The Cullman Tribune

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CULLMAN COUNTY MUSEUM

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UPDATE

PHASE 1 REPAIR WORK ON U.S. HIGHWAY 278 WEST AT NEW BRIDGE IS NOW COMPLETE, PENDING INSPECTION

Wendy Sack
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CULLMAN – Phase one repair work on U.S. Highway 278 West at New Bridge/Kugler Creek is now complete, pending inspection and removal of traffic control, according to the Alabama Department of Transportation. The shoulder closure is still in place.

"All work on the phase one repair contract (excavation and construction of soil nail retaining wall on upper slope) is complete. Traffic control (including the concrete barriers closing off the shoulder) will be removed following inspection early next week (week of April 3) and placement of (a) guardrail," said ALDOT North Region Information Specialist Seth Burkett.

The phase one work should reduce the load on the retaining wall underneath the bridge. Phase one included excavation of the upper slope west of the bridge and construction of a 20-foot-high soil nail retaining wall.

The contract for phase one was $753,770, awarded to Geo-Stabilization International (GSI), but Burkett said the final numbers are not in yet.

GSI, a company from Grand Junction, Colorado, submitted "the low bid of $753,770 in an emergency letting" and has performed work for the state previously.

In phase two, which will be contracted separately, the retaining wall at the foot of the slope will be repaired.

For a full background on this story, P7

COMMUNITY RESPONDERS PROFILE

BAILEYTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



"We are proud of the station we have been able to build that will last well into the future."

- Baileyton Volunteer Fire Department Chief Zachary McGee

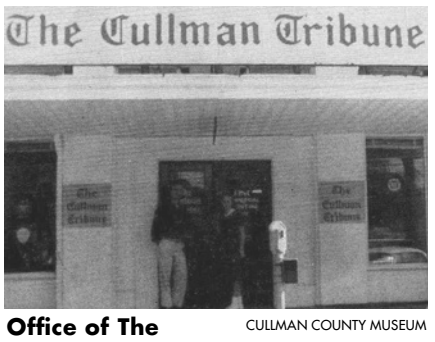


PHOTOS BY AMY LEONARD/CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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HISTORICAL PROFILE:

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE, ALABAMA'S OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED WEEKLY NEWSPAPER



Office of The Cullman Tribune circa 1958

CULLMAN COUNTY MUSEUM

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EDUCATION

CULLMAN PRIMARY SCHOOL SET TO CELEBRATE 20 YEARS

Amy Leonard
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CULLMAN – Cullman City Primary School (CCPS) will be celebrating its 20th anniversary next week with fun-filled events scheduled for the facility and students to honor the exciting commemoration.

With its current enrollment of approximately 510 primary students and 100 head start students, CCPS provides the solid foundation of quality education that is the hallmark of the Cullman City School System.

Monday, April 4 will begin the weeklong party as all of the students will form a large number 20 and have their picture taken from above. Students are encouraged to wear a black shirt for Monday's photo. On Wednesday, CCPS alumni students and retired teachers will be returning for a visit to read to the current youngsters.

Lastly, Friday will be the day of the big celebration with a special School Spirit Day planned. Students will be fully decked out in their Bearcat spirit clothes and will be spending time with the school mascot during snack time.

A few special staff members at CCPS have served the students since the first year and will be honored during the celebration. Lois Bice, Cathy Kaple, Lorene Howell, Ann Davis and Belinda Lloyd have all seen the school nurture and support Cullman's littlest citizens for the past 20 years.

CCPS PTO President Katie Smith and the rest of the parents are, perhaps, just as enthusiastic as their little ones in anticipation of the celebration

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ARREST MADE IN EARLY MONDAY MORNING BURGLARY

Suspect apprehended outside Five Points Grocery on Rosemont Avenue

Wendy Sack
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CULLMAN – Cullman Police arrested Jonathan Kerry Smith, 42, of Cullman early Monday morning at Five Points Grocery. At approximately 2 a.m., CPD received a call from someone who reported seeing three subjects leaving the business, which is located at 205 Rosemont Ave NW in Cullman.

Upon arrival at the scene, officers observed that one of the business's windows had been smashed in with a brick. CPD Sergeant Terry Gilliland entered the store, while Officer Roy Bates began searching the property outside.

Smith was located inside the business; however, he managed to get outside and take off on foot.

"He took off east towards Rosemont Avenue, but it was easy to track him because he left a trail of cigarettes and rolls of pennies that were falling out of his pockets. There were $2.50 in rolls of pennies found," said Officer Adam Clark.

Officers Jerry Perkins and Anthony Austin captured Smith on-foot and took him into custody.

Smith told the officers that he just got out of prison on March 1 after serving 16 years.

Smith is charged with burglary, third degree; possession of burglary tools, public intoxication and attempting to elude law enforcement.

He is being held at the Cullman County Detention Center on a $13,000 bond.



Jonathan Kerry Smith CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

TRAFFIC STOP LEADS TO A PAIR OF ARRESTS; METH SEIZED

Bradley Williams
CCSO

CULLMAN – Agents with the Cullman Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET) arrested Jose Luis Pesina, 25, of Blountsville, and Santos Lynn Thomas, 26, of Cullman, for unlawful possession of a controlled substance, second degree unlawful possession of marijuana, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia and carrying a pistol without a permit.

Early Wednesday morning, March 30, CNET agents conducted a traffic stop on U.S. Highway 278 East near Holly Pond. Agents discovered the driver, Pesina, had outstanding warrants with other law enforcement agencies and he was placed in custody. After agents searched Pesina and Thomas as well as their vehicle they discovered 4 grams of methamphetamine, marijuana, drug paraphernalia and a Ruger 9mm handgun.

"First of all, I am glad the arrest went well and without incident. Any time a suspect has a gun anything can happen," said Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry. "I also commend CNET for their hard work late into the night and putting these drug offenders behind bars."

Pesina and Thomas are currently being held in the Cullman County Detention Center without bond.



Santos Lynn Thomas (top) and Jose Luis Pesina (bottom). Agents discovered 4 grams of methamphetamine, marijuana, drug paraphernalia and a Ruger 9mm handgun. CCSO

WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

Leanne H. West
Office of Cullman Mayor Max A. Townson

CULLMAN – On Monday, March 28, Cullman Mayor Max A. Townson proclaimed March 29, 2016 "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" in the City of Cullman as part of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration.

The City of Cullman is proud to join over 9,000 organizations across America and the United States Department of Defense to honor our veterans and their families for their service and sacrifices during the Vietnam War.

This commemoration includes the nine million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during this 20-year period, and makes no distinction between those who served in-country, in-theater or who were stationed elsewhere from November 1, 1955, through May 15, 1975, because all answered the call of duty.

March 29 is designated "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" because it marks the last day that U.S. troops were on the ground in Vietnam and has been set aside to honor and extend gratitude and appreciation to those who have "borne the battle."

On hand to accept the proclamation on behalf of the Dripping Springs chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution were Brenda Scott and Rhonda Van Zandt.

Townson extended his personal thanks and gratitude to the veterans of the Vietnam War and urged all Cullman citizens to do the same.

For more information, visit the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration website (www.vietnamwar50th.com) or contact the Dripping Springs DAR at bhscott63@gmail.com.

2016 STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL KICKS OFF MAY 6

Will Hogue
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CULLMAN – Cullman City Parks and Recreation will host the annual Strawberry Festival on Friday and Saturday, May 6 and 7, at Depot Park and Festhalle in downtown Cullman.

The Strawberry Festival has gone through several iterations and the host of the event has changed hands many times over the years, but the 2016 version is the second year for CP&R to be running the show.

"This is (CP&R's) second year in charge of the Strawberry Festival, and we're just trying to grow the event," said Waid Harbison, CP&R marketing, programs and events coordinator.

"We're going to have bands both on Friday and Saturday, a bigger car show, a bigger area for kids, more craft vendors. We're just turning it up a notch on everything," he continued.

The logo for the Strawberry Festival boasts that the event was established in 1938. And, even though the event in 2016 will be much different than the original one almost 80 years ago, Harbison doesn't want those who attend to forget that this is about supporting local farmers.

"We want everyone to come out, enjoy everything we have to offer, and make sure these guys sell out (of strawberries)," he said.

The event will kick off on Friday, May 6 with a Senior Day from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., featuring specific events for those 50-years-old and up. The full festival will start up at 4 p.m. on Friday afternoon and go until 10 p.m.

On Saturday, the festival will open at 8 a.m. and will go until 10 p.m.

There will be bands on both Friday and Saturday, but Harbison says that the best time to go is on Friday night for the bands.

The car show and craft vendors will only be out on Saturday.

To sign up to be a vendor or to participate in the car show, visit http://cullmanrecreation.org/strawberry-festival/. Registration is first-come, first-served.

The Strawberry Festival is the inauguration of summertime in Cullman.

"This certainly kicks off summer for us," Harbison said. "It is great to have an event downtown that gets everyone involved."

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INTERNET SAFETY TRAINING SESSION HELD IN GOOD HOPE THURSDAY EVENING

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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GOOD HOPE – On Thursday night, March 31, an Internet Safety training session was presented by Assistant U.S. District Attorney Jackie Hutzell and included information about cyber bullying, cyber security, social networking and the dangers of sexting. The free event, held at Daystar Church in Good Hope, was sponsored by the Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force, Judge Kim Chaney, Cullman Children's Policy Council and the U.S. Attorney's Office Northern District of Alabama.

"My perspective is that predators are everywhere and they have direct access to your children through their computers and through their cell phones," Hutzell stated at the beginning of her presentation. "What about your kids' perspective? They think, 'I know more about this than you do, what could go wrong?' That is one thing I am going to primarily talk to you about today is what CAN go wrong; a LOT can go wrong."

Hutzell began her presentation by talking about the various apps kids tend to have on their smart phones and how those apps can be dangerous.

Apps such as Kik, SnapChat, Ask.fm and Poof! provide possible online predators easy access to children. She recommended parents know what the apps are and be the ones to download the apps onto the children's phone or computer. She also recommended apps require a password that ONLY parents know.

Children who use social media could be involved in risky behaviors, such as sending mean or rude messages, sharing inappropriate photos, talking about adult subjects or visiting adult websites.

Common signs that can help parents figure out if their children are at risk:

• Large amounts of time online, especially at night
• Pornography on the computer
• Receives/sends mail or gifts from people you don't know
• Receives/makes phone calls from/to unknown people or numbers
• Turns computer screens off or changes the screen when parents come enter the room
• Withdrawn from family
• Using an online account belonging to someone else.

Online predators are individuals who commit child sexual abuse that begins or takes place on the internet. A good rule of thumb for children, as well as adults, is to know who your online friends really are; be friends in person long before you become friends with them online.

"Anyone can be an online predator," Hutzell explained. "The benefits of being anonymous online are that you don't necessarily know who you are talking to."

There are ways to help recognize online predators. They are usually male and are honest about being adults. They target both females and males.

They are clear about their intentions and are attracted by certain behaviors.

Children are vulnerable to online predators and sometimes they are victims of sextortion.

Sextortion is a serious crime that occurs when someone threatens to distribute private and sensitive material if the victim does not provide them with images of a sexual nature, sexual favors or money.

The perpetrator may also threaten to harm friends or relatives by using information they have obtained from the victim's electronic devices unless the victim complies with their demands.

"It is easy to become a victim. Online perpetrators might gain your trust by pretending to be someone they are not," Hutzell stated.

"They lurk in chat rooms and record young people who post or live-stream sexually explicit images and videos of themselves or they may hack into your electronic devices using malware to gain access to your files and control your web camera and microphone without you knowing it."

Sexting is a crime, even for minors. According to the law, a teen that takes a nude photo of another teen or sends his or her own nude photos out via a cell phone or over the internet can be prosecuted for child pornography crimes and be added to the nation's registry of sex offenders.

Keep in mind; no one can be sure of where the image will go once sent. 1 in 5 students will send photos to someone else and over half of those people send these images to more than one person. Before a child knows it, the whole school could have his or her 'private' image. That same picture could end up in a predator's hands.

Cyberbullying is when a child, preteen or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones. It has to have a minor on both sides or at least have been instigated by a minor against another minor. Once adults become involved, it is plain and simple cyber-harassment or cyberstalking.

If a child is being cyberbullied or is a victim of an online predator they should notify a parent, police officer, school counselor, teacher, friend's parent or an aunt or uncle.

Things parents can do to help prevent their children from becoming victims of cyberbullying and sextortion:

• Build dialogue and talk about internet safety with your children.
• Be aware of how the computer is used.
• Have conversations and remind your kids who is looking at them online – teachers, law enforcement, future employers, online predators, etc.
• Establish rules and guidelines.
• Observe what kids do online.
• Use privacy settings.
• Communicate concerns about safety and being safe when communicating online.
• Connect with others in your community and expand your horizons by sharing your experiences with other parents in order to increase the visibility of these issues for other parents of teens.

With all the advances in computer and telecommunication technology, children are able to do and see lots of wonderful things – the sky's the limit. Unfortunately, it also makes them vulnerable to exploitation and cyberbullying. Thankfully, many children will be protected as a result of people like Chaney and Hutzell, who go above and beyond the call of duty every day to raise awareness of the possible dangers of combining children with the internet.

To learn more, visit:

• The Cullman Children's Policy Council at https://www.facebook.com/cullmanchildrenspolicy council.

• The Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force at https://www.facebook.com/Cullman-County-Human-Trafficking-Task-Force-870585096352748.

• The U.S. Attorney's Office Northern District of Alabama at https://www.justice.gov/usao-ndal/project-safe-childhood.

TOWNSON PROCLAIMS APRIL 2016 CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF CULLMAN

Leanne H. West
Office of Cullman Mayor Max A. Townson

CULLMAN – On March 29, 2016, Cullman Mayor Max A. Townson officially proclaimed the month of April 2016 "Child Abuse Awareness Month" in the City of Cullman.

During the month of April, and throughout the year, the City of Cullman encourages all citizens and organizations to do what they can to help prevent child abuse and make Cullman a better place for families. Child abuse is a terrible problem in our society. Every ten seconds, a child is abused. Every day in America, four children die from child abuse or neglect. Over 3 million children are reported abused or neglected each year, with over 1,000 dying from their injuries and many others carrying the burden of their maltreatment into adulthood. Abused children are more likely to suffer from substance abuse, depression, learning disabilities, school failure, emotional and behavioral disorders, criminal activity and an inability to foster healthy relationships.

"Safety is our No. 1 priority in the City of Cullman," said Townson. "I fully support those who work to increase awareness of this issue, and I strongly encourage people to not be afraid to become involved in order to put an end to child abuse and child neglect in our community."

On hand to receive the proclamation were Javon Daniel and Nancy Bryant of Cullman Caring for Kids.

The vision of Cullman Caring for Kids is that no child will ever be abused, no child will go to bed hungry, no infant will ever be shaken in anger and the cycle of abuse will be stopped.

They strive to see the next generation loved, encouraged and physically and emotionally prepared to face life feeling wanted and needed. Cullman Caring for Kids provides a variety of services to help accomplish their mission.

Joining Daniel and Bryant during the proclamation presentation were Gail Swafford, Blakely Hopper and Haley Gaines of the Child Advocacy Center (Brooks' Place). Brooks' Place provides a neutral, home-life setting where child victims of sexual and physical abuse can receive services. Brooks' Place offers assistance to the Alabama DHR, the District Attorney's Office and law enforcement entities by providing expertise in the areas of interviewing, counseling, case tracking and testimony on behalf of children. They also provide support to caregivers.

During the month of April, blue ribbons will be displayed throughout the city. This blue ribbon campaign was started in 1989 when a Virginia grandmother was grieving the death of her grandson and the battery of her granddaughter at the hands of their abusive father.

As a reminder of the bruises she had seen on her grandchildren's bodies, she attached a blue ribbon to the antenna of her van. Since that time, the blue ribbon has come to symbolize child abuse awareness and prevention. Therefore, during the month of April, citizens and businesses are also encouraged to display blue ribbons on their buildings, homes or vehicles.



CITY OF CULLMAN

Blakely Hopper (Brooks' Place), Gail Swafford (Brooks' Place), Javon Daniel (Cullman Caring for Kids), Mayor Max A. Townson, Nancy Bryant (Cullman Caring for Kids) and Haley Gaines (Brooks' Place).

For more information on National Child Abuse Awareness Month, please contact Cullman Caring for Kids at 256-739-1111 or visit their website at www.cullmancaringforkids.com.

For more information on Brooks' Place (Child Advocacy Center) contact them at 256-739-2243 or visit their website at www.caccullman.org.

If you know a child who is being abused or neglected, please contact your local law enforcement agency or call the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-CHILD.

PREP TRACK

COLD SPRINGS EXCELS TO 1ST PLACE IN APRIL FOOLS INVITATIONAL

Johnny Thornton
Sports Correspondent

COLD SPRINGS – Cranford Stricklin Stadium on the campus of Cold Springs High School is a difficult venue during the springtime for the opposition.

The place is the home of the Cold Springs track and field program and trying to take a team title from the Eagles is as difficult as playing a football game at Alabama's Bryant-Denny Stadium, basketball at Kentucky's Rupp Arena or trying to win a gymnastics meet at Florida's O'Connell Center.

Cold Springs began the month of April with the April Fools Invite. Thirteen other schools challenged the Eagles while the Lady Eagles were faced with trying to turn back 11 other opponents.

Both teams overcame damp and dreary conditions Friday evening.

The Eagles soared to first place with 213 points through 17 events, creating a gap between them and Holly Pond for second place.

The Broncos were runners-up with 90 points and West Point a distant third with 70.

The Cold Springs Lady Eagles got even with Falkville.

After falling to the Lady Blue Devils in an invitational here on Monday, the Lady Eagles won with 126.5 points to 107 for the team out of Morgan County.

Holly Pond placed third with 88 points, finishing ahead of Addison.

West Point took fifth place with 57 points scored, getting in front of Hanceville who had 51.5 for sixth place.

In the running events, Cold Springs won seven of eight opportunities. Christian Crandall took home the 100-meter and the 200-meter, beating Hanceville's John Smalls and Jose Orozco to the finish line in both races.

CJ Lang won the 1,600-meter, Jared Stanley took first in the 3,200-meter and Austin Burwell was ahead of the competition in the 110-hurdles.

Burwell is planning to sign a scholarship with the University of Montevallo April 13.

No one could touch the Eagles in the relays.

Crandall, Cayde Elliott, Jacob Lee and River Banks got the top spot in the 4x100-relay; Burwell, Kramer Crider, Stanley and Lang were in front of the 4x800-relay and third in the 4x400-relay.

Holly Pond's Matt Cahoon was showing his superior strength in the field events. The Bronco won the high jump, shot put and discus with a third place finish in the triple jump.

Josh Freeman from Cold Springs grabbed the honor in the long jump and finished in front of Cahoon for second in the triple jump behind Todd Schwabb of Holly Pond.

The Lady Eagles gained a second place finish in the 4x100-relay, Zoe Strawbridge second in the pole vault, Kinley Campbell third in the discus, Ashleigh White was first in the 1,600 and 3,200-meter, second in 800-meter.

Alyssa Jackson scored points for the Lady Eagles with second place berths to White in the 1,600 and 3,200.

The Cold Springs teams have a meet at Mortimer Jordan on Tuesday to finish the regular season then focus on the Cullman County Tournament April 21 back at Cranford Stricklin Stadium.

Both teams will try to defend their county championship titles on their own turf after winning last year at Good Hope.

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COUNTY SPORTS SCHEDULE

WEEK OF APRIL 4

MONDAY
Baseball
Good Hope vs Locust Fork 7:00 p.m.
Cold Springs @ Falkville 4:30 p.m.

Softball
Cullman @ Hayden 4:00 p.m.
Hanceville @ Holly Pond (Fairview) 11:40 a.m.
Vinemont vs Cold Springs (Fairview) 1:30 p.m.
Good Hope vs Fairview (Fairview) 10:00 a.m.

Soccer
West Point @ Brewer 5:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m. boys

TUESDAY
Baseball
Cullman @ Russellville 4:30 p.m.
Hanceville @ Susan Moore 4:30 p.m.,6:30 p.m.
Good Hope @ Locust Fork 4:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m.

Softball
Cullman @ Austin 4:30 p.m.

Soccer
Cullman @ Lee 5:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m.
West Point @ Pennington 5:30 p.m, 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY
Baseball
Hanceville vs Susan Moore 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
Cold Springs @ Hanceville 7:00 p.m.

Softball
West Point @ Lawrence County 4:30 p.m.
Vinemont @ Holly Pond 4:00 p.m.
Good Hope vs Oneonta 5:00 p.m.
Cold Springs vs Tanner 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY
Soccer
West Point vs Haleyville 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.

Compiled by Josh McBrayer

PREP BASKETBALL SCORING WRAP-UP

MONDAY
Baseball
Vinemont 6, Susan Moore 2
Cold Springs 8, Addison 1

Softball
West Point 12, Holly Pond 1
Cold Springs 6, Addison1

TUESDAY
Baseball
West Point 5, Lawrence County 8
West Point 6, Lawrence County 8
Fairview 0, Russellville 13

Softball
Cullman 3, Hartselle 0

West Point 13, Brewer 2
Hanceville 1, Vinemont 0
Holly Pond 1, Fairview 0
Cold Springs 15, Addison 5

Soccer
Cullman 4, James Clemens 0 (boys)
Fairview 0, Guntersville 10 (boys)

FRIDAY
Baseball
Good Hope 15, St. Bernard 3
Cullman 8, Oxford 2

Soccer
Fairview 1, West Point 1 (boys)

Compiled by Josh McBrayer

SPORTS WITH KEVIN BISHOP

Kevin Bishop
Sports Correspondent

• The Auburn vs. Missouri baseball game will be on April 7 at 6:30 p.m., on ESPNU.
• The Blount County Varsity Softball Tournament will be on April 7, 8 and 9 at Southeastern School.

Games include:

April 7
• 1 p.m. - Southeastern vs. Appalachian
• 2:30 p.m. - Susan Moore vs. Pennington
• 4 p.m. - Hayden vs. Cleveland
• 6 p.m. - Loser bracket game

April 8
• 1 p.m. - Susan Moore - Pennington winner will play Southeastern and Appalachian winner.
• 2:30 p.m. - Locust Fork is the number one bye. They will play the winner of the Hayden and Cleveland game.

Championship games will be held on Saturday, April 9, beginning at noon. If other games are necessary, they will be played at 1:30 p.m.

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THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MOTHER ANGELICA, PART 1

April 20, 1923 ~ March 27, 2016

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – Mother Angelica, given name Rita Antoinette Rizzo, was born in Canton, Ohio on April 20, 1923. She was the only child born to John and Mae Helen Rizzo. John abandoned the family when Rita was very young and by 1929, he and Mae were divorced. Mae maintained full custody of Rita but struggled with chronic depression and poverty.

"We (my mother and I) were like a pair of refugees," Mother Angelica once said. "We were poor, hungry and barely surviving on odd jobs before my mother learned the dry cleaning business as an apprentice to a Jewish tailor in the area. Even then, we pinched pennies just to keep food on the table."

Rita had a great deal of physical suffering throughout her life.

As a teenager, she was plagued with severe stomach troubles, which were only relieved through the intercession of St. Therese.

Realizing God's immense love for her through this incredible healing, Rita gave herself totally to God.

One evening in 1944, Rita stopped at a church to pray and felt that God was calling her to be a nun.

After talking to a local priest about her calling, she was encouraged to begin visiting convents. When she stopped at the Poor Clare Monastery at the St. Paul Shrine in Cleveland, she felt like she was home.

Knowing it would be hard to leave her mother, Rita left home and wrote her mother in a letter informing her of her decision and desire to follow Christ in religious life.

"My own dearest Mother, when you receive this letter I will be in Cleveland. I have entered the Adoration Monastery. You know it better as St. Paul's Shrine. A cloister, my mother is a heaven on earth. There will I tell Him with every breath that I take that I love Him. There will I make reparation for all the cold hearts in the world. Something happened to me after my cure. I fell completely in love with Our Lord. Always yours, Rita xxx (An excerpt from Rita's letter to her mother upon entering the monastery.)" - olamnuns.com

On November 8, 1945, Rita was vested as a Poor Clare nun and became Sister Mary Angelica of the Annunciation, the name her mother had chosen for her.

In 1946 young Sister Angelica had an accident with an industrial waxing machine that knocked her over and injured her spine. She faced an operation that could have left her completely paralyzed.

Because the desire to serve God was so strong, Sister Angelica promised God that if she could walk after the surgery, she would build Him a monastery - in the South.

True to her word after the surgery was a success, Sister Angelica began the lengthy process of obtaining permissions and raising the money to build a monastery.

On January 2, 1953, she made her solemn profession of vows at Sancta Clara Monastery in Ohio. This was only the beginning of Sister Angelica's religious life.

Little did she know at the time, she would go on to much bigger things and become well known and dearly loved by Christians and non-Christians all over the world.

Be sure to read The Life and Times of Mother Angelica Part 2 in next week's edition of The Cullman Tribune.



Rita Antoinette Rizzo, held by her mother Mae Helen Rizzo.

SHRINE OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

CULLMANSENSE ACQUIRES "THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE"

Wendy Sack
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CULLMAN – On April 1, CullmanSense officially acquired The Cullman Tribune, Alabama's oldest continuously published weekly newspaper. CullmanSense publishers Noah Galilee and Dustin Isom purchased the Tribune from Delton Blalock, the Tribune's owner and publisher for the last 26 years.

Today's issue, April 4, 2016, is CullmanSense's first under the banner of The Cullman Tribune.

Those of us who grew up in Alabama, especially in Cullman, know the Tribune. And if you've been here any time from 2011 until now, you know CullmanSense.

But what happens now and what does this mean for our readers? Here we speak with Galilee and Isom to find out.

First up, what does it mean to Galilee and Isom to be the new owners of a piece of history, the Tribune?

Galilee: To be honest, it's a lot of pressure. We built CullmanSense from the ground up, the two of us at the beginning, and then our small staff, working hard to make a difference in this community. Taking over the oldest weekly in the state, well, that's a bit more of a challenge.

However, since we have already built a paper from scratch we are positive that this acquisition will only help to improve the type of news we cover.

It will also help increase the amount of coverage we are able to supply to our readers.

Isom: It's an honor to be the owner of the state's oldest paper. We will maintain the Tribune's legacy by continuing the tradition of excellence and keeping the name alive.

How long has this been in the works?

Galilee: (laughs)...well, we were first approached a couple of years back, but due to some health issues with myself, CullmanSense had to back away for a bit. Mr. Blalock reached out to Dustin in January of this year. Shortly after, in mid-February, we signed papers giving us full rights to The Cullman Tribune, all its archives, photos and much more.

Speaking of those archives, how will they be handled? Will they be digitized to share with the public?

Isom: In time all issues will be digitized and available to the public online. Paper copies will be stored in a safe place.

How will The Tribune and CullmanSense operate going forward? What can readers expect?

Isom: The Cullman Tribune will feature the best of CullmanSense in print form and some exclusive content, while CullmanSense will remain online. Basically, the Tribune will be our print publication, and CullmanSense will be our online publication.

Galilee: Many readers of The Cullman Tribune will notice a dramatic difference in the look of the publication. We are getting rid of the broadsheet and switching over to the tabloid style design. This just means more pages, with at least four color pages per issue. We will be keeping Robin Winton on as our newsroom manager, Kevin Bishop as one of our sports reporters and several other contributors who have been with the Tribune. Readers will also be introduced to the CS staff of Wendy Sack, Sharon Kreps, Amy Leonard, Josh McBrayer, Johnny Thornton, Will Hogue and many other contributors. Online readers of CS won't notice much a change in the look or feel of our website or social media pages.

Any words for Mr. Blalock?

Isom: Thank you for the opportunity to carry on this historical publication and continue the legacy of excellence for another generation.

Galilee: When Mr. Blalock handed over the keys, I told him that we will make him proud and that his 26 years of service would not go to waste. I believe he was more than pleased to hear it.

Blalock will be listed as editor emeritus for the Tribune.

The acquisition of The Cullman Tribune means a lot to CullmanSense. Not only are we taking over a newspaper, but we are taking over the oldest continuously running weekly publication in the state- one that is three years older than Cullman itself! So we are humbled to be carrying on 142 years of history.

cullman city parks & recreation

WHAT'S ON DECK AT PARKS AND REC....

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **CP&R's Free Art in the Park:** Saturday, April 2 at Heritage Park from 10am-2pm. The event will feature free crafts for all kids to make, an art display of local artwork, dozens of craft vendors selling handmade craft items, and a sidewalk chalk contest at 11am. The sidewalk chalk contest is free to enter and winner receives a free 6 month membership to the Wellness & Aquatic Center.
- **Community Yard Sale & Craft Fair:** Heritage Park will be hosting a community wide craft fair and yard sale in conjunction with CP&R's Art in the Park on Saturday, April 2 from 7am-2pm. The community wide yard sale and craft show is taking vendors now; spaces are $10 and can be booked by calling 256-739-9931.
- **Youth Outdoor Adventure Program:** This program will meet on Saturdays at 9am starting April 9 for a 6 week session of hiking, kayaking, archery, rock climbing, and wilderness survival. Boys and girls ages 7-14 can register online or at the Civic Center by April 8.
- **Beginner Kayaking Class:** Will be offered at the indoor pool at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center on April 9, 16, and 23 at noon. Kayaks and gear will be provided, and participants will be taken on a trip at the conclusion of the class down a class I-III whitewater river. Register now at the Civic Center or online at cullmanrecreation.org.
- **Mommy & Me Art Class:** CP&R will be offering a Mommy & Me Pre-school art class at the Cullman Civic Center for children ages 5 & under and their mothers; cost is $60 for a 6 week session, and classes will be held starting March 29. Spaces are still available by registering at the Civic Center or online at cullmanrecreation.org.
- **2016 Strawberry Fest:** Mark your calendars for May 6 & 7 for the 2016 Strawberry Fest. Festival will kick off Friday, May 6 from 9am-2pm with Senior Day with BINGO, free lunch, and bluegrass bands. Friday from 4-10pm will feature bands, a kids zone, and strawberries for sale, and Saturday, May 7 will feature a car show, a huge craft show, kid's zone, and live bands from 8am-10pm. Don't miss out on this FREE event!
- **Big Announcement Coming to Cullman Golf Course**: Stay tuned in April for a HUGE announcement coming to Cullman Golf Course!

DANCING FOR A CAUSE A SMASH HIT AT CHS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – On Saturday night, April 2, the inaugural Dancing for a Cause charity event took place at the Cullman High School auditorium. The event was hosted by The Factory Dance Productions and was set up like a local version of "Dancing with the Stars." People from throughout Cullman County competed, all to raise money for their favorite charities.

"Each group of 'celebrities' from the community had to come up with their own theme of what they want to do," said Jamie Helms, dance mom.

"It's like an eclectic mix of people. The judges were from out of town so obviously they are not biased; they will choose the winners. The money going to the winning charities came from our sponsors, ticket and T-shirt sales.

"This is the first year we have done this," she continued.

"Keri Payne, The Factory's co-owner, has done it four years in a row in Ft. Payne. It's been a big hit. It's real fun; we have people doing hip-hop, musical theater up to 'Toy Story.' I saw one of the acts beforehand and it was so funny, I was laughing tears!"

The contestants and the charities they represented were:

• Richard & Beth Collins, representing the Children's Leukemia Foundation, honoring East Elementary student Kaeden Dawson

• Ty Parker & Alex Raper, representing St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

• Jessica & Shane Posey, representing Hand in Paw, in memory of Colton Evans

• Tim & Kathy Thornhill, representing the Crosshaven Church Mission Fund

• Shannon & Kati Hale, representing Master Hands

• Dr. Tom Montgomery and Sarah Montgomery, representing the ALS Society

• Andy & Liz Page, representing Cullman Caring for Kids

• Leslie Dyer, Jamie Dillenger, Carrie Taylor & Kallie Flynn, representing Cullman Caring for Kids

• Adam McGee & Katie Burney, representing the Michael and Sara Heatherly Medical Fund (childhood cancer fund)

• Kent & Mimi Weir, representing St. Vincent de Paul Society

The judges scored the contestants on overall entertainment value, not dance technique. The winners received a large donation to their charity.

The People's Choice winners were voted on by the audience; they also received donations towards their charities. The remaining money was distributed among The Factory dancers to help pay for regional and national traveling expenses.

The night's winners were Ty Parker and Alex Raper, who represented St. Jude. The runners-up were Andy and Liz Page, who represented Cullman Caring for Kids and the People's Choice Award went to Kent and Mimi Weir, who represented the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

"Dancing for a Cause 2016 was a hit," said Payne. "Thank you to our sponsors, contestants and volunteers. What a fun evening!"

"Very entertaining," said audience member Kay Shabel. "Who knew we had so much talent in our small town!"

The Factory's first ever Dancing for a Cause combined the art of dance with community involvement and produced a very entertaining evening for all who were there.

Three wonderful organizations received much needed donations. It was a winning night for everyone involved.

The Factory Dance Productions is located at 802 Main Ave. NE in Cullman.

For more information about their dance classes, call them at 256- 841-1900 or visit their website at www.thefactorydance.com. Also be sure to follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thefactorydanceproductions.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Dancing for a Cause was a huge success. Three charities benefitted from the night's event.

WALLACE STATE HOSTS JOB FAIR ON APRIL 6

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State Community College is hosting a job fair on Wednesday, April 6, from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., at the School of Nursing and Center for Science Conference Center.

Area businesses seeking employees are welcome to attend the job fair to recruit new personnel.

Registration fees are $50 through April 1 and $75 April 2-5.

Registration fee includes one table and lunch for two representatives. Additional lunches are $10 by April 1 and $15 April 2-5.

The job fair will be open to all Wallace State students and to the public in general.

Representatives from business, industry and healthcare facilities will be on hand.

Prospective employees should bring résumés and dress in interview-appropriate attire.

Contact Susan Peek at 256-352-7839 or susan.peek@wallacestate.edu for more information and registration.

Businesses exhibiting, as of March 30, include:

• Arc of Blount County
• Coast Personnel Services
• Covenant Place of Gardendale
• Crawford Broadcasting
• DCH Regional Medical Center
• Decatur Morgan Hospital
• Hanceville Nursing and Rehab Center
• Huntsville Hospital
• Kamtek
• North Alabama Fabricating Company
• Onin Staffing
• St. Vincent's Health System
• The Alabama Career Center
• VA Medical Center
• University of West Florida
• University of North Alabama
• Golden Living- Oneonta
• Columbus State University
• Eastview Healthcare Center
• Cullman Association of Realtors
• The Folsom Center
• NARCOG
• Gadsden Regional Medical Center
• Modern Woodmen of America
• Sanctuary at the Woodlands
• Royal Technologies
• Regional Medical Center- Anniston
• Cullman Health and Rehab
• Baptist Health Systems

WSCC'S CHILD DEVEL. PROGRAM OFFERS SEMESTER-LONG STACKABLE CERTIFICATES

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – In the midst of rebuilding the Child Development program at Wallace State Community College, program director Dr. Marcie Hill created new options for students majoring in early childhood education and professionals who need to earn credentials to advance their career.

Over the last few years, state and national governments have put an emphasis on the importance of early childhood education and making it more accessible to families everywhere. Nobel Prize-winning economist James Heckman, who studies human development, has found that gaps that result from differences in access to education in early childhood are often never overcome, and President Obama has called for universal preschool education. Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley included a $20 million increase for Pre-K funding in the state budget earlier this year. These proposals would step up the need for qualified early childhood educators.

To help get a head start on preparing those educators, new short-term, stackable certificates will be offered beginning in Fall 2016, with options for Infant/Toddler, Preschool/Family Child Care and Early Childhood Education to be taught in the fall and summer semesters.

Any of the three short-term certificates can provide the minimum requirements needed for those wishing to work as assistants in Pre-K or Head Start programs in the area. The Infant/Toddler and Preschool/Family Child Care short-term certificates also meet the educational components needed for those working toward their Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, a national credential earned from the Council for Professional Recognition. Offering stackable certificates is becoming a trend among community colleges across the nation as a way to provide more pathways for students to earn marketable skills they can build on as they continue their education and/or enter the workforce. Several of Wallace State's Allied Technologies programs have led the trend toward stackable certificates with marked success for their students.

As an added bonus for child development students and professionals seeking their credentials, all of the Child Development courses are offered online, making it open to anyone across the nation with computer access. Also, more than one certificate can be earned at a time due to overlapping courses.

"In their first semester, be it this fall or next summer, they can take a maximum of 13 hours and be eligible for three short-term certificates," said Hill. "That is an automatic Head Start minimum qualification, Pre-K minimum qualification, and certainly marketable toward any day care center for employment." If they already have their CPR Certification, those hours are reduced to 12.

The Early Childhood Education short-term certificate is designed for students who are going to take advantage of Wallace State's articulation agreement with Athens State University and transfer to their program. General Studies or Child Development students can both work toward the Early Childhood Education short-term certificate while at Wallace State, and continue their coursework for ASU at its Wallace State Center or the Athens campus. A fourth short-term certificate is offered in the spring semester. The Child Development short-term certificate is another 9-hour certificate, with one of the three classes overlapping from the Early Childhood Education short-term certificate. A student could earn all four short-term certificates offered through Child Development in two semesters.

Hill has submitted a request to add a Child Development certificate option to her curriculum. The 38-hour certificate could be acquired in only three semesters, and Hill hopes that option will be available soon.

An Associate in Applied Science is also offered in Child Development and can be accomplished in five semesters. All of the courses required for the short-term certificates could be applied toward that degree. Beginning in the fall, that curriculum has been tweaked to exchange two biology requirements for one natural science component and one English requirement for two.

"Our goal is to provide our students with all the tools they will need to build a career in early childhood education," Hill said, "whether they want to work in a government-funded institution or at a private childcare facility."Each of these short-term certificates will let them get their foot in the door as they follow their chosen path toward teaching and caring for our most precious assets — our children."

Wallace State is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. For information about the Wallace State Child Development program, contact Dr. Marcie Hill at 256-352-8383 or marcie.hill@wallacestate.edu.

APRIL WALKING TOURS EXPLORE CULLMAN'S RICH HISTORY

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – April is here and that means historic walking tours will be taking place all over North Alabama. Community historians will guide these free tours through the historic districts or courthouse square areas of their hometowns. The hour-long tours start at 10 a.m. on April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30.

Learn all about Cullman's rich history as you stroll along the sidewalks.

Stops will include Colonel Cullmann and his home, the Clark family, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Parker Bank and Trust, People's Drug Company, Stiefelmeyer's and many other area landmarks.

"We really appreciate our regulars and invite you to join us this year," said Drew Green from the Cullman County Museum.

"This Saturday starting at 10 a.m. on the front steps of the museum. We have some interesting insights and stories to share."

The tours will begin on the steps of the Cullman County Museum at 10 a.m. each Saturday this month.

"We have a very interesting walk planned for you this year," Green added. "This event is free, so what is stopping you?"

Spring is a great time of year to spend outdoors, and the walking tours are a great way to get out and enjoy the wonderful weather.

The tours are something the whole family can do together.

For those who love history, why not stop by and take a walk and hear about Cullman's early years.

The Cullman County Museum is located at 211 Second Ave. NE.

For more information, call the museum at 256-739-1258 or 1-800-533-1258.



People of all ages love the free April walking tours in Cullman.

SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CP&R'S MIRACLE LEAGUE BASEBALL BEGINS APRIL 4

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Monday, April 4, Spring Miracle League Baseball will begin another season of giving those with disabilities the opportunity to play a sport.

Miracle League Baseball is managed by the Cullman City Parks and Recreation Department and has been "around for about, well, I want to say about six years," said the league's coordinator Paul Downs, night manager at Heritage Park.

Downs has two sons with autism, both of whom play in the Miracle League.

"Some people call it the Challenger League, but I like Miracle League," Downs said.

The league is open to anyone with disabilities. Downs said that he has seen players from the ages of 6 to 60 play in the league.

"We try to match them up with their age group as well as possible, though," he said.

The spring season runs from April 4 until May 12, and the fall season begins later in the year.

"We only have spring and fall leagues," Downs said. "The summer is just too hot for the kids."

Downs, who is also the coordinator of Miracle League Basketball that just finished its season a week ago, said that these community sports are a great way to get the kids to be active and also interact with other people that they normally wouldn't be around.

"It's great to get the kids out. It really brings out their personality. Once they find a coach that they like, they want to be with him every year," he said.

There are usually no more than 10 players on any team, and in any given season there can be between 70 and 100 players registered, making enough players to form several different teams.

"The league gives the kids a chance to interact. It gives them a chance to be a normal kid," Downs said.

Miracle League sports teams are a part of the CP&R Therapeutic Recreation Program, which uses recreational activities, leisure and play to enhance the quality of life for individuals with physical, mental, social or emotional limitations or abilities. The program targets more than play and uses the power of recreation and leisure activities to support the rehabilitation process and promote overall wellness.

Activities are targeted at education, teaching, playing and participation in a number of meaningful activities.

The program offers several events, activities, and ongoing programs throughout the year.

It is open to all ages of anyone with special needs of varying levels.

The program's activities are free to attend and are supported by the efforts of the CP&R Department. For any questions regarding the program contact Kelly Pulliam at 256-734-9157 or kpulliam@cullmanrecreation.org.

Visit http://cullmanrecreation.org/programs-events/therapeutic-recreation/ for more info.

Bridge (from Front)

see:

March 4 - http://cullmansense.com/articles/2016/03/04/work-new-bridge-hwy-278-west-kugler-creek-phase-one

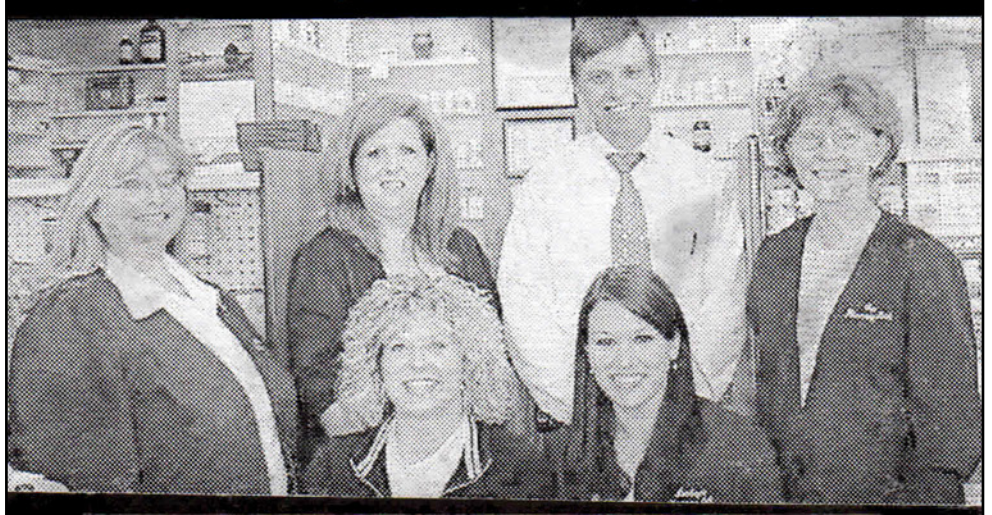
February 19 - http://cullmansense.com/articles/2016/02/19/repair-work-us-278-slope-begin-monday-feb-22-weather-permitting

February 16 - http://cullmansense.com/articles/2016/02/16/update-new-bridge-hwy-278-and-co-rd-1147

February 11 - http://cullmansense.com/articles/2016/02/11/aldot-monitoring-us-278-bridge-kugler-creek-seeking-measures-remediation

PHARMACY TOPICS *by Eddy Hoenig*

Hospital Discount West



Front row, Left to right: Anita Antaillia, Karen Metz, RN, Kathryne Striker and Sue Miller. Back row: Sonja Duke and Eddy Hoenig, Rph.

Rupture of an abdominal aortic aneurysm is one of the most dramatic medical emergencies a person can face. It usually strikes without warning, killing approximately 50 percent of those who experience it before they reach a hospital. Of those who do get to a health facility alive, only about 50 percent survive. When diagnosed through screening, aortic aneurysms are carefully monitored for signs of enlargement and surgical intervention often is needed to prevent rupture of the vessel. Now, researchers have found that patients who took cholesterol-lowering statins before endovascular surgery experienced fewer complications and better outcomes.

***

A new study published in *The Lancet Neurology* tested two generic versions of lamotrigine, a drug widely used for the treatment of epilepsy and found no detectable difference in clinical effects among patients in the trial.

***

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved Genvoya (a fixed-dose combination tablet containing elvitegravir, cobicistat, emtricitabine and tenofovir alafenamide) as a complete regimen for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults and pediatric patients 12 years of age and older. The CDC estimates that 1.2 million persons ages 13 years and older are living with HIV infection and that more than another 150,000 persons in this age range have HIV, but are unaware of their infection. Over the past decade, the number of people living with HIV has increased, while the annual number of new HIV infections has remained relatively stable.

***

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WEST ELEMENTARY STUDENTS HOLD INVENTION CONVENTION

Wendy Sack
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PHOTOS BY WENDY SACK/CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CULLMAN – Third- and fourth-grade students in West Elementary School's Discovery gifted program last month held an Invention Convention on the school's campus.

After completing research on inventors of their choice and taking part in various activities in the program's invention unit of study, the students used the SCAMPER method (problem-solving technique) to brainstorm some possible inventions.

The assignment was for each student to think of a problem that needed to be solved in their world (home, school, etc.) and create a solution for it in the form of an invention.

They were to create a prototype if they could not create a real working model.

The students had to create it, name it, create an advertisement for it, calculate the approximate cost and explain their display to other students and parents.

The Invention Convention was held on Feb. 9 for third-grade students and Feb. 10 for fourth-grade students. Parents were invited, as well as other students.

Miranda Gunter, who oversees the Discovery gifted program at West Elementary, said, "I was impressed by the creativity of my students with their inventions. I told them that I would use many of them myself! It was also great to see the excitement of other students who came to the Invention Convention. More than one student told me an idea that they had for their own invention as they were leaving the convention."

The third-grade inventors were Alayna Alldredge, Ava Colvard, David Crumpton, Christian Edmondson, Maleah Flanigan, Madison Goble, Price Hall, Jonah Jarrett, John Mark Johnson, Peyton Keller, Kaybri Patterson, Nora Sheffield, Mattie Smith, Willa Smith, Riley Tucker and Evan Wilson.

The fourth-grade inventors were Clay Bonds, Samaria Coley, May Dawsey, Asa Hayes, Kendyle Hieber, Caden Hornsby, Madison Hyde, Ashton Lambert, Whitley Lawson, Noley Morring, Jordan Norwood, Peerson Pipes, Nate Potter, Anna Shirey, Natalie Smith, Kyra Thompson, Logan Walker, Houston Walton, Drew Williamson and Brayden Willoughby.

Find out more about West Elementary School at http://wes.cullmancats.net.

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COLORS OF CANCER DAY CELEBRATES FIGHTERS, SURVIVORS, FRIENDS AND FAMILIES

Amy Leonard
amy@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation's Colors of Cancer Day, Saturday, April 2, was a booming success; it was a day filled with support, healing and exuberance shared by those who participated.

The event provided something for everyone including a 5K race, drum line competition, bounce houses and balloon release.

The City of Cullman is proud of its Cullman County Fair and Christmas parades, but the council rarely issues permits for other parades; however, when Mary Dyer, founder of the Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation, asks for a favor, it's difficult to say no. As a result, a big part of the celebration was a parade down Highway 31, featuring local high school bands, cancer survivors and veterans.

Inside, at the fairgrounds, away from the brisk morning breeze, various vendors were found providing their wares and services. Kristie Williams and her massage therapists from Alabama Therapeutic Massage provided massages for a low cost with the 50 percent of the proceeds donated directly to Bosom Buddies.

Cindy the Pink Fire Truck was unavailable while she gets repairs, so Shelby the Pink Patrol Car took her place and was signed by attendees in honor of loved ones who have fought or are currently fighting the insidious disease. Mandy Phillips of Cold Springs shared, "I signed for my MeeMaw who died from cancer two years ago. I still think about her every day."

Also signing Shelby was City of Cullman Mayor Max A. Townson, who spent time talking with officers from the Guardians of the Ribbon Lower Alabama Chapter (http://www.pinkhealsalabama.com/) about the work they do spreading awareness and education.

Cancer survivor and Cullman County Commissioner, Place 2, Garry Marchman was a proud attendee of the day's celebration and strong proponent of the event.

Providing entertainment under the pavilion during the late morning were representatives from the Good Hope High School and Hanceville High School marching bands who competed and played together during a friendly drum-line competition.

The Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation is a 501(c3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide financial assistance to Cullman area cancer patients who are experiencing financial hardships during their treatment.

All donations are used for cancer patients in the Cullman County area.

April 2, 2016 was proclaimed Colors of Cancer Day by both the City of Cullman and Cullman County.





PHOTOS COURTESY GUARDIANS OF THE RIBBON LOWER ALABAMA CHAPTER

Pictured are Guardians of the Ribbon Lower Alabama Chapter members with (l-r) Cullman County Commissioner, Place 1, Kerry Watson; Cullman County Commission Chairman Kenneth Walker; Cullman County Bosom Buddies Foundation Founder Mary Dyer and City of Cullman Mayor Max A. Townson.

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Elect DARRELL HICKS
CHAIRMAN CULLMAN COUNTY COMMISSION

I am asking for your vote and support on April 12 for new leadership as your chairman of the Cullman county commission.



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YOUR REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE

DARRELL HICKS
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NEWS FROM THE POND: HOLLY POND CIVITANS

Jimmie Dean Carnell
Contributor

HOLLY POND – Good morning Tribune readers and families. The flowers are in bloom, the trees are sprouting leaves and everything is turning green – including the top of my car, with all the pollen. Thank goodness for a little rain last week to wash some of all that yellow stuff off and help us clear our sinuses from allergies.

I am doing a brief recap on some of the Easter holiday activities held here recently. To begin with, the Holly Pond Civitans hosted an Easter Bingo Party on Thursday, March 24 at the Lions Club building for the senior center.

Several of the Civitan members assisted in the distribution of small bags of Easter treats for each member who won on their bingo card.

An added highlight of the morning's activities was an Easter bonnet contest, in which the site members donned their prettiest or kookiest Easter bonnets.

The fairest of the fair Easter Parade winners included: Ellen Drummond, first place; Karen Dunn, second place and Eva Clark, third place.

Then, on March 30, Civitan members went to the pre-school class at Holly Pond Elementary School and hid Easter eggs for the students, also hosting with special surprises and prizes for the children.

Civitan members assisting in the egg hunt were Sharon and Bill Oliver, Julia Floyd, Janice Murphree, Lyndal House and Lynn Jetton. Everyone has had an enjoyable holiday time participating.

Upcoming activities for Holly Pond Civitans include announcement of winners in the club's essay contest and scholarship winners.

The club will also be preparing a Relay for Life event breakfast.

This annual service opportunity has a great deal of community support as Civitans host a breakfast for cancer survivors prior to the actual Relay for Life Event.

Until next week, be safe, and continue to enjoy the beautiful scenes of springtime.



CONTRIBUTED

These three ladies who attend the senior center in Holly Pond were the winners in their Easter bonnet contest, sponsored by Holly Pond Civitan Club. From left are Eva Clark, third place; Karen Dunn, second place and Ellen Drummond, first place.

Newspaper (from Front)

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - The Cullman Tribune is the oldest continuously published weekly newspaper in Alabama. It is also Cullman County's oldest business. Its pages have covered both the good and the bad news around this area since January 1, 1874 – three years before Cullman County was even created! Yes, the old newspaper publication could tell some pretty interesting tales. Thankfully the Tribune is going to continue to provide Cullman's top news well into the future as the paper's ownership changed hands on April 1, 2016.

The Alabama Tribune, as it was originally called, was founded in 1874 by early Cullman businessmen George H. Parker and Gottfried A. Prinz. Both men were instrumental in Cullman's earliest years. Prinz was Cullman's mayor from 1876-1877, he was Cullman's first postmaster and opened Cullman's first store in 1873. Parker also served as mayor of Cullman, from 1900-1903. Additionally, Parker donated land and money to help start Cullman High School back in 1909.

In 1875, the Southern Immigrant newspaper was founded by Charles A. Beckert, H.L. Watlington and John A. Johnson. On November 1, 1880, the Alabama Tribune and the Southern Immigrant merged together under the management of Johnson, who continued the publication as the Alabama Tribune. He held editorial control of the paper until August 1892 when he claimed he had "been in the newspaper business for 50 years and wanted a rest."

Johnson sold the paper to T.J. Simpson and George Hewlett, who sold the paper a couple years later to M.L. Robertson in April 1895. In December of that same year, Robertson changed the newspaper's name from The Alabama Tribune to The Cullman Tribune. (Interesting note: In September 1897, Robertson married Miss Mary Alice Parker who was the daughter of George H. Parker, original co-owner of the Tribune!)

"Three families have dominated the history of Alabama's longest continually published weekly newspaper," said Delton Blalock, former publisher and editor of The Cullman Tribune.

"The Norwood family published the Tribune for two decades early last century. The Arnold family published the Tribune for over 20 years in the middle of last century. Blalock Publishing, L.L.C. (has) now (had) the longest tenure as publisher of the Cullman Tribune, which is also Cullman's oldest business."

"The new owners, Noah Galilee and Dustin Isom currently publish the CullmanSense, which is about five years old," Blalock continued. "They plan to combine the two publications under the banner, Cullman Tribune. All current subscribers will continue to be served with expanded coverage."

The Cullman Tribune has seen quite a few publishers and editors of the over the years:

- G.H. Parker, Co-Founder
- G.A. Prinz, Co-Founder
- R. Damus
- J. Damus
- J.A. Johnson (November 1880 – 1892)
- Walter King
- M.L. Robertson
- George A. Hewlett
- Joe W. Hewlett
- Will G. Brown
- Mrs. H. Julia Gillespie (1908)
- J.C. Norwood
- Mrs. J.C. Norwood
- Maurice Norwood
- Henry Frank Arnold and Edna Earl Arnold (1937 – 1968)
- Marc and Charlotte Miller (1968 – 1976)
- Grady Griffin
- Terry Smith and Raymond Clark
- Sue and Gary Edwards
- Dr. Ben Johnson
- Delton and Barbara Blalock
- Noah Galilee and Dustin Isom

Robin Sterling, author of "People and Things from the Cullman Alabama Tribune, 1898 – 1913," has done extensive work transcribing early editions of the paper. He describes the early Tribune newspaper as follows:

For the first 25 years or so of its existence, except for special occasions, the Tribune contained only four pages. The first page consisted of mostly national and state news, while page two contained editorial paragraphs where often the political views of the editor were set to print. During election cycles, most of page two was made up of news having to do with state and local politics. Page two was also where most of the items of an official nature were published, such as Sheriff's Sales, Land Settlements, and other items related to the Probate Judge's office. Page three was reserved for local items and it was usually filled with little lines of people coming and going and their activities of late. Often, the editor printed long lists of people who had merely dropped by the office to visit sometime during the week. The editor always encouraged correspondents from outlying communities to send in news of their area and these were usually published on page two and three. On page three was usually located the items making up the bulk of this volume; that is, the announcements of births, deaths, marriages, and short news items. Page four usually contained items of general interests, serial novelettes and large ads. Scattered small ads for individuals offering professional services of one sort or another were scattered throughout the paper.

The Cullman Tribune has changed both its looks and its content over the years. Cullman County's expansion and growth have made for plenty of newsworthy stories since 1874.

Each publisher and editor has changed the newspaper, just a little, to reflect his or her own personal style of writing and reporting. The publication Parker and Prinz started over 142 years ago has changed hands yet again, effective April 1, 2016. The Cullman Tribune is here to stay, here to report and here to watch Cullman history continue to unfold from within its very pages.

School (from Front)

and have been instrumental in preparing and getting the word out about the festivities.

The Cullman City School System is home to over 3,000 students so it is easy to see the necessity of opening a primary school to serve children in the head start program, kindergarten and first grade. Principal Trisha Culpepper shared, "By opening the Primary School in 1996, we were able to gain additional classroom space at our elementary schools. The Primary School specializes in educating our youngest learners in our system."

THE BARN
Portable Storage Buildings
Hanceville, AL
352-2737

Cullman Stock Yard, Inc.
75 County Road 1339
Cullman, AL 35058
(256) 734-4531
www.cullmanstockyard.com
Keith and Hoagy Parrish
Cattle Sale - Thursday 8:30 a.m.

TALCUM POWDER LAWSUIT
If you have used Talcum Powder products for feminine hygiene and developed ovarian cancer, you may be entitled to compensation. A jury in Missouri recently returned a $72 million dollar verdict for a woman who developed ovarian cancer after using talcum powder products. Call Wallace D. Mills for a free consultation.
Wallace D. Mills, Attorney
(334) 593-8053
No representation is made that the quality of legal services is greater than the quality of legal services provided by other lawyers.

"Your Agents. Your Neighbors. Your Friends."
KNIGHT-FREE INSURANCE
256.734.4060

Auto-Owners Insurance

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made in the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by Billy R. Sellers An Unmarried Man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Evabank dated December 11, 2009; said mortgage being recorded in Book 1615, Page 421 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to Suntrust Mortgage Inc. by assignment recorded in Deed Book 314, Page 368 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.
The undersigned, Suntrust Mortgage Inc., under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on the 21st day of April, 2016 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:
A part of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 11, Township 11 South, Range 3 West, more particularly described as follows: Commending at a found axle marking the accepted northeast corner of said forty; thence S 89 degrees 53' 36" W along the accepted north line of said forty a distance of 327.86 feet to a set railroad spike and the true point of beginning of the property herein described; thence from said true point of beginning continue S 89 degrees 53' 36" W along said north line a distance of 150.00 feet to a found 1/2" rebar iron; thence S 8 degrees 04' 27" E a distance of 208.22 feet to a found 1/2" rebar iron; thence S 89 degrees 08' 32" E a distance of 117.62 feet to a set 5/8" rebar iron; thence N 0 degrees 51' 54" E a distance of 208.22 feet to the true point of beginning and continuing 0.64 acres, more or less. Description according to survey of H.D. Harris, Al Land Surveyor Reg. No. 5742, dated October 13, 2009. Said property is subject to a right of way for County Road 468 along the north side.

Said property is commonly known as 150 County Road 468, Hanceville, AL 35077.
The indebtedness secured by said Mortgage has been and is hereby declared due and payable because of default under the terms of the Note secured by said Mortgage, including but not limited to, nonpayment of the indebtedness as and when due. The indebtedness remains in default, and this sale will be made for the sole purpose of paying the same, including all expenses of the sale, attorney's fees, and all other payments provided for under the terms of said Mortgage.

Said property will be sold subject to the following items, which may affect the title to said real property: all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the property; any outstanding taxes, including but not limited to, ad valorem taxes, which constitute liens upon said property; special assessments; all outstanding bills for public utilities, which constitute liens upon said property; all restrictive covenants, easements, rights-of-way; the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law; and any other matters of record superior to said Mortgage. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the real property is Billy R. Sellers or tenant(s).
Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

SUNTRUST MORTGAGE INC.
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer, LLC
Two North Twentieth
2 20th Street North, Suite 1310
Birmingham, AL 35203
(800) 275-7171
FT21@mccallaraymer.com
File No. 913216
www.foreclosurehotline.net

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF CULLMAN

Default having been made in the indebtedness secured by that certain mortgage executed by James Christopher Caudle A Single Man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as nominee for Evabank dated November 23, 2010; said mortgage being recorded in Book 1640, Page 624, as modified by that certain Modification Agreement in Book 1771, Page 897 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama. Said Mortgage was last sold, assigned and transferred to PNC Bank, National Association by assignment recorded in Deed Book 305, Page 334 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.
The undersigned, PNC Bank, National Association, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash before the main entrance of the Court House in Cullman County, Alabama during the legal hours of sale (between 11am and 4pm), on the 21st day of April, 2016 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:
Commencing at the intersection of the East line of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 13, Township 9 South, Range 4 West with the center line of Old U.S. 31 Highway; thence Westerly along the center of said Highway 295 feet to the intersection of the center of a gravel road; thence S 30 degrees 00 minutes W along the center of said gravel road 304.5 feet to the point of beginning; thence N 85 degrees 30 minutes W 210 feet; thence S 20 degrees 50 minutes W 109.5 feet; thence S 86 degrees 47 minutes E 195.1 feet to the center of said gravel public road; thence N 28 degrees 55 minutes E along the center of said road 110.6 feet to the point of beginning. Said land being in the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 13, Township 9 South, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama, more or less, and except road rights of way.

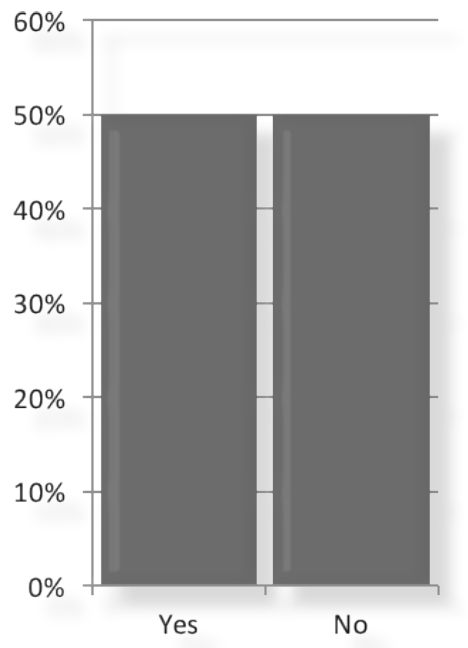
Said property is commonly known as 165 County Road 1250, Vinemont, AL 35179.
The indebtedness secured by said Mortgage has been and is hereby declared due and payable because of default under the terms of the Note secured by said Mortgage, including but not limited to, nonpayment of the indebtedness as and when due. The indebtedness remains in default, and this sale will be made for the sole purpose of paying the same, including all expenses of the sale, attorney's fees, and all other payments provided for under the terms of said Mortgage.

Said property will be sold subject to the following items, which may affect the title to said real property: all zoning ordinances; matters which would be disclosed by an accurate survey or inspection of the property; any outstanding taxes, including but not limited to, ad valorem taxes, which constitute liens upon said property; special assessments; all outstanding bills for public utilities, which constitute liens upon said property; all restrictive covenants, easements, rights-of-way; the statutory right of redemption pursuant to Alabama law; and any other matters of record superior to said Mortgage. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the party in possession of the real property is James Christopher Caudle or tenant(s).
Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
as holder of said mortgage
McCalla Raymer, LLC
Two North Twentieth
2 20th Street North, Suite 1310
Birmingham, AL 35203
(800) 275-7171
FT21@mccallaraymer.com
File No. 912116
www.foreclosurehotline.net

Poll

Do you suffer from spring allergies?



This Week's Poll

Does your family have a fire safety plan?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

Light a Candle, Spread HOPE

RELAY FOR LIFE
American Cancer Society

Join your community in the fight against cancer! At Relay For Life, teams take turns walking or running around the track. Teams consist of people representing companies, churches, clubs, organizations and families. During Relay For Life, team members enjoy games, food, music and camaraderie while camping out on the surrounding grounds.

Participants also share in a special luminaria ceremony to remember those individuals who have been affected by cancer. Candles are lit in honor or memory of those touched by cancer and placed around the track. You are invited to support this effort by making a luminaria donation and having a candle lit in honor of a loved one who has been touched by cancer. Simply fill out the back of this form and return to a team member, team captain or mail your order to the address listed on the reverse side.

Thank you for your support. For more information, call 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

Luminaria Order Form

Minimum donation: $10.00 each

Yes, I would like to make a luminaria donation in honor of or in memory of the following:

In Memory/Honor of: (*circle one*)

_____

In Memory/Honor of: (*circle one*)

_____

In Memory/Honor of: (*circle one*)

_____

Total amount enclosed: $_____
Payment method: Check ____ Cash ____

Thank you for your donation. Please make checks payable to the **American Cancer Society**. Return to:

Attn: Tess Kimbrough
1024 County Road 730
Cullman, Al 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF **CASE NO: AD-2015-044**

THE ADOPTION OF DAVID LANE ARRINGTON,
A MINOR CHILD.

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: KIMBERLY DEAN WHOSE WHEREABOUTS IS UNKNOWN AND ANTHONY RYAN ARRINGTON WHOSE WHEREABOUTS IS UNKNOWN OR ANY KNOWN, UNKNOWN, OR UNDISCLOSED PERSONS, WHO MIGHT BE THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF THE ABOVE NAMED MINOR CHILD.

A PETITION FOR ADOPTION WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA BY JANA WALDROP AND MICKEY WALDROP. IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS ADOPTION, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE. THE RESPONSE MUST BE FILED WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONERS, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS ARE SHOWN BELOW, AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, POST OFFICE BOX 970, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35056.

DONE THIS 15th DAY OF March, 2016.

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

NATHAN A. BROCK
Attorney for Petitioners
223 2nd Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256) 841-4331

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE:
AUBURN BARBEE,
A Minor Child, 08/22/2013
CASE NO. JU 2014-622.03

NOTICE

The Petitioner having made a Motion for Service by Publication in the above styled action, it is

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Father of Auburn Barbee born on or about 08/22/2013 to Terri Corinna Barnett, respond to the Petition by the 28th day of April, 2016, or thereafter a judgment may be rendered in favor of the Petitioner.

Contact may be made: Attorney for Petitioner: Michael J. Baggett, P.O. Box 561, Cullman, AL 35056-0561, (256) 739-9300 or Clerk of Court: Lisa McSwain, 500 2nd Ave SW Cullman, AL 35055.

DONE this the 17th day of March, 2016.

Wells R. Turner, III
WELLS R. TURNER, III
JUVENILE JUDGE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STATE OF ALABAMA IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY CASE NO: PC2013-016

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF: NORMA FAYE JOHNSON, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE TO PAY DEBTS WITH REMAINDER TO BE DISTRIBUTED ACCORDING TO STATUTE

TO: **TERRENCE JOHNSON, KEVIN JOHNSON, KERRY JOHNSON, CRYSTAL JOHNSON, MATTHEW JOHNSON OR ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN HEIRS OF NORMA FAYE JOHNSON.**

Please take notice that the Probate Court of Cullman County shall hold a hearing on the above matter on **the 4TH day of MAY, 2016 AT 10:00 am** in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, for the Petition for Sale of Real Estate to Pay Debts with Remainder to be Distributed According to Statute filed in said Court by Shawn Johnson, the Administrator of the Estate of Norma Faye Johnson, deceased. That any objection to the Petition for should be known in writing and filed with this Court before the day and time of said hearing.

Dated this 22nd day of MARCH, 2016.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

OF COUNSEL:
Gregory A. Johnson (JOH 152)
Attorney for the Estate of Norma Faye Johnson
101 4th Avenue N.E.
CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF CULLMAN * CASE NO. AD2016-004

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF ANDREW MICHAEL JACOBSON FOR THE ADOPTION OF EMMA NICOLE WOOD.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Notice to: Cody Smith and any Unknown or Undisclosed Father

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of Emma Nicole Wood, a minor child born January 28, 2008, was filed on the 23rd day of January, 2016, in the Probate Court of Cullman County by Petitioner Andrew Michael Jacobson, step father of Emma Nicole Wood, alleging that the natural parent of said minor child may be Cody Smith or unknown, or has not been correctly disclosed to the Court and whose relationship of said possible Cody Smith, unknown or undisclosed natural parent of the aforesaid minor child is that of Natural Father. Please be advised should you intend to contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with counsel for said Petitioner, whose name and address are as shown below, and with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

DONE this 15th day of March, 2016.

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown
Cullman County Judge of Probate

Sherry H. Barrett
SMITH & SMITH, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioners
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
256-734-4721 (telephone)

Monday

City of Cullman Planning Commission Meeting
Monday, April 4 at 5:30 p.m. at Cullman City Hall

Baileyton Town Council Meeting
Monday, April 4 at 6 p.m. at Baileyton Town Hall

Holly Pond Town Council Meeting
Monday, April 4 at 7 p.m. at Holly Pond Town Hall

Beginner Quilting Class
April 4-7 at the Alabama Cooperative Extension, 402 Arnold St. NE, Ste. G-1; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; $50 if you provide your own top and backing materials; $100 if all materials are to be provided by the instructor. For more information, call 256-737-9386.

CP&R Community Classes- Painting
Oil Painting and Acrylics - Mondays from 6:30 - 9 p.m. at Cullman Civic Center. For more information, contact Waid Harbison at 256-734-9157.

CP&R Therapeutic Recreation Program Free Swim
The program uses recreational activities, leisure and play to enhance the quality of life for individuals with physical, mental, social or emotional limitations or abilities. Every Monday night is FREE swim from 6-8 p.m. at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center's indoor pool.

Storytime at the Library
Storytime at the library every Monday and Tuesday at 10 a.m. Join us for fun! Listen to stories, learn songs and make crafts. Contact 256-734-1068 for more information.

Cullman Caring for Kids- United Way Food Bank
The food bank is open every Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. - noon for eligible families. Located at 402 Arnold St. NE Ste. W-1. For more information, or to make a donation, call 256-739-1111. www.cullmancaringforkids.com

Cullman Senior Center Bingo
Play Bingo at the Cullman Senior Center every Monday and Wednesday. Activities from 8 a.m. - noon. A hot meal is served at 11:30 a.m. daily. For more information, call 256-734-0145. The Cullman Senior Center is located at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW.

Overeaters Anonymous
Overeaters Anonymous will be meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Carriage House, located behind Grace Episcopal Church. For more information, contact 724-376-2124 or 256-352-1143.

Kiwanis Club
The Cullman Kiwanis Club invites all local men and women who are interested in taking part in community service along with great fellowship, fun, networking, and learning to attend their weekly meeting at noon each Monday at St. John's Church Christ Hall. Come see what Kiwanis is all about and enjoy a great luncheon meal as well.

Domestic Violence Survivors' Support Group
Victim Services of Cullman's Domestic Violence Survivors' Support Group meets every Monday from 5-7 p.m. at the old County Board of Education Building (310 Third Ave. SE) Childcare is available. Call 256-775-2600 for more information. Crisis Line: 256-734-6100.

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Free English Classes
The Link of Cullman County hosts classes, 10 a.m. on Mondays and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays. Beginner and Advanced classes available. Call 256-775-0028 for information.

Tuesday

Morton Buildings, Inc. Construction Recruitment Fair
April 5, 2-7 p.m. and April 6, 7 -11 a.m. at the Cullman Chamber of Commerce. Construction framer positions are now open in Hanceville. Stop by our Recruitment Fair to meet our representatives and apply! On-site interviewing will be available. www.mortonbuildings.com/careers; For questions, call 309-263-6555. Morton Buildings, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and drug-free workplace. Entry and experienced construction framer positions.

Fairview Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 5 at 6 p.m. at Fairview Town Hall

Beginner Quilting Class
April 4-7 at the Alabama Cooperative Extension, 402 Arnold St. NE, Ste. G-1; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; $50 if you provide your own top and backing materials; $100 if all materials are to be provided by the instructor. For more information, call 256-737-9386.

Living Landscapes: Growing and Using Gourds
April 5, 6 p.m. - Make and take a gourd. All supplies will be provided. Wear apron or old clothes. This hands-on class taught by the Cullman Area Gourd Patch will teach you to grow your own gourds, the history of gourds, how to dry and clean them, and to use different techniques to make them into art. $5 per person. Adults and older children 8 and up with an adult. Register online at Agriplex.org or call 256-297-1044. North Alabama Agriplex, 1714 Talley Ho St.

CP&R Community Classes- Yoga and Dance Fitness
Yoga- Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Nia Dance Fitness / Ageless Grace - Tuesdays at 9 a.m. Cullman Civic Center. For more information, contact Waid Harbison at 256-734-9157.

Lunch at VFW Post 2214
Everyone come to Tuesday's lunch at the VFW Post in Cullman. Starts at 11:30, $5 per plate. We have carryout if you can't stay and eat with us. We always have a great time. Love to see new folks and enjoy the usual group. See you on Tuesday.

Storytime at the Library
Storytime at the library every Monday and Tuesday at 10 a.m. Join us for fun! Listen to stories, learn songs and make crafts. Contact 256-734-1068 for more information.

Dodge City Senior Citizen Luncheon
Every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. Come enjoy fun, food and games at Dodge City Town Hall.

Cullman Caring for Kids- United Way Food Bank
The food bank is open every Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. - noon for eligible families. Located at 402 Arnold St. NE Ste. W-1. For more information, or to make a donation, call 256-739-1111. www.cullmancaringforkids.com

Board Games at the Library
Each Tuesday the Cullman County Public Library will host a gaming program from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. A variety of board games, cards and dominoes are available for play at the library for teens and adults.

Cullman Knifty Knitters
Members of the Cullman Knifty Knitters group meet each Tuesday afternoon at 3 p.m. in the Cullman County Library. Everyone is invited to learn how to knit yarn, and needles are free. This group is open to all ages, both accomplished knitters and those wishing to learn the art form. Crocheters are also invited to take part in these weekly meetings. Please call Lesia for more information at 256-734-2720 ext. 23.

Special Needs Bowling Night
Individuals with special needs and their families are invited to the Cullman Area Special Needs Bowling Nights, every Tuesday from 6-8 p.m. at the Cullman Bowling Center. Please RSVP before 12 noon the days of the events. The charge is $3 per person. For more information, contact Rhonda at 256-962-2208.

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Celebrate Recovery
Meets at Holly Pond Methodist Church on Tuesday nights. Free meal at 6 p.m. Program starts at 6:30 p.m. Two court stamps available. Open to everyone with a Hurt, Habit or Hang-up. 37851 AL Highway 91 in Holly Pond.

Addiction Recovery
The Link of Cullman County hosting Christ-centered, 12-Step Addiction Recovery meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon. 1101 Third Ave. SE in Cullman. Call 256-775-0028 for more information.

Free English Classes
The Link of Cullman County hosts classes, 10 a.m. on Mondays and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays. Beginner and Advanced classes available. Call 256-775-0028 for information.

Wednesday

Morton Buildings, Inc. Construction Recruitment Fair
April 5, 2-7 p.m. and April 6, 7 -11 a.m. at the Cullman Chamber of Commerce. Construction framer positions are now open in Hanceville. Stop by our Recruitment Fair to meet our representatives and apply! On-site interviewing will be available. www.mortonbuildings.com/careers; For questions, call 309-263-6555. Morton Buildings, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and drug-free workplace. Entry and experienced construction framer positions.

Beginner Quilting Class
April 4-7 at the Alabama Cooperative Extension, 402 Arnold St. NE, Ste. G-1; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; $50 if you provide your own top and backing materials; $100 if all materials are to be provided by the instructor. For more information, call 256-737-9386.

Wallace State Community College Job Fair
Wednesday, April 6, from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., at the School of Nursing and Center for Science Conference Center. Area businesses seeking employees are welcome to attend the job fair to recruit new personnel. Registration fees are $50 through April 1 and $75 April 2-5. Registration fee includes one table and lunch for two representatives. Additional lunches are $10 by April 1 and $15 April 2-5. The job fair will be open to all Wallace State students and to the public in general. Representatives from business, industry and healthcare facilities will be on hand. Prospective employees should bring résumés and dress in interview-appropriate attire.

Good Hope Senior Center Meeting
Seniors meet every Wednesday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Pot Luck Lunch at 11 a.m., games, crafts, special speakers and more Contact Gene Bradford at 256-636-2100 or Jackie Gentry at 256-739-0403.

Cullman Senior Center Bingo
Play Bingo at the Cullman Senior Center every Monday and Wednesday. Activities from 8 a.m. - noon. A hot meal is served at 11:30 a.m. daily. For more information, call 256-734-0145. The Cullman Senior Center is located at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW.

Saint Monica's Group
Saint Monica's Group is for those who are addicted to drugs or alcohol. The meetings begin at 7 p.m. each week in the Rectory basement of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church. For more information, please contact either Brian at 256-595-5015 or Rita at 256-507-0358.

Wednesday Lunch Buffet at TP Country Club
Lunch Buffet at TP Country Club from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Call 256-739-0738 for more information.

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Divorce Care Support Group
The Link of Cullman County, 6 p.m. Call Denise at 256-590-3719 for more information.

Thursday

FREE Smoke Alarm Installations for Cullman City and County Residents
April 7, 3-7 p.m.; April 8, 3-7 p.m.; April 9, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.; and April 10, 1-6 p.m. The Cullman American Red Cross, Commission on Aging and the United Way of Cullman County are partnering to provide FREE smoke alarm installations and life-saving fire safety education. For more information or to schedule an appointment for installation, call 256-734-0921.

2016 State of the Schools Address/ Student & Teacher of the Year Presentation
April 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Wallace State Community College in the Nursing Building Conference Center. The City and County Schools, along with Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics, will deliver the State of the Schools address. Awards will be presented for the Student and Teacher of the Year. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; program begins at 6 p.m. Register at http://qrne.ws/stateofschools.

Beginner Quilting Class
April 4-7 at the Alabama Cooperative Extension, 402 Arnold St. NE, Ste. G-1; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; $50 if you provide your own top and backing materials; $100 if all materials are to be provided by the instructor. For more information, call 256-737-9386.

Cullman High School Percussion 2016 Dinner with the Drumline Fundraiser
BBQ plates are $10, catered by Mad Dog Mike's BBQ; Thursday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m. (carry-out starts at 5:30); CHS cafeteria; Dinner will be followed by the annual CHS Spring Percussion Concert at 7:30 in the CHS auditorium. The concert is FREE to the public.

Color Me Calm Adult Coloring Program
April 7, 2-4 p.m. Turn off your phone, unplug your computer and join in for a time of stress-busting coloring for adults. Enjoy a little relaxation at the Cullman County Public Library with the "Color Me Calm" Adult Coloring Program. 200 Clark Street NE. This is a free program. All materials provided.

Flip Flops, Faith & Fun
East Cullman Baptist Association Ladies Retreat; Thursday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m. at Duck River Baptist Church. Make Plans to Attend and Wear Your Cutest, Fanciest, Most Sparkly, or Most Outrageous Flip Flops! Invite a Friend, whether she attends church or not. Come Hear Page Hughes of Anchor Deep Ministries and Author of "Party with a Purpose," as she brings the message God lays on her heart! In addition to preparing what Flip Flops you are going to wear, prepare your hearts for the message God has in store for all of us. It's going to be a great evening! Cost is $12 in advance. Meal, with dessert and drink is provided. Door Prizes will be Awarded! Advance Tickets are available at the ECBA Office. Please purchase your tickets by March 31st, so that the team can adequately plan.

Cullman Community Lions Club Meeting
Thursday, April 7 at 6 p.m. at the Cullman Civic Center

CP&R Community Classes- Dance Lessons
Ballroom, Latin and Swing Dancing - Thursdays, $10 per class. Cullman Civic Center. For more information, contact Waid Harbison at 256-734-9157.

Cullman County Community Development Commission Meeting
The Cullman County Community Development Commission (CCCDC) will meet on April 7 at 6 p.m. at the North Alabama Agriplex,1714 Tally Ho Street SW.

Relay For Life Team Spirit Meeting
Thursday, April 7 at 5:30 p.m. in the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall; contact Helen Allen, 256-709-4019; www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal

Cullman Caring for Kids- United Way Food Bank
The food bank is open every Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. - noon for eligible families. Located at 402 Arnold St. NE Ste. W-1. For more information, or to make a donation, call 256-739-1111. www.cullmancaringforkids.com

Overeaters Anonymous
Overeaters Anonymous will be meeting at 1:30 p.m. in the Carriage House, located behind Grace Episcopal Church. For more information, contact 724-376-2124 or 256-352-1143.

Cullman Senior Center Live Band and Karaoke
The Cullman Senior Center will have a live band or karaoke every Thursday from 8 a.m. - noon. For more information, call 256-734-0145. The Cullman Senior Center is located at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Addiction Recovery
The Link of Cullman County hosting Christ-centered, 12-Step Addiction Recovery meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon. 1101 Third Ave. SE in Cullman. Call 256-775-0028 for more information.

Friday

FREE Smoke Alarm Installations for Cullman City and County Residents
April 7, 3-7 p.m.; April 8, 3-7 p.m.; April 9, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.; and April 10, 1-6 p.m. The Cullman American Red Cross, Commission on Aging and the United Way of Cullman County are partnering to provide FREE smoke alarm installations and life-saving fire safety education. For more information or to schedule an appointment for installation, call 256-734-0921.

Ladies Night Out Bunco Party
A Ladies Night Out Bunco Party will take place on Friday, April 8, at Sacred Heart of Jesus Family Life Center. The fundraising event costs $20 per person and includes the games, refreshments and monetary prizes. Sponsored by the Altar Society Women's group of the Church, funds raised will be used for the upkeep of the Altar, linens, Communion items and other accouterments used during liturgical services. All are welcome and tickets will be available at the door. Barbara Ragsdale, 256-347-3471

Relay For Life Sips N Strokes Painting Class
Cullman Primary Care P.C.'s team is hosting a Sips N Strokes painting class on Friday, April 8, at 6 p.m., at the Cullman Sips N Strokes location, 111 First St. NW, Cullman. Attendees choose their painting and colors. The class is $30, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Relay For Life of Cullman County. Seating is limited to the first 30 people to register. Email cullman@sipsnstrokes.com to register for the class.

"Beauty and the Beast" Presented by Cullman High School
On Friday and Saturday, April 8-9, the Cullman High School drama and choral departments will present their rendition of Disney's Broadway musical "Beauty and the Beast." CHS Theater Director Wayne Cook and CHS Choir Director Sarah Driskell will lead the production. Opening night is Friday, April 8, at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 9, showtimes are 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are priced at $10 for adults and $5 for children under the age of 12. Senior citizens and children under the age of 12 will receive $3 tickets at Saturday's 12:30 p.m. show. For any more information, call 256- 734-3923 or visit http://chs.cullmancats.net/.

Cullman Caring for Kids- United Way Food Bank
The food bank is open every Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. - noon for eligible families. Located at 402 Arnold St. NE Ste. W-1. For more information, or to make a donation, call 256-739-1111. www.cullmancaringforkids.com

Cullman Senior Center Gospel Singing
The Cullman Senior Center will have a Gospel Singing beginning at 9:30 a.m. every Friday. Special guests share devotions at 10:30 a.m. A hot meal is served at 11:30 a.m. daily. For more information, call 256-734-0145. The Cullman Senior Center is located at 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW.

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Saturday

FREE Smoke Alarm Installations for Cullman City and County Residents
April 7, 3-7 p.m.; April 8, 3-7 p.m.; April 9, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.; and April 10, 1-6 p.m. The Cullman American Red Cross, Commission on Aging and the United Way of Cullman County are partnering to provide FREE smoke alarm installations and life-saving fire safety education. For more information or to schedule an appointment for installation, call 256-734-0921.

CP&R Youth Outdoor Adventure Program
Program kicks off April 9, registration now open at Civic Center; Saturdays at 9 a.m. for six weeks; Cost is $75. Call 256-734-9157 for info.

Miss Horizon of Hope Pageant
April 9 at West Point High School auditorium at 10 a.m. For girls up to 19 years old, two divisions for cancer survivors; Each contestant wins a crown; Call 256-338-6652 or 256-338-6650 for more info. Proceeds go to St. Vincent's Bruno Cancer Center. Sponsored by Circle of Hope.

Cullman 5K Race to Solve the Puzzle
April 9 at 8 a.m. at Wallace State Community College. Sign up here: http://qrne.ws/puzzle. Join the Autism Society of Alabama and help solve the puzzle of autism spectrum disorders one step at a time! Pre-registration $35 for 5K with a moisture wicking T-shirt; Price increase $5 on day of registration. Children 10 & under $25 for 5K.

Relay For Life Pancake Breakfast
Relay For Life of Cullman County is hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 9, from 7-9:30 a.m., at Applebee's of Cullman on Cherokee Avenue. Plates are $5 each and include pancakes and sausage with coffee, hot chocolate, tea, water or Coke products to drink.

11th Annual Colton's Cookout for a CURE (in memory of Colton Evans)
Will be held from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 9, at Werner's Trading Co. on Hwy. 278 W in Cullman. BBQ & Chips or Deep Fried Hot Dogs and French Fries. All plates served with slaw, baked beans, dessert & drink. $7 per plate (suggested donation) Sponsored by Comfort Care Hospice, Werner's Trading Co., Ted Calvert State Farm Insurance and Mitch Smith Chevrolet.

CP&R Art in the Park
CP&R's FREE Art in the Park event will take place April 9, 2016, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Heritage Park! Dozens of craft vendors will be on site as well as an art show, sidewalk chalk contest, free crafts for the kids, & more!

Cullman County Democrats
The Cullman County Democrats meet on the second Saturday of each month at 8 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 9 at 8 a.m. in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room. April's meeting will feature special guest Ron Crumpton, who is running for U.S. Senate against longtime incumbent, Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Alabama.

"Beauty and the Beast" Presented by Cullman High School
On Friday and Saturday, April 8-9, the Cullman High School drama and choral departments will present their rendition of Disney's Broadway musical "Beauty and the Beast." CHS Theater Director Wayne Cook and CHS Choir Director Sarah Driskell will lead the production. Opening night is Friday, April 8, at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 9, showtimes are 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are priced at $10 for adults and $5 for children under the age of 12. Senior citizens and children under the age of 12 will receive $3 tickets at Saturday's 12:30 p.m. show. For any more information, call 256- 734-3923 or visit http://chs.cullmancats.net/.

Color Me Cullman 5K
April 9 at 8 a.m. at Sportsman Lake Park; The Color Me Cullman 5K is a colorful experience where we promote healthiness and happiness. Our event is all about people of all different speeds, ages, shapes, and sizes ready to get COLORFUL! Come on out to Sportsman Lake wearing a white T-shirt as your blank canvas and get ready to become a piece of artwork!

Food Assistance
Every second Saturday at Harmony Word of Life Church. NEW HOURS: 1 - 3 p.m. Take Highway 157 to Battleground, turn right onto County Road 1212, go half mile to County Road 1204, turn left and drive a half mile. 256-739-2956.

CP&R Community Classes- Rock Climbing
Hurricane Creek Park - Saturdays at 10 a.m., $25, call to register at 256-734-2125. For more information, contact Waid Harbison at 256-734-9157.

April 2016 Historic Walking Tours
Community historians will guide free tours through the historic Cullman. The hour-long tours start at 10 a.m. on April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 on the steps of the Cullman County Museum located at 211 Second Ave. NE. For more information, call the museum at 256-739-1258 or 1-800-533-1258.

War Recovery
From 1-2 p.m. at Redemption Assembly of God. 516 Shaeffel Rd. Cullman. We have court refer. in Cullman Co. Call Susan, 256-620-6966 for more info.

Saving Forgotten Warriors
Organization helps area disabled Marine and Vietnam veteran Cpl. Kenneth Beasley and other area veterans in need. Clean-up days for Cpl. Beasley are each Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Beasley's home at 185 Co. Road 823. Volunteers are needed and donations are accepted. See Facebook page "Saving Forgotten Warriors" for more info or call Jeremy (352-440-4076), Tammy (256-286-3136) or Josh (256-615-5263).

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Sunday

FREE Smoke Alarm Installations for Cullman City and County Residents
April 7, 3-7 p.m.; April 8, 3-7 p.m.; April 9, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.; and April 10, 1-6 p.m. The Cullman American Red Cross, Commission on Aging and the United Way of Cullman County are partnering to provide FREE smoke alarm installations and life-saving fire safety education. For more information or to schedule an appointment for installation, call 256-734-0921.

Cullman Community Band Spring Concert
The Cullman Community Band will present its 2016 Spring Concert on Sunday, April 10, at 3 p.m. at the Cullman Civic Center. Admission is free. The band will perform an exciting lineup of music that is sure to entertain everyone in the family. Highlights are a medley of familiar themes from the Star Wars movies, a swinging jazz saxophone arrangement featuring Dr. James Simpson, former head of the music department at UNA, and a rousing rendition of Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy performed by a multi-talented vocal quartet of sisters. You'll think you're listening to the Andrews Sisters!

CP&R Community Classes- Wilderness Survival Course
Sundays with reservation, call to register at 256-734-2125. For more information, contact Waid Harbison at 256-734-9157.

Sunday Brunch Buffet at TP Country Club
Sunday Brunch Buffet at TP Country Club from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call 256-739-0738 for more information.

AA Meeting
The Cullman Downtown Alcoholics Anonymous will meet at 1519 St. Joseph St. NW. Every day at noon will be an open discussion meeting, Sunday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion and speaker meeting, Tuesday at 7 p.m. is an open discussion meeting (with meal at 6:30 p.m.), Wednesday at 7 p.m.; Thursday at 10:30 a.m. is women's big book study; and Friday at 7 p.m. is a closed discussion meeting (no card signed). All meetings are non-smoking. The last Tuesday of each month is open speaker meeting/ birthday night. For more information, contact the AA coordinator at 256-736-6000.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

April 12 Runoff Election
Runoff election between Darrell Hicks and incumbent Kenneth Walker for Cullman County Commission Chairman.

Wallace State Horticulture Department's Spring Plant Sale
Going on daily. Easter lilies, vegetables, flowers, annuals, hanging baskets, shrubs and more will be for sale from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., each weekday, while supplies last. The horticulture department is located on the southwest portion of the Wallace State campus. From Highway 31, enter the campus at the College Drive entrance (the entrance across from Hardee's) and drive to the back of campus toward Tom Drake Coliseum. Turn left onto Industrial Drive and then right onto Lions Lane, crossing over the bridge next to the lake. At the stop sign turn left; the horticulture building will be on the right.

Bob's Grief Support Group
On the last Thursday of each month, Bob's Grief Support Group meets at the Chapel at Smith Lake Park. For more information, please call 256-595-7331.

Relay For Life of Cullman County: 2016 Calendar Announcements
• Relay For Life Team Spirit Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Thursday, April 28, First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall; contact Helen Allen, 256-709-4019; www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal
• Relay For Life Survivors' Breakfast, 7 a.m., Wednesday, May 4, Cullman Church of Christ; contact Helen Allen, 256-709-4019; www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal
• Relay For Life of Cullman County, 6 p.m.-midnight, Friday, May 6, Cullman County Fairgrounds; contact Helen Allen, 256-709-4019; www.relayforlife.org/cullmanal

Project Closet
At Longview Church of God, on the second Wednesday of each month from noon - 6 p.m., the public is welcome to come and shop for clothes at no charge. Donations of clothing are accepted, and shoppers can swap donations for any clothing in the closet. Call 256-734-2566 for more information.

Cullman Senior Center Creating Cookbook
Cookbook will be created this summer. The center is asking for seniors age 60 and older to submit their favorite recipes. You can also submit a recipe in memory of a loved one. Mail recipes to: Cullman Senior Center, 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW, Cullman, AL 35055. Please include your name and phone number.

Food Assistance
Every second Saturday at Harmony Word of Life Church. NEW HOURS: 1 - 3 p.m. Take Highway 157 to Battleground, turn right onto County Road 1212, go half mile to County Road 1204, turn left and drive a half mile. 256-739-2956.

Free GED Classes
Sponsored by Wallace State Community College Adult Education Program. Call 256-352-8077 or 1-866-352-WSCC for more information.

Clothes Closet
Addington Chapel UMC in Bremen has clothes available free to those in need. No qualifications or paperwork needed. Call 256-287-1791 or 256-287-1828

Masonics of Cullman County Meetings
Held at 7 p.m. at the following locations: Baileyton 472 (first and third Thursday, call 256-796-6611); Cullman 421 (Mondays, call 256-734-1231); Logan 500 (second and fourth Tuesday, call 256-747-4243 or 256-747-2908); Simcoe 854 (second and fourth Thursday, call 256-796-5794 or 256-796-5018); Vinemont 562 (first and third Thursday, call 256-796-7244).

Cullman County Commission Meetings
The Cullman County Commission meets every second and fourth Tuesday, except in cases where the meeting date falls on a holiday, in which case the meeting is moved to the following day. Meetings are scheduled for 10 a.m. in the Commission office conference room, first floor, Cullman County Courthouse, unless otherwise specified. The next meeting is THURSDAY, April 14, due to the Tuesday, April 12 runoff election.

2016 Strawberry Festival
May 6-7, 2016, at Depot Park, a host of local farmers will offer strawberries to purchase both days of the event. Strawberry-themed foods, ice cream, drinks and more will also be a part of the festival. Huge lineup of music to be announced on April 1, free kids' games and rides, dozens of craft vendors and a car show. Food trucks will also be on-site both days. The event will kick off during the day Friday with Senior Day from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; the festival will run from 4-10 p.m. on Friday, and 8 a.m.-10 p.m. on Saturday. For more information on CP&R's 2016 Strawberry Festival, visit www.cullmanrecreation.org or call 256-734-9157.

Cullman Pilot Club Spring 2016 Charity Fundraiser
The Pilot Club of Cullman will host its spring 2016 charity fundraiser, Professional Women's Fashion Show and Luncheon: "Dancing in the Street," on Wednesday, April 27 at the Cullman Civic Center. The event will be "a way of celebrating Administrative Professional's Day." Doors will open at 11 a.m. so attendees can shop the booths set up by area businesses. Boxed lunches provided by Sweet Peppers Deli will be served at 11:30 a.m., with a fashion show beginning soon thereafter. Door prizes will be given away during the show. Tickets for the event are $20 and can be purchased at the Cullman County Museum or the Cullman Civic Center.

2016 Bloomin' Festival Arts & Crafts Fair
Saturday and Sunday, April 16-17, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The 32nd Annual Bloomin' Festival Arts and Crafts Fair to be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 16-17, 2016. St. Bernard has been recognized by the Southeast Tourism Society consistently in the past nine years as a "Top Twenty Event in the Southeast."

"Arts in April Celebration" 2016 at WSCC
Wallace State Community College-exhibition of local community artworks Monday, April 4 - Saturday, April 30 as part of the annual 2016 Arts in April Celebration. In conjunction with WSCC's Earth Week Celebration, participants for this year's Arts in April Community Exhibition "Spring Upcycle" are invited to create artworks based on general themes of nature, its beauty and its conservation. More specifically this year participants are encouraged to use repurposed, recycled and found materials to create "upcycled" artworks which will become creative, imaginative, and lasting reminders of our everyday roles as recyclers and partners in conservation. Exhibition Artist Reception will be held in the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts Lobby on Saturday, April 30 from 10 a.m.-noon.

"Althea" at WSCC
The Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State Community College presents "Althea" as part of the South Arts Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers at the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts on Thursday, April 14 at 9:30 a.m. Following a screening of the film, the filmmaker will engage the audience in a discussion about the film and their work as filmmakers. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

Cullman City Head Start
Now accepting applications for the 2016-17 school year. Must live in city limits and be 3-4 years-old on or before Sep. 2 and meet qualifications. Call 256-734-0234 for more info.

Rock the South
June 3-4 at Heritage Park. Check out www.rockthesouth.com for more details.

CRMC Foundation Gala XV
Saturday, April 16 at 6 p.m. at the Cullman Civic Center. Gala will honor Mr. Del Brock and Dr. Jim Hoover. For more information, contact the CRMC Foundation at 256-737-2565.

Cullman Community Lions Club Meetings
First and third Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Cullman Civic Center

Tornado Awareness Training
June 10 from 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. in the Cullman County EMA training room (basement) located at 2020 Beech Avenue SE. For more information about the event, call 256-739-5410, email cullmancountyema@gmail.com or visit www.cullmanema.org. Find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CullmanCountyEMA/.

Cullman Farmers Market - Festhalle
Opens April 16

Cullman County People Against a Littered State (PALS) Community Cleanup
PALS Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 23 from 8a.m.-noon. http://www.co.cullman.al.us/pals/pals.html. Dumpster

Locations are as follows:
West Elementary, East Elementary, Cullman

High School, Cold Springs School, Baileyton Town Hall, Colony Community Center, Crane Hill Sulphur Springs, Dodge City Fire Station, Fairview Community Park (Across from Fairview Superette), Garden City maintenance area, Good Hope City Hall, Hanceville behind City Hall, Holly Pond – Lions Club Park, Jones Chapel School, Vinemont First Baptist Church and West Point Town Hall.

Items that cannot be taken are tires, paint and chemicals. 55 gallon drums must have multiple punched holes or they are not allowed. Citizens should contact their local town or city hall for bags (furnished by State PALS). Community members are being asked to pick up around their homes as far as possible in each direction. Filled bags should be placed with normal weekly garbage.

Cullman Caring for Kids Yard Sale
June 1-4, all proceeds go to Cullman Caring for Kids. Our yard sale will be held at the Cullman County Fairgrounds. If you have anything you would like to donate to be sold at the yard sale you can contact us at our office 256-739-1111. We are a nonprofit organization, and receipts will be given at the time of donation.

Cullman County Alabama Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics
The more people who participate in the Torch Run, the more fun the event will be. Get your T-Shirt for $10 from Rex Sorrow at the CCSO or Adam Walker with the CCPD. Can't wait to see everyone at our BIGGEST FUNDRAISER of the year at the Cullman Wal-Mart on Olive Street April 29-30, from 8 a.m.- 8 p.m. The local Torch Run is Tuesday, May 3. The State Torch Run (TBA) Stay up-to-date at http://qrne.ws/so.

Meet and Greet with Local Authors
The Cullman County Public Library is hosting a Meet and Greet the Author event on Tuesday, April 12, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in honor of National Library Week. The event is free and a great opportunity for the community to get to know local writers and hear their stories.

Join Local Cyclist Charles Coggins as He Reaches 100,000 Miles!
On Saturday, April 23 at 11 a.m., local cyclist Charles Coggins is asking that the community join him in a ride around the trail which encircles the water at Sportsman Lake Park. "We're meeting at pavilion 10," said friend of Coggins and fellow cyclist Paul Levering. "This is going to be a celebration of Charles reaching 100,000 miles, but it will also be a celebration of the value of cycling, of community health."

Stony Lonesome 5K Mud Run
May 14 at 8 a.m. Where mud and mayhem come together. Runners will grind their way through the challenging course which will feature: crawling through grimy mud, climb over high walls, splash across a wooden bridge, and traverse through obstacles packed throughout this muddy course. With spectators cheering, this event will surely be a memorable experience for anyone daring to take on the Stony Lonesome Mud Run! Registration is $30, 13 and up only!

Cullman Rescue Squad Car Show
On Saturday, April 30, the Cullman Rescue Squad will hold a car show at the Cullman County Fairgrounds. The squad hopes to make the show an annual event. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m., and the event itself will be going by 9 a.m. The judges will begin their assessment of the cars at 1 p.m. To pre-register an automobile or to be a vendor, call 256-739-0786 or 256-595-7814 to get more information.

CP&R Therapeutic Recreation Program Events
The program uses recreational activities, leisure and play to enhance the quality of life for individuals with physical, mental, social or emotional limitations or abilities. The program targets more than play and uses the power of recreation and leisure activities to support the rehabilitation process and promote overall wellness. Activities are targeted at education, teaching, playing and participation in a number of meaningful activities. The program offers several events, activities, and ongoing programs throughout the year. It is open to all ages of anyone with special needs of varying levels. The program's activities are free to attend and are supported by the efforts of the Cullman City Parks and Recreation Department. For any questions regarding the program contact Kelly Pulliam at 256-734-9157 or kpulliam@cullmanrecreation.org.
Upcoming Events
• Barn Party / April 30 / HOPE Facility
• No Limits Dance Class / July & August / Civic Center
• Swim Night & Cook Out / August 2 / 6 p.m. / CWAC
• Pizza & Bingo Night / September 8 / 5:30 p.m. / Civic Center

CRMC Spring into Summer 5K and Wellness Day
Saturday, April 23. Registration is at 6:45 a.m. Spring Fun Run at 8 a.m. Spring into Summer 5K at 8:30 a.m. Awards will be given to the top 2 places in each division for both male and female winners. Additional door prizes will be given away during the awards ceremony. Must be present to win. Wellness Day: FREE Community Health Screenings- Blood Pressure, BMI, Bone Density, Cholesterol and Glucose. Health info booths, fun kids' activities, bounce house, food vendors, hula-hoop contest and face painting. For full details and to find out how to register for the 5K, visit https://www.facebook.com/events/765481406886898/.

Grant Brown Memorial 5K/ Fun Run and Walk
Saturday, April 16 at WSCC Coliseum. $10 entry fee. Registration 8-8:25 a.m. Race starts at 8:30 a.m. All proceeds go to the Grant Brown Memorial Scholarship fund at Wallace State.

Busy Bee Café 4-Year Reopening Anniversary Celebration
Saturday, April 30. Come help us celebrate being re-opened for four years. We plan on having some fun stuff going on this night including a burger eating contest that night with a prize for our 1st place winner. Later after the burger eating contest we will have live music.

The North Alabama Agriplex Harvest to Home Fundraiser and Silent Auction
Saturday, April 30. Tickets go on sale Friday, April 1 at 10 a.m. Tickets are first come first serve, so buy early. Ticket sales are through this link: http://goo.gl/forms/1TFmEXCOhq.

Victim Services of Cullman Chick Fil-A Spirit Night
April 12, 4-8 p.m. Join us at Chick Fil-A for our spirit night to help raise awareness in our community! If you would like to make a donation to our organization, simply tell the cashier at the time of payment. Victim Services of Cullman is a nonprofit organization that offers a host of services for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. We are a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization funded by United Way, grants and community contributions.

Victim Services of Cullman LifeSouth Blood Drive at Wal-Mart on Highway 157
April 13, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Give blood and learn more about our organization and raise awareness in our community. We will have a table set up next to the truck for anyone who is interested in information and services provided through our organization. Victim Services of Cullman is a nonprofit organization that offers a host of services for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. We are a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization funded by United Way, grants and community contributions.

Victim Services of Cullman Spoken Word Night at Karma's Coffeehouse
April 14, 6-8 p.m. Bring your friends, poetry and music to play/perform as we continue to raise awareness for sexual assault. Victim Services of Cullman is a nonprofit organization that offers a host of services for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. We are a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization funded by United Way, grants and community contributions.

Dirt Therapy Day 2016 at Stony Lonesome OHV Park
July 9. Who's ready for Dirt Therapy Day? We're working on a whole bunch of fun activities including our MUD BOG! So, keep an eye on our Facebook for more information! https://www.facebook.com/stonylonesomeohv/

Youth Flag Football
Registration April 1 – June 30 @ Cullman Civic Center; $90 fee includes jersey & trophy; Practices begin in July and games will begin in August going through part of October. For more information, call Heritage Park at 256-739-9931.

Olive Wood Carvings from the Holy Land to be Offered at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Cullman
For the second time, Saida and George Rashmawi, volunteer members from the Roman Catholic Church in Bethlehem, will visit Sacred Heart of Jesus on April 16 and 17. The Rashmawis will bring some beautiful Olive Wood carvings which are all handmade by the Christian people in Bethlehem. The proceeds from the sale of these items will help the Catholic Church to maintain a presence in the land where Jesus was born, lived, preached the Good News and first established His Kingdom. These beautiful carvings make great sacramental gifts that have an added special significance given where and why they were made by hand with innate skill and love. The carvings will be available following all Masses both on Saturday, April 16 and Sunday, April 17. All are welcome to come to the Church to see these beautiful wood carvings which depict Crosses, the Last Supper tableau and various other themes of religious significance. Mass on Saturday usually ends about 6:30 p.m., with Sunday Masses ending around 10:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. The presentation tables will be set up in the entrance of the Church. Barbara Ragsdale 256-347-3471

Yellowhammer Classic Charity Golf Tournament
June 10 at Terri Pines Country Club, sponsored by the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Thomas Jefferson Denney Camp 1442. All proceeds will go to Children's Hospital Miracle Network and Cullman Caring for Kids United Way Food Bank.

Blalock Family Reunion
The Blalock Reunion will be on Sunday, June 12, at Mike Blalock's residence in Birmingham. For more information, call 205-451-9390.

Hanceville Class of 1958 Reunion
The Hanceville Class of 1958 reunion will be on Saturday, May 28, at 10 a.m., at the Moody Center in Hanceville.

Phillips Family Reunion
The John Marion and Frances Compton Phillips reunion and luncheon will be on Saturday, June 25, at 10 a.m. at the Brushy Pond Community Center.

Guthery Family Reunion
The Guthery Reunion will be on Saturday, June 11, at the West Point Community Center.

Sinyard Family Reunion
The Sinyard Reunion will be on Saturday, August 13, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Moody Center.

CLASSIFIEDS

AUCTIONS

AUCTION - LIVE & online bidding. Wednesday, April 13 @9:30 AM. 450 Edge Road, Villa Rica, GA. Skid steer loaders, hyd. excavators, loaders, backhoes, wheel loaders, farm and utility tractors, trucks and trailers, support equipment from contractors, finance companies and municipalities. 1-864-940-4800 or 1-678-673-9194 to consign or for information. joeymartinauctioneers.com GA2627.

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OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH 28 - APRIL 3

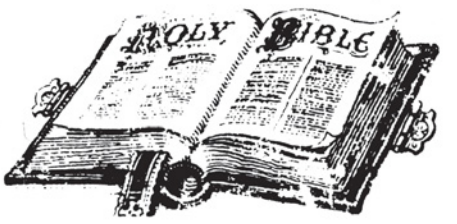
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Jimmie Wayne Judkins
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Department (from Front)

Amy Leonard
amy@cullmansense.com

BAILEYTON – If you think the city of Cullman has a monopoly on state-of-the-art fire departments, you are sorely mistaken. Just a quick 15-mile drive north on Highway 69 and you will find the home of one of the closest-knit and safest fire departments in the county.

The Baileyton Volunteer Fire Department was formed in 1973 when a group of citizens who cherished their small town saw the need to provide fire protection for their community. Since then, they "have worked diligently to make it as beneficial to the residents of our community as possible," shared Chief Zachary McGee.

When the department started, "they purchased a military surplus 5/4-ton truck and mounted a tank and pump on it for use as the first fire truck. It was initially housed in the shop of one of the original members. Upon construction of the Baileyton Town Hall, the fire department was moved into the basement of that building until the construction of a 4-bay station at the Baileyton Town Park in 1986." From there, the move was made in 2011 to the new station at 165 Fire Station Road where they have five bays, a safe room, expansive meeting area, full kitchen, a sleeping area for two people, offices and a lounge.

"It also houses a brush truck, medical response vehicle, fire engine, a water tanker and various other equipment. We also have a second, 3-bay station on County Road 1725 at Fletcher's Crossroads that currently houses a brush truck and a fire engine," said McGee.

Currently operating with an 18-member roster, the department averages two to three calls per week; most of the emergencies are medical or rescue calls, with the rest being fire calls. BVFD is always in need of new volunteers, and the department has long-term firefighters who provide invaluable mentorships with the younger members. Donald VanZandt, a veteran firefighter with the department since 1983, encourages new men and women to "learn as much as they can about the science of fire."

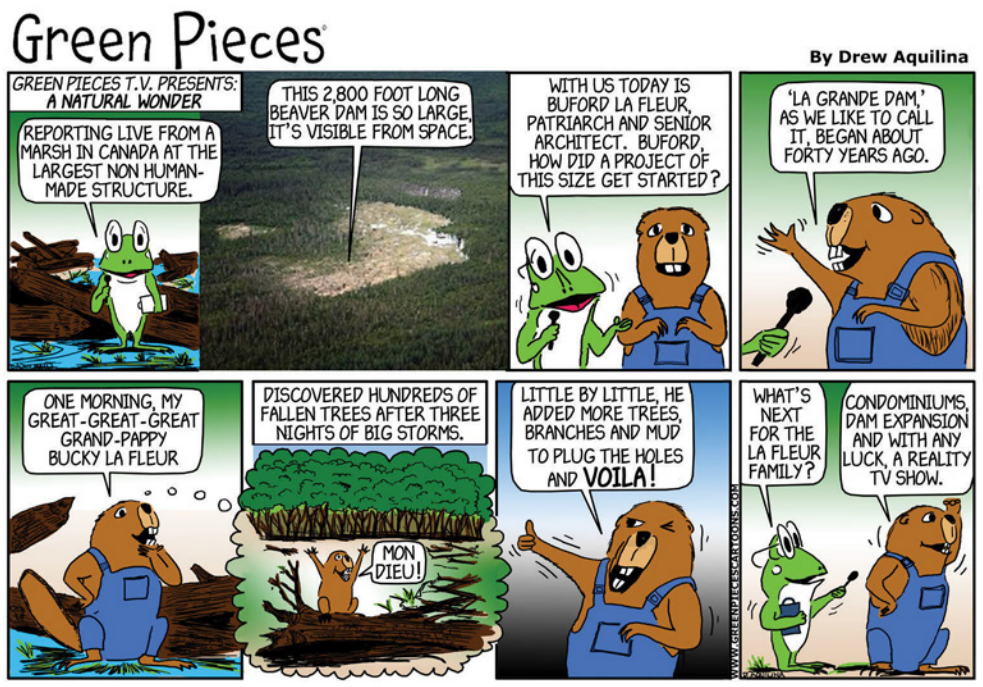
On the other end of the spectrum, the newest member is Gabe Gentry, who joined last month. "He says he wanted to volunteer as a way to help the community and because of one of our other members telling him how much he enjoyed it," shared McGee. A quick look around their facility makes evident the pride shared by all 18 members of the department. "We are proud of the station we have been able to build that will last well into the future, and the quality equipment and apparatus we have been able to stock it with." McGee said, "We are proud of the fact that through the years we have never had a serious injury to any of our members while performing our duties."

Anyone interested in the volunteer opportunities available within the department should attend their meetings, which are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Station No.1 next to Baileyton Town Hall, or call the department at 256-796-2332.

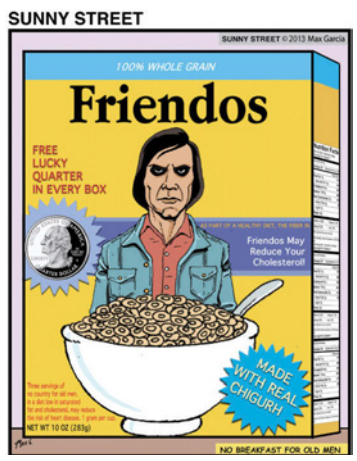
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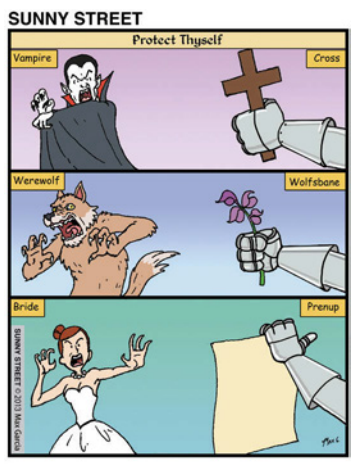
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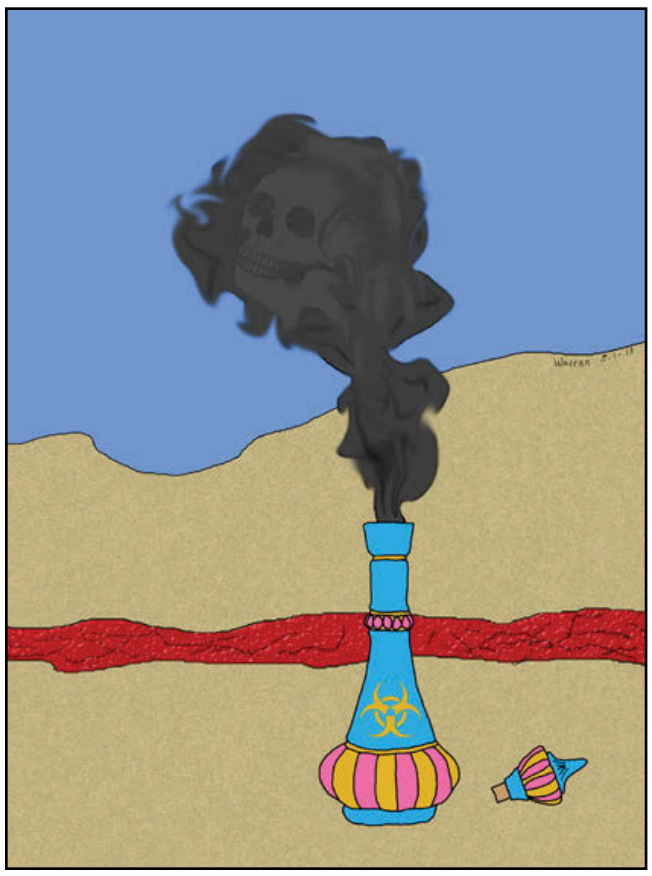
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EDITORIAL CARTOON



POET'S CORNER

TO MY FATHER

I fit nicely into each crevice,
This gentle place of keeping.

I often retreat here for solace
and always when I'm weeping.

The comfort here, it heals my soul
and mends the bones that's broken.

Into my father's hands I come
with few words to be spoken.



By: Randy C. Hale
5684 County Highway 33
Oneonta, AL 35121
randyhale62@yahoo.com

FOLK TALK

Dr. Robert Ham
Contributor

Snakes for Sale



Years ago I made a little extra money by catching and selling wild snakes. The poisonous snakes I sold to Carolina Biological Supply Company. This company then did some taxidermy work on them and then resold them to college biology departments. The nonpoisonous snakes I sold to a pet shop. The pet shop would then sell the king snakes and black rat snakes to farmers. The farmers would place these snakes in their barns to catch and eat mice and rats. A few years ago a man that lives in Cullman County asked me to let him have any king snakes I captured. He then released the snakes on his farm to catch rodents or poisonous snakes.

I captured most of the snakes under old pieces of tin roofing that were lying at the edge of an overgrown field. I placed grains of corn under the tin and the corn attracted mice, then the snakes would crawl under the tin to catch the mice. One day I captured three copperheads together under one piece of tin.

My wife thought it strange that I kept some of the poisonous snakes in our freezer. These frozen snakes were easy to find when I showed them to visitors. The snake sickles were on the freezer shelf right under the popsicles. I no longer catch poisonous snakes alive, nor do we have any frozen ones in our freezer. Now when I find a poisonous snake it is no longer among the living.

OPINION

FOOLS FIGHTING TERROR WITH TERROR

John M. LaForge
PeaceVoice

April Fools believe suicide bombers can be stopped with more body scanners and police surveillance. Fifteen years of bigger, better blast walls, checkpoints, limits on access, barricades, obstacle courses and ever-expanding restrictions at airports and government buildings may fend off car bombers, but driven suiciders with a bit of planning can obviously wreak havoc whenever they wish in San Bernardino or Paris, Brussels or Boston, Ankara or Lahore.

April Fools believe the "war on terror" can be won using bombs and bomb threats, and that bombs will end it. But all the military means being used to discourage attacks on Our civilians have been killing Other civilians, and, consequently, a prolonged war morphs to a permanent one and a relative small terror group is now a caliphate with 7.8 million new refugees in flight from it.

Newspapers, magazines, books, movies and endlessly detailed TV coverage of Our innocent victims necessarily and deliberately ignores, trivializes and even negates acknowledgement of the thousands of Other innocent lives shredded, maimed, or obliterated by US commandos, drones, and jet bombers.

When civilian victims of US military attacks are even noted, the media regularly reports that "coalition forces" caused the death and destruction.

This deflects attention from US command of the warfare especially for April Fools who concluded long ago that US bombs dropped from tens of thousands of feet, or sent from 6,000 miles away, or home invasions based on faulty information only "accidentally" kill innocent householders in targeted villages.

Scores of such accidents hint at the reasons why revenge-seeking youths might strap on bombs and detonate them here or in Pakistan, Turkey, Belgium, or France.

It's common knowledge that violence begets violence, but this truism is tossed in the trash by foolish supporters of war on terror. Is the voting public even interested in ending the war? April Fools forget that, "The great initiative in this war is ours. The great initiative to stop it must be ours." (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

More April Fools than I have noted that if your power is enhanced by war, or if you are making millions selling weapons for the fight, you could privately wish it would last forever.

The government, the military, the media, and arms-dealing corporations all benefit either politically or financially from the war (and from the blowback of suiciders here and abroad), and they might all privately smile at the talk of endless war, perpetual war.

As a director of Halliburton, Inc. Dick Cheney, who was Sec. of Defense for George Bush-the-First's 1991 bombing of Iraq, and Vice President for G.B.-the- Second's 2003 Iraq war and occupation, profited directly from the privatization of reconstruction work in Iraq and Afghanistan -- a consequence that was warned of in advance of the US bombing and takeover.

Today, every presidential hopeful but Bernie Sanders -- April Fools all -- promotes or condones the expansion of presidential war power, intensified attacks on ISIL, the Taliban, al Qaida, Al Shabaab or Boko Haram, indefinite detention without charge, force-feeding of US prisoners of war on terror, and the imposition of martial law using US or Israeli occupation forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Pakistan, Libya, Somalia, and Palestine.

President Oh-bomb-ah, who has retained all these Bush-the-2d programs, has expanded US military bases and drone attacks killing hundreds of indigenous suspects; but also killing and injuring hundreds of innocent noncombatants. In so doing, the Reaper drones, fighter jets and US commandos have enraged a whole generation of young people who know who is throwing the most and the biggest bombs, where they're landing, and whose lives and societies are being destroyed.

Even Sanders can't bring himself to criticize the $400 billion Joint Strike Fighter jet (F-35) program -- which can only prolong the war -- because an air base in the Senator's home state Vermont could host the warplane. Bernie socialism is a still state system after all, and, as Randolph Bourne said, "War is the health of the state."

Carl Resek explains Bourne's famous quip this way, "[The saying] meant that mindless power thrived on war because war corrupted a nation's moral fabric and especially corrupted its intellectuals." Fools will always rush in, so the only official response to the suicide bombers in Boston, Brussels, etc. is to expand the power and reach of police services and surveillance agencies, and to further foment fear of Others. Standing in Pittsburgh's Union Station waiting for the Amtrak last week, I heard the recorded PSA warn: "If you see something, say something."

Well, do we see dead people? The Others, and not just our own? Seeing them, let's say this: Suiciders are criminals to be dealt with using the criminal justice system, and they will never stop their foolish retaliations unless and until we end our own attacks, reject military aggression, and call the war what it is: unwinnable, reckless, and terrifying.

OPINION

The First Day of the Rest of Our Lives

June L. Palmer
Contributor

Yes, that is so very true. Today is the first day of the rest of our lives.

But you say what about yesterday? Did it not bear the same title, yesterday? The answer is yes, correct, but now yesterday is history, never to be repeated, never to be changed in any way. Gone forever.

Tomorrow? It possibly will never arrive. Only the almighty knows if there will be a tomorrow. Then, what? Today, the present, is all there is that we can have any effect on. Someone wisely wrote "Is this why it is called the present?" It most certainly is a present to us, a gift solely for our use. We should strive to make the most of it.

Times change and things change. Things that we have some control over and many things over which we have none whatsoever.

A few days ago, a precious child was born into my niece's family. What a blessing and the beginning of a marvelous time together for that family.

During that same week; however, a very good friend of mine lost a brother after a long and hard battle with a terrible disease.

We are each of us at the mercy of happenings over which we have no control. Oh, we could crazily go and lie across the tracks of an oncoming freight train and some would say that in that respect they had control of what was going to happen.

We could rebel against the advice of our physicians and refuse to take the medications he or she has recommended. I know folks who do just that very thing!

As most of those who read my words know, I heard the words "you are cancer-free" at my last medical evaluation. It was the grace of almighty God that determined the outcome of my treatment.

Someone precious and dear to me will face a serious treatment plan in a few days for a serious and scary diagnosis. I wish I could face it for her; I certainly would in a heartbeat, but that would not help. The only thing that I can and will do is be there when and as needed. Prayers have been voiced for a successful outcome and are even now being spoken by dear friends. I really should not put articles together when I am in the mindset I have today. I apologize for my morbid aptitude of today and if you will meet me here next time, I will endeavor to use only happy and flowery subjects and phrases.

Thank you for reading my words.

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