center is seeking to fill positions including LPN, RN, Emergency Medicine Physician, Food and Nutrition, and Certified Nursing Assistant. Interested applicants may apply on Glassdoor, Tarta.ai, or in person at 315 West Hickory Street, Sylacauga.

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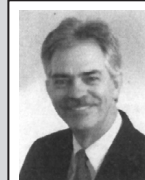
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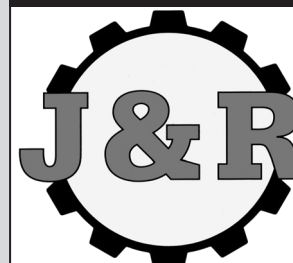


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