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WENDY SACK/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

GOOD HOPE RAIDER BAND AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER STUDENTS PERFORM 'A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES' P8



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMAN TRIBUNE

COMMUNITY

BEAUTIFUL DAY BACKDROP TO CULLMAN FARMERS MARKET'S OPENING DAY

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – The Cullman Farmers Market – Festhalle enjoyed its first day of the season on Saturday, April 16. The weather cooperated and the sun shone brightly as people visited Festhalle and shopped for local homegrown strawberries, delicious breads and lots of plants. But that's not all that was available Saturday; there were many other wonderful items there as well.

"We had 18 vendors here this morning, which is awesome for a first day," said Ann Moore, market manager. "Really we don't have all that much stuff because there are no vegetables, but we had a good va-

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CULLMAN FARMERS MARKET/DONNA SHANKLIN

BIG BAND BALLROOM DANCE SWINGS THROUGH WALLACE STATE P9

SPORTSMAN LAKE PARK VANDALS ARRESTED P2

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2ND ANNUAL HARVEST TO HOME FUNDRAISER SET FOR APRIL 30 P7



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CULLMAN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS LOCAL AUTHORS P6

SPARKMAN SPOILS CULLMAN'S SENIOR NIGHT P4

ANNUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS SET FOR MAY 3



Last year's Torch Run participants CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

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32ND ANNUAL BLOOMIN' FESTIVAL HUGE SUCCESS

Joyce Nix
St. Bernard Prep School

CULLMAN – The St. Bernard community in Cullman celebrated a wonderful weekend at the Prep School's annual Bloomin' Festival Arts and Crafts Fair held of April 16-17. Artists from as far away as Illinois welcomed thousands of guests who enjoyed the warm and sunny weather as they strolled around the campus.

A total of 150 booths were erected on the grounds in a delightful display as vendors offered hand-crafted jewelry, decorative pottery, intricate ironworks and finely-sewn clothing for the young and old. Also available were a wide variety of plants, fountains, birdhouses and cement ornaments for yard and garden. Fresh honey, soaps and personalized clocks were available as well as caricature art, pencil portraits and much more.

Because of the popularity

P8

EDUCATION

CULLMAN CITY SCHOOL BOARD MEETS, MAKES SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – The Cullman City School Board met on Monday evening, and two very special presentations were made. The district's transportation and safety director and East Elementary School's archery team were the stars of the show.

Tommy Duke, Transportation and Safety Director for Cullman City Schools, was awarded the Alabama Department of Education's Certificate of Achievement for Excellent in School Bus Safety Inspections for 2015.

After Duke was recognized by Superintendent Dr. Susan Patterson, the East Elementary archers took center stage.

The school's archery team has had an outstanding year. They are the County, Regional and State Champions, and are headed to Nationals in Louisville, Kentucky May 12-14. The group was accompanied by coach Branch Whitlock and principal David Wiggins, who were like two proud papas as they watched the kids get their awards.

Next came presentations by Cullman City Primary School Principal Tricia Culpepper, West Elementary School Principal Dr. Jay Page and Cullman Middle School Principal Lane Hill.

The board granted permission for East Elementary School Archery Team and the Cullman Middle School Archery Team to compete in the National Archery Tournament on May 12-14 in Louisville, Kentucky. Permission was also given to the Cullman High School Choir to participate in the Southern Stars

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SPORTSMAN LAKE PARK VANDALS ARRESTED

Bradley Williams
CCSO

CULLMAN – On Wednesday, April 13, investigators with the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) made arrests in the case of the vandalism that occurred at Sportsman Lake Park over the weekend. Arrested were Zachary Douglas Ballenger, 19, of Baileyton, Matthew Joseph Boroughs, 22, of Cullman, Zachary Charles Perkins, 22, of Cullman and Phillip Michael Skelton, 19, of Cullman for second-degree criminal mischief.

On Sunday, April 10, at approximately 10 p.m., four individuals, later identified as the suspects arrested today, vandalized Sportsman Lake Park by writing on the bathroom walls and also doing burnouts with several motorcycles on the bathroom's tile floor.

The suspects also used paintball guns to deface several landmarks and objects in the park.

Investigators were able to obtain video from the park and publish the still images to the CCSO's social media page on Monday, April 11.

Within 24 hours of publishing the images, investigators had identified the suspects from the images and obtained arrest warrants.

"We are very fortunate here in Cullman County to have great parks and it's a shame some people would try to ruin that, but now they will have to pay for their crime," said Sheriff Matt Gentry.

"I would like to thank all those who sent in tips via Facebook and also those who called in their tips. Our community is our biggest assist in assisting law enforcement, whether it's sending in tips on vandals or drug dealers in their neighborhood."



Zachary Charles Perkins, Zachary Douglas Ballenger, Matthew Joseph Boroughs, and Phillip Michael Skelton

PHOTOS COURTESY CCSO

All suspects are currently being held in the Cullman County Detention Center on $1,000 bonds.

For background, see http://cullmansense.com/articles/2016/04/12/sportsman-lake-park-targeted-vandals.

ANNUAL COUNTY-WIDE PALS CLEANUP THIS SATURDAY, APRIL 23

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – This Saturday, April 23, the Cullman County and City of Cullman Sanitation Departments will continue their annual tradition of partnering with PALS (People Against a Littered State) to encourage the community to get out and keep Cullman as clean as possible.

The event will take place from 8 a.m.-noon. Citizens can contact their local town or city hall for bags (bags furnished by State PALS). PALS is asking all residents to clean up the roads around their homes as far as possible in all directions.

Garbage can be placed with normal weekly trash for pickup, but there will also be dumpsters located throughout the county for drop-off.

Dumpster Locations:

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

Tires, paint and chemicals CANNOT be taken.

Also, 55-gallon drums must have multiple punched holes or they are not allowed.

"Our goal is to get Cullman and the people of Cullman to clean up their yards, around their homes. Really, we would like everyone to clean a mile around their homes. Can you imagine if everyone did that? We want to see Cullman County sparkle," said Cherrie Haney, director of Cullman County Economic Development and director of the Cullman chapter of PALS.

The event has been an annual spring staple for about 11 years, according to James Rollo, director of the Cullman County Sanitation Department.

"Back when I was a little girl there was no clean-up initiative," Haney said.

"There is no reason, with the amount of people that care about Cullman, that there should be any trash next to the streets, you know?"

Rollo said that he has seen a difference in how Cullman handles trash and sanitation within the 16 years he has been involved with the sanitation department.

"Once people get more educated and become more conscientious, they will think twice about throwing trash out of their window while they're in their car," he said.

The sanitation departments provide the dumpsters for PALS to utilize.

PALS is the main coordinator of the whole event, the sanitation departments and the City and County merely assist with equipment as much as possible.

For more information, contact Ashley Graves at agraves@co.cullman.al.us or 256-775-4696 or Cherrie Haney at chaney@co.cullman.al.us or 256-531-4222.

HEALTHCARE WORKERS LEARN ABOUT DEMENTIA, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AT WALLACE STATE ALUMNI CONNECTION

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – As healthcare professionals working in an area nursing and rehab facility, Debbie Hamilton and Christy St. John weren't sure how a lecture on human trafficking would relate to their work. The pair attended the Wallace State Alumni Association's Alumni Connection event for Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy professionals in the area, where along with a lecture on human trafficking, they learned ways to deal with patients who may be suffering from some form of dementia.

"Human trafficking I wasn't sure about," Hamilton admitted, since the people she cares for on a daily basis aren't targeted by human traffickers. But the speaker also talked about medicine exploitation, financial exploitation of the elderly and elder and domestic abuse, which they do sometimes see in their line of work.

St. John said in regards to human trafficking, they did learn signs to look for when it is suspected, which they can use in their everyday lives and share with others.

She said she wished her daughter, a nurse, could have attended the event to learn about the subject.

According to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, Alabama reported 202 cases of human trafficking from 2007 through 2015, with 252 victims.

In 2016, there have been 53 reported cases of human trafficking in the state. Nationwide, there have been 5,544 cases of human trafficking reported in 2016.

Regarding dementia, both Hamilton, a graduate of the WSCC OTA program, and St. John said they learned some new things about helping their patients with dementia.

The day's last speaker, Lori Coleman, gave the group of more than 40 tips on "Practical Approaches in Rehabilitation of Patients with Dementia."

For example, patients with advanced dementia may forget they are injured and try to be as mobile as they would be if they weren't hurt.

Among the suggestions Coleman gave for a patient with a hip injury who is restricted from putting weight on their leg is to wrap the foot of the affected side with bubble wrap or brightly colored cloth. That will have the patient question why their foot is wrapped that way and the caregiver can explain they are hurt and shouldn't put weight on that foot. St. John, who attended Wallace State before the college established a Physical Therapy Assistant program, said she would most likely implement the bubble wrap idea with her patients.

Those attending the Alumni Connection event on Thursday earned continuing education credits.

The Alumni Association is hosting another event on April 22 for nurses in the area, with the focus on pharmacology.

The event is open to the public. Registration is $35 before April 20 and $40 at the door the day of the event. Participants may register at http://qrne.ws/pharma. For more information, call 256-352-8071. Nurses should bring their licenses to be scanned for CEU credit.

The college will host another speaker on Human Trafficking on April 19 at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m., in Room 109 of the Physics Building. Lynn Caffery, executive director of the Tennessee Valley Family Services/Koru Silver House will speak. Students and the public are invited, but seating is limited.

POSITION AVAILABLE

CPC OB/GYN seeking a qualified applicant for the positon of Medical Assistant/Nurse to a board certified OB/GYN physician. Medical office experience required and certification required. Applicant must be customer service oriented, able to multi-task and be proficient on a computer and electronic health record. Full Time position with excellent benefits. EOE. Send resume via fax to Sonia Terry at 256-736-6226 or by mail to CPC OB/GYN, ATTN: Sonia Terry, 1800 AL Hwy 157, Suite 302, Cullman, AL 35058.

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STATE

ALABAMA OPERATION LIFESAVER ANNOUNCES RAILROAD SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT AND 40-CITY RAIL SAFETY TOUR

Tour will stop in Cullman in August

Allison Green
ALDOT

MONTGOMERY – Vehicle-train collisions, deaths and injuries at railroad crossings have dropped significantly over the last 40 years in Alabama. To continue its work to improve rail safety and celebrate its 40th anniversary, Alabama Operation Lifesaver and its safety partners today announced a 40-city rail safety tour.

Although the exact date has not been announced yet, the tour is set to stop in Cullman sometime in August.

During a press conference at the Union Station Train Shed in Montgomery, Operation Lifesaver also announced the 2015 railroad related fatality and injury numbers.

Alabama Sen. Gerald Allen, R-Tuscaloosa, and officials from the Alabama Department of Transportation and Alabama Law Enforcement Agency spoke about their roles working with Operation Lifesaver to reduce the number of motor vehicle-train collisions and trespassing incidents.

"Operation Lifesaver and its safety partners are celebrating the improvement in safety we are seeing around railroad tracks and trains in Alabama," said Nancy Hudson, Alabama Operation Lifesaver executive director.

"At the same time we recognize that Alabama still ranks among the top states in the nation in the number of motor vehicle-train and trespassing incidents."

Preliminary Federal Railroad Administration statistics show Alabama had 90 collisions resulting in five fatalities and 34 injuries during 2015.

These statistics rank Alabama as number six in the nation for collisions and number 14 for fatalities.

"In my position as chair of the Senate Transportation and Energy Committee, I have the opportunity to shepherd and support legislation each session designed to strengthen Alabama's infrastructure to the benefit of our citizens and businesses," said Allen.

"I commend Alabama Operation Lifesaver and the Alabama Department of Transportation for their commitment to public safety and preventing tragedy on and around the railroad."

Taking its message on the road, Operation Lifesaver is offering free safety education activities to raise public awareness about the dangers near railroad tracks and trains in Alabama.

The first stop on its 40-city rail safety tour will be Alexander City on April 19.

"ALDOT is committed to reversing the troubling trend we see in vehicle-train collisions in Alabama," said Allison Green, Drive Safe Alabama coordinator with ALDOT.

"We are pleased to join Operation Lifesaver on its 40-city tour to take every opportunity, in every community, to end these very preventable incidents and save lives."

For more information on Operation Lifesaver, visit http://oli.org/.

For more information about Drive Safe Alabama, visit http://drivesafealabama.org/.

2016 NATIONAL ARC WELDING CONFERENCE TOURS TOPRE AND YUTAKA

Sharon Schuler Kreps
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CULLMAN – On Tuesday, April 12, 100 participants from the 2016 National Arc Welding Conference visited Topre Corporation and Yutaka Technologies in Cullman. The conference is an annual event that features prominent welding professionals and manufacturers. The conference was held April 11-13 at the Alabama Robotics Technology Park (RTP). This was the first time the National Arc Welding Conference has been held in Alabama.

We caught up with the group at Topre.

"This is a group of attendees from the Robotic Arc Welding Conference at RTP this week," said Tim Springer, welding instructor at Alabama RTP.

"These guys are from different parts of the country. All of them have something to do with robotic arc welding. Coming into the conference we've had different speakers and different exhibits. We have vendors coming in that have exhibits there at RTP as far as different types of welding, different companies. All the companies in the robotics industry are there this week."

This year's Arc Welding Conference included Robotic Interfacing, Robotic Spot Welding with Servo Guns and MFDC Medium Frequency Direct Current, advances in Resistance Welding, new functions of Robot Controllers, the use of MFDC power – leading to lighter weight robotic spot guns and an introduction to Machine Vision.

"Today we are here to tour the facility and let them take a look at some of the things going on in there; to actually see what some of the robots are doing out on the floor," Springer added.

"This is the first time we've had the conference at RTP so this is a big one for us. We are really excited about it."

After the group's one-hour tour of Topre, they had a question and answer session with some of Topre's employees.

"I was impressed," said Dodd Riley of Shaw Industries.

"There was a lot of robotics in one place; this is a very complex operation. We're coming from a textile plant and basically all the automation we have is about 10 of the laser guided vehicles in a million square foot facility. We have a lot of opportunities and a lot of labor that we can do automatically. To see what all they do here makes me wonder why we can't do that too.

"This is the first time the conference has been at RTP, so it's a pretty big deal," Riley smiled.

"We came here from the other side of the state to attend this conference. The welding part is not so much of an interesting part to us, but everything from the robot itself and the controls."

Another tourist saw the robots in a little bit of a different way.

"There was a lot of automation and some neat robots," grinned Andy Hatch, also from Shaw Industries.

"It's like a big kid's Lego kit and makes me want to get in there and start playing with everything," he chuckled.

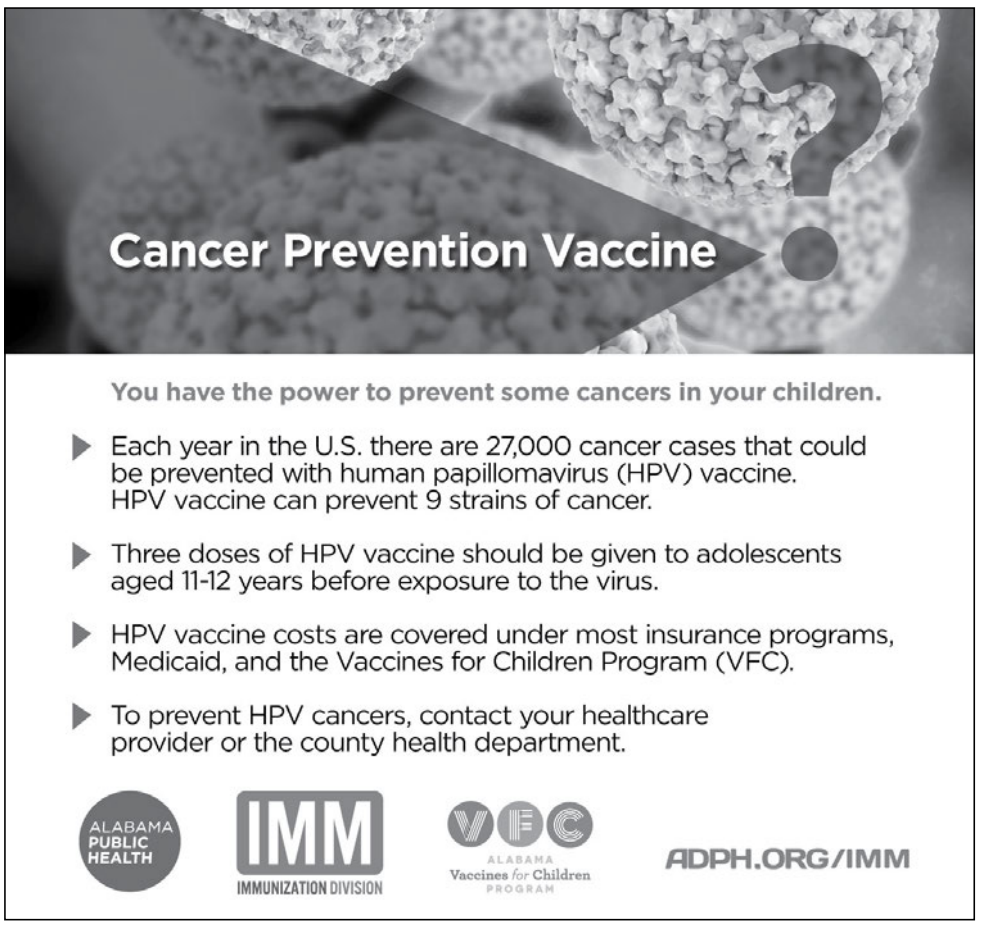
After the group left Topre they headed to Yutaka to see how robots were being used in their facility.

Those who had already toured Yutaka headed for Topre.

The participants represented different industries, but all were equally impressed with what the two Cullman facilities are doing with robotics.

To learn more about the 2016 National Arc Welding Conference, visit http://2016nationalarcweldingconf.com/.

For more about the Alabama Robotics Technology Park, see http://www.alabamartp.org/.



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PREP BASEBALL

SPARKMAN SPOILS CULLMAN'S SENIOR NIGHT, DROPS CATS 8-3

Josh McBrayer
Sports Correspondent

CULLMAN – Monday night was senior night as well as kid's night and the Cullman Bearcats looked to keep the momentum rolling from their thrilling extra-inning victory over Hartselle to take the Area 16 championship. But the Senators of Sparkman had different plans as they pounded Cullman pitching and took the single game matchup 8-3.

Andrew Stemple got the offense going for Sparkman in the top of the second inning when he led the frame off with a single to left field.

Back-to-back walks loaded the bases before Braden Garrison lined out to a leaping Carter Bowen.

The next Senator to the plate was Drake Sanchez and he was able to earn the RBI the easy way, with a base on balls that scored Stemple.

Cullman was able to retire the next two Sparkman batters and escaped the inning with just one run scored.

The Cats went three up, three down in the bottom of the second, bringing the Senators back to the plate where they went right back to work.

Jared Howell led off the third inning with a walk and quickly moved up to second on a wild pitch.

A batter later Stemple would bring him home with an RBI single. Stemple would come home to score on a two-out, RBI single from Reid Powers.

He would then come home to score on a Garrison single to put Sparkman up 4-0.

The Senators would tack on another run in the top of the fourth and a home run that was crushed by Howell and flew over the left centerfield fence.



JOSH MCBRAYER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman would hang a crooked number in the fourth on RBI singles from Levi Thomas and Bowen. Owen Lovell would pick up an RBI in the sixth when he was intentionally walked with the bases loaded as Sparkman took the "he is not going to beat us" mentality, but the three runs would not be enough as Sparkman would tack on two more in the seventh and put the game out of reach, going on to take the 8-3 victory.

PREP SOFTBALL

CARBON HILL ENDS WEST POINT'S MOMENTUM IN THE GOOD HOPE INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Johnny Thornton
Sports Correspondent

GOOD HOPE – A busy day of softball for the West Point Lady Warriors began Saturday at 8 a.m. in the Good Hope Invitational. It ended for the 2016 Cullman County champions at 11:25 p.m. with a 6-0 loss in the title game to Carbon Hill.

West Point would play five games on Saturday for its assignment in the event hosted by Good Hope High School.

Due to midweek rains, the tournament changed locations from Good Hope City Park to Good Hope High School, also losing a game from the schedule in the process.

West Point was given a bye from the revised Friday schedule. It didn't seem to bother the Lady

Warriors as they woke up early Saturday, came to Good Hope, downed Holly Pond 10-3 at 8 a.m. and 75 minutes after that, took out Haleyville by a margin of 4-0.

That put West Point as the No. 1 seed in Pool B when the event went into tournament play.

In the quarterfinals, the Lady Warriors were back on the Good Hope diamond at 3:30 p.m., defeating Oakman 5-2.

Their semifinal game with Haleyville began at 8:12 p.m. and ended at 9:28 in a 4-2 triumph.

Molly Pendley singled in a run, scored a run on a passed ball while a balk was called against Haleyville's pitcher, bringing in Makayla Brown from third.

West Point built a 3-0 lead after an inning then got an insurance run in the fourth when Tess Hembree walked, stole second and third and scored on Jeri Beasley's single to center.

Beasley gave up a couple of hits in the final inning, but had Haleyville to ground out to Courtney Blackwood at short who threw to Brown at first and the Lady Warriors were now going for an invitational tournament title.

Carbon Hill kept Good Hope from playing in the title game of its own event, getting by the Lady Raiders 3-2 in the first semifinal.

After Good Hope tied the game at 2-2 in the third on Bailey Starnes' single, scoring Josie McDonald, who tripled, Carbon Hill came back with a run in the fifth on a ground ball to third with one out in the inning and runners on the corners.

The Lady Bulldogs shut down Good Hope in the final two innings, and the Lady Raiders' three-game winning streak ended at 7:57 p.m.

The championship was scoreless until Carbon Hill tallied four runs in the fourth. One was scored on a fielder's choice. But a single by Allie Parr and a throwing error brought three runs home during the play and Carbon Hill had momentum and a 4-0 lead.

Karlie Ratliff had allowed West Point only one hit, a single in the third by Olivia Ball, before the Lady Warriors attempted a comeback in the final inning.

Gracie Abbott, Ball and Brown all got singles against Ratliff, but the right-hander got a ground out that forced Abbott out at third, a pop out to second by Pendley and Hembree to pop out to third to end the game.

It was Carbon Hill's second shutout of the tournament. The Lady Bulldogs started their assignment Friday blanking Haleyville 3-0. Carbon Hill also had the largest margin of victory when the Lady Bulldogs romped over Brindlee Mountain in the quarterfinals 13-1.

Good Hope claimed two shutouts in the tournament too, taking down Brindlee Mountain 8-0 Friday and Holly Pond 6-0 in quarterfinal play.

Cullman County teams were getting the best of the non-county opponents in the tournament, winning four out of five before Haleyville upset Cold Springs 3-1 in the quarterfinals then Good Hope losing in the semis and West Point in the finals to Carbon Hill.

COUNTY SPORTS SCHEDULE
WEEK OF APRIL 18

THURSDAY

Softball

West Point vs Cold Springs 4:00 p.m.
Hanceville @ Locust Fork 4:30 p.m.
Fairview @ Lawrence County 4:30 p.m.
Good Hope @ Falkville 4:30 p.m.

Soccer

Cullman @ Hartselle 5:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m.
West Point @ Arab 5:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY

Baseball (first round of playoffs)

Cold Springs @ Section TBA
Vinemont @ Winfield TBA
Hanceville vs Oakman TBA
Cullman vs Muscle Shoals TBA

Softball

Holly Pond @ Cold Springs 4:00 p.m.
Vinemont @ Cleveland 4:30 p.m.
Good Hope vs Westminster Christian 5:00 p.m.

Soccer

Cullman vs Bob Jones 5:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m.

Compiled by Josh McBrayer

PREP BASKETBALL SCORING WRAP-UP
WEEK OF APRIL 11

MONDAY

Baseball

Cullman 8, Hartselle 0
Cullman 7, Hartselle 4

TUESDAY

Softball

Cullman 12, Decatur 0
Fairview 1, Hanceville 0
Cold Springs 1, Falkville 0

Soccer

Cullman 6, John Carrol 0
St. Bernard 3, West Point 0

Thursday, 14th

Softball

Fairview 1, Falkville 0

Friday

Baseball

Cullman 4, Hartselle 2
Good Hope 10, Holly Pond 6

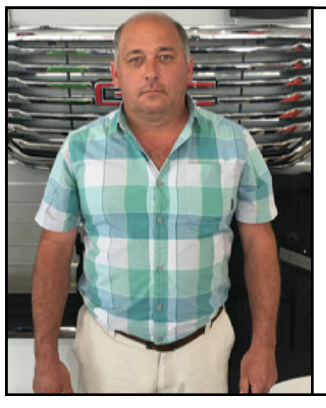
Softball

West Point 4, Cold Springs 3
Carbon Hill 4, Holly Pond 2

Soccer

Homewood 2, Cullman 1
Westminster Christian 2, West Point 0

Compiled by Josh McBrayer



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THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MOTHER ANGELICA, PART 3

April 20, 1925 ~ March 27, 2016

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament of Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, or as the locals call it "The Shrine," is located right here in Cullman County; Hanceville to be exact. It is a Roman Catholic religious center affiliated with the Eternal Word Television Network. People from all over the world make pilgrimages, or religious journeys, to the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Pilgrimages consist of individuals or groups who, during their stay, participate in Spiritual Talks, Healing Services and tours of the facility.

The Shrine is a product of the late Mother Angelica. In order to expand EWTN's Spanish programs, in 1995 Mother Angelica traveled to Colombia to raise funds and ask for help. She was invited by Salesian Father Juan Pablo Rodriguez to attend Mass at the Sanctuary of the Divine Infant Jesus in Bogotá. While there, she heard the words that gave her a new mission: to build a shrine honoring the True Presence of Our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Mother prayed about it and put the plan into action. With the help of just five anonymous benefactors, a 400-acre former soybean farm in Hanceville was purchased and the Shrine was built. The five benefactors also covered all costs of its construction and materials. It was consecrated in December 1999. Miraculous? I'll say! The place is magnificent!

"The Shrine itself, both church and monastery, are modeled on the great Italian churches of the 13th century, the time period that experienced the birth of the Franciscan charism. The piazza through which pilgrims walk before entering the sanctuary itself is a standard of Italian sacred architecture, allowing the faithful time and space in which to recollect themselves interiorly and exteriorly in preparation for the experience of prayer and sacred liturgy. The piazza separates the sanctuary symbolically and in reality from the world around it, effectively creating an island of quiet reverence amidst the bustle of the world. At the doors of the church, pilgrims are greeted with scenes of the Seven Joys and Sorrows of the Virgin Mary, reminding all who enter that she is the vessel through which God entered incarnate into His creation.

"The interior of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament is meant to be a psalm of praise to the glory of the Presence contained within. As the pilgrim steps over the marble floors, he will see inlaid crosses made of jasper, the material which was used for ornamentation in the Temple of Jerusalem. The tabernacle, which houses the Most Blessed Sacrament, is featured prominently in the sanctuary, and is a small-scale replica of a Gothic church. Fittingly, the object which primarily catches the attention of the pilgrim is the imposing monstrance. Constructed from a century-old design and over seven feet tall, it contains the exposed Real Presence, thus affording both the pilgrims who come to the Shrine and the nuns praying on the opposite side of the reredos the chance to adore the glorified body of the Lord. From every vantage point, the pilgrim is constantly reminded of the glory of the God to whom all this physical grandeur is directed.

"Everything, from the floors to the vaulted ceilings, from the stained glass windows to the monstrance, and from the sanctuary doors to the bells that call all to prayer, was designed to turn the mind to prayer and adoration of the Presence contained within the Shrine. Catholicism is a faith rich in appreciation for the material world and for created things, and her churches are replete with tangible reminders of the glory of God and the awe which appropriately fills the soul called to His Presence. The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament is no different. Here, the tangible meets the reality of the invisible in a celebration of God, of His Presence and of the glory of His creation." - olamshrine.org

If you have never been to the Shrine, it's worth a trip just to see it and experience its beauty and peacefulness. The Shrine consists of a Cloistered Monastery, Upper and Lower church, near life-sized Nativity scene, Lourdes Grotto, Castle which houses the gift shop and conference rooms and John Paul II Eucharistic Center. It is open for tours Monday through Saturday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

When you do make it out to visit the Shrine, take note of the cross above the chapel. During construction, a storm struck the area, causing the original church cross to be damaged.

At first Mother Angelica wanted to repair it, but later on, she associated the cross with the Tau cross, named after the Greek letter it resembles; it is a form of the Christian cross symbol and is most commonly used in reference to the Franciscan Order. (Saint Francis of Assisi adopted it as his personal coat of arms.) The damaged remains of the top part of the cross are on display in the St. Joseph Courtyard. Another notable statue in the Shrine depicts a scourged Jesus Christ, symbolic of his pain and suffering at the cross.



SHRINE OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

On Easter Sunday, March 27, at close to 5 p.m., Mother Mary Angelica passed peacefully from this life to God. During her final weeks, days and moments of her earthly life, Mother was surrounded by the love, prayers and devoted care of her Sisters, Friars, Knights, faithful nurses and many, many friends. The Shrine was where she spent her final years. It is where she died and it is where she is interred, in the Crypt Chapel below the main church.

The Shrine is located at 3222 County Road 548 in Hanceville. For more information, call 205-795-5717, visit olamshrine.org or www.facebook.com/shrinepilgrimages. The Shrine is open Monday-Saturday from 6 a.m.- 9 p.m. and Sundays from 6 a.m.- 6 p.m.



cullman city parks & recreation

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

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **2016 Strawberry Festival:** 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!
- **Flag Football Registration:** CP&R is offering a safer alternative to learning and enjoying the sport of football. Registration is open now at the Civic Center or online for ages 5-14; practices start in August and games start in September.
- **Festhalle Farmer's Market Now Open:** CP&R's farmer's market is open for the season! Normal market hours will be Tuesday, Thursday, & Saturday from 7am-2pm. Support your local farmers and get the freshest produce around!
- **Cullman Golf Course is now Cross Creek Golf Course:** Cross Creek Golf Course is the place to be! Check out the new course improvements, landscaping, and more. For details and free giveaways, check us out at www.crosscreekcullman.com or on our social media pages at Cross Creek Golf Course
- **Summer Camps & Clinics** are listed on our website now at www.cullmanrecreation.org. Camps and clinics include tennis, volleyball, Camp Cullman day camp, free weekly Just Play program, golf clinics, art camp, archery camp, and more. Registration for all of these programs will open May 1 at the Cullman Civic Center or online at cullmanrecreation.org.
- **50+ fitness classes offered weekly** at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center! Group classes include yoga, spin class, target, cardio party, Zumba, and more. Classes are $10 to take, and memberships start as low as $39 per month.
- **Outdoor Pool Open at Wellness & Aquatic Center for Lap Swimming Only.** The outdoor pool is being heated to allow for open swim and lap swimming; this does not include the outdoor waterpark which will open Memorial Day weekend to the public.

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
April 21, 2016

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

CULLMAN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS LOCAL AUTHORS

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Tuesday, April 12, the Cullman County Public Library hosted a Meet and Greet the Author Event in honor of National Library Week. It was the perfect opportunity to meet local writers and hear their stories.

"The library was thrilled to host the Author Meet and Greet recognizing the accomplishments of our local authors," said Sharon Townson, library director. "With an attendance of over 100, we hope this will become an annual event to allow readers to interact directly with creative writers in our community.

"It was wonderful witnessing the authors getting a chance to get to know each other," she smiled. "There were book discussions, buying, selling and signing of books."

The following authors were at the event. Each had his or her own table for books and merchandise.

- **Sharon Schuler Kreps,** author of "Jokers & Dandies," a book about growing up in Cullman during the 1970s as seen through the big brown eyes of a whimsical little Southern girl.
- **Greg Burden,** author of "Blount Springs, Alabama's Fountain of Youth," which tells the history of Blount Springs when it was a health resort. The book covers over 100 years of history.
- **Bethany Kerr,** author of "Precious Infants – Courageous Stories of Premature Birth," which is a compilation of 90+ pencil drawings of premature infants, accompanied by a story of each child's incredible journey. Kerr is also the author of "Answers in a Time of Miscarriage." The book provides factual answers to many common questions about miscarriage. It also has many poignant stories of loss that Kerr has collected, including her own story of miscarriage.
- **Joy York,** author of "The Bloody Shoe Affair," a thrilling adventure. In this mystery, set in 1968, Christi, a shy and awkward teenager, never expected to get sucked into helping her cousin, Lily, the "double-dare-you" daughter of the county jailer, try to solve the grizzliest murder the town of Roselyn, Mississippi had ever seen.
- **Joyce Elson Moore,** award-winning author of "The Stockholm Castle Mystery," which is set in 17th-century Stockholm where the Swedish queen's lute player must solve a theft and murder in the castle.
- **Kay Cagle,** co-author of "Legendary Locals of Cullman County," which takes a look at well-known people from Cullman County.
- **Stephen Skinner,** author of "The 100X Life: 7 Simple Daily Habits That Will Transform Your Life, Unlock Your Greatest Potential, and Create a Life Beyond Your Wildest Dreams!" A pharmacist who goes against the mainstream, Stephen Skinner went from financially successful yet burned out, out of shape, overweight and grouchy to being successful in all areas of life and shows how you can do it, too.
- **Elizabeth Elson,** writer of historical fiction. Her book, "Julia, Daughter of Rome" is the first in a series about women who defined their own lives in the shadow of powerful men.
- **Julian Campbell,** a decorated WWII veteran who is represented in "Legendary Locals of Cullman County." He has written his memoirs and was there to represent his book.



Local authors enjoyed meeting members of the community and talking about their books. SHARON SCHULER KREPS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

"What a great crowd at the authors and writers reception," said Kay Cagle. "Our thanks go out to Leisa Coleman and the wonderful staff for their help in making the evening a success. It was good to see Julian Campbell, decorated WWII veteran and represented in 'Legendary Locals of Cullman County,' Larry Rowlette, who does such a fine job of portraying Col. Cullmann and Bethany Kerr, one of the team of artists who create those gorgeous murals on buildings in Cullman. I enjoyed the fellowship with fellow authors and seeing many friends."

Market (from Front)

riety today. We had strawberries, we had our pottery people, we had greens, onions and some baked goods so we came out really, really good.

"The traffic has been good. I think the Bloomin' Festival has helped some. I have one of my signs out on Highway 278 saying that the market is actually open, so I think a lot of people have swung back through here to check things out. It has been really good. I hope this is the beginning of the whole year being this good. If it is then we will have an awesome year.

"All of our spots have been rented for the year. We have a new edition; Brickyard Meats is going to be here all year. I think he's done pretty well today; he has sold a lot of jerky. I'm not sure what else he had, but I know he has sold a lot of that. I'm very tickled. I hope all year will be as good as it was today."

The Farmers Market is now open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. through October. Keeping it in Cullman is the goal and is what makes the Farmers Market special.

By shopping there, citizens support local farmers and purchase fresher produce, which is a super nutritious option. Shopping at the Farmers Market also allows people to connect and get to know others throughout the community.

"Everyone needs to come out and see what all we've got because we have all kinds of different stuff," said Moore.

"We have baked goods, pottery, greens and beautiful flowers. We're going to have a good variety this year and I am very proud of that. We are going to be very versatile this year."

Moore thinks this year will definitely be a good year for the Farmers Market, especially for the vendors.

She plans to install blinds to help keep the sun coming from the east out of their eyes, hopefully in time for the Strawberry Festival. She also has a stove on site and plans to cook breakfast and lunch for the vendors. Saturday morning, she made everyone breakfast burritos.

"We take care of each other," said Moore.

"I've got a good bunch of farmers; they have some beautiful produce and they take pride in what they do. I love em," she laughed. "I'm not a vegetable eater, but I love my farmers!"

Not only was it a successful day for the Farmers Market as a whole, but it was also a very successful day for the vendors who were there.

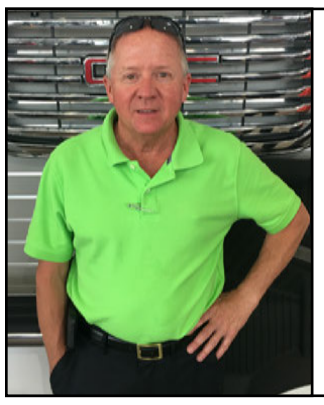
"Everything has gone good today," smiled Jean Daniel, one of the vendors.

"We've had lots of customers, lots of vendors and the sales are great. Everybody ought to come out. We have had a lot of people stop by after they went to the Bloomin' Festival and they seemed to have enjoyed both the Bloomin' Festival and the market."

Cullman Farmers Market - Festhalle is located at 209 First Ave. NE. For more information, call 256- 775-7207 or visit www.facebook.com/cullmanfarmersmarket.

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2ND ANNUAL HARVEST TO HOME FUNDRAISER SET FOR APRIL 30

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Saturday, April 30, the North Alabama Agriplex will host its second annual Harvest to Home Fundraiser event starting at 6 p.m.

The event will be held at the Heritage Center at 1714 Tally Ho St., in the Poultry and Egg Association Pavilion.

The goal of the event is two-fold, according to Rachel Dawsey, director of the Agriplex.

"We want to show people in the community that you can get all your groceries locally and from local sources," Dawsey said. "This is really the goal of the Agriplex altogether, to preserve agriculture history with local food at the dinner table."

Dawsey and the Agriplex want to emphasize to all Cullman citizens that they can utilize local farmers' produce because it is available at farmer's markets throughout the county. "Local food really is healthier for you," Dawsey said.

The other purpose for the fundraising event is to promote the events and programs at the Agriplex.

"Many people say, 'we didn't even know about y'all,' or 'we didn't know that event was going on.' Well," Dawsey said, "this is for them."

The event will get started around 6 p.m. according to Dawsey. Between 6-6:30 p.m., those in attendance will compete in a silent auction. At 6:30 dinner will be served and will feature all local produce, such as strawberries and sweet potatoes.

After the dinner, and during desert, guests will get one final chance to bid on items at the silent auction.

Results are set to be announced around 8 p.m.

"Last year we sold 70 tickets and raised about $6,000. This year we are selling 100 tickets, so we hope to raise more money as well," Dawsey said.

Tickets, which are $25 apiece, may be purchased at www.Agriplex.org or by calling 256-297-1044. Those who would like to donate toward promoting local produce and the Agriplex can do so year-round at www.Agriplex.org.

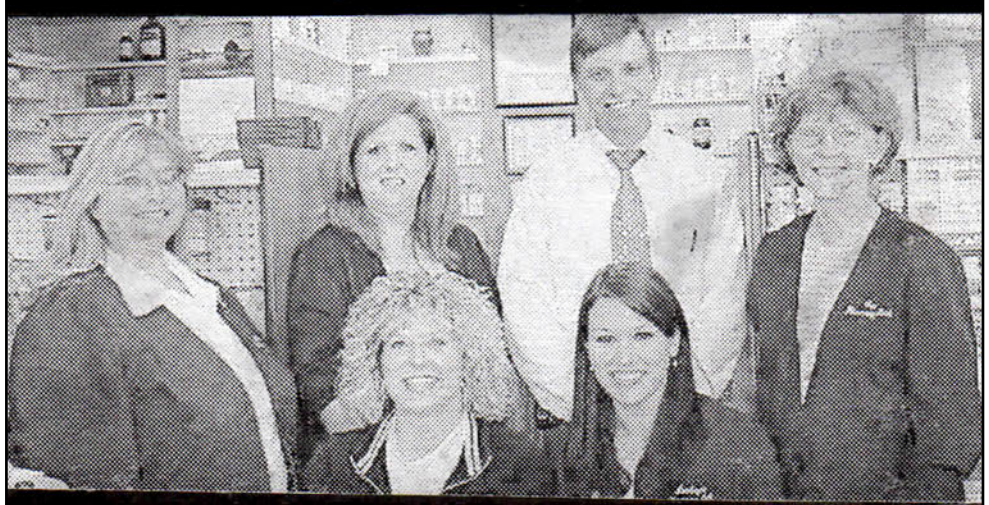


RACHEL DAWSEY

Volunteers prepare for last year's Harvest to Home fundraiser at the Agriplex.

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.

Right now, in any American hospital, about half of the patients have a prescription for an acid-reducing drug to reduce heartburn or prevent bleeding in their stomach and gut. But that well-intentioned drug may actually boost their risk of dying during their hospital stay, a new study finds – by opening them up to infections that pose more risk than bleeding would. In fact, according to a computer simulation based on real-world risk and benefit data, around 90 percent of hospital inpatients who were first prescribed these drugs in the hospital have a higher risk of dying when they're taking them, compared with their risk if they hadn't gotten the prescription. And for around 80 percent of patients who were already on these common drugs, called proton-pump inhibitors, or PPIs, when they arrived at the hospital, staying on them also may lead to a small increase in the risk of dying. The extra risk of death comes from the fact that reducing acid in the stomach can increase the risk of infections – especially pneumonia and Clostridium difficile, both of which pose a serious risk to hospitalized patients who develop them. The study, which uses a computer model to achieve a result that otherwise would require an impractically large clinical trial, is published in the Journal of General Internal Medicine.

***

Using antibiotics alone to treat children with uncomplicated acute appendicitis is a reasonable alternative to surgery when chosen by the family. A study published in JAMA Surgery found that three out of four children with uncomplicated appendicitis have been successfully treated with antibiotics alone at one-year follow-up. Compared to urgent appendectomy, non-operative management was associated with less recovery time, lower health costs and no difference in the rate of complications at one year.

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The Good Hope High School Band performed an amazing show with the Child Development Center students on Saturday.

SHARON SCHULER KREPS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Good Hope Raider Band and Child Development Center Students Come Together for an Amazing Show

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – On Saturday, April 16, the Good Hope High School Band and students from the Cullman County Child Development Center took the stage together and performed "A Night at the Movies," a Disney-themed spring concert at Wallace State Community College. The show was a lot like going to the movies because admission included popcorn (served in a souvenir cup) and a drink. The profits from the night's event will be split between the two schools after an initial 10 percent is taken from the total and donated to the orphan network of Cullman County.

"Our concert this year is a little different and it has been an incredible opportunity," said Ty Parker, Good Hope Band director. "Every year we do something different for the concert. This year we wanted to incorporate students from the Child Development Center and so we implemented a Big Brother/Big Sister Program to partner with the CDC."

Parker began teaching music to the CDC students, a couple days a week for the past six weeks.

The Good Hope Band members took their roles as Big Brothers and Big Sisters very seriously by taking their Little Brothers and Sisters and helping them learn the show's routine. The result was simply magic. A special bond formed and the students became buddies. Their unique relationship could be seen from all over the auditorium as they took the stage and entertained the crowd.

"I loved working with the kids from CDC, I absolutely loved it," smiled McKenzie Smith, ninth-grader at Good Hope and member of the band.

"They have more abilities than people give them credit for and they are just so sweet. When I first found out we were going to work with them, I was so excited," she giggled.

"They never had the chance to work with people from other schools; it just really amazed me that we got to do it. This has been such a wonderful experience for us and they love it. They have been telling me all evening how much they love it."

The show contained a variety of acts and different parts of the band participated; some by playing music and others by helping their Little Brothers and Sisters.

Happy giggles and genuine smiles came from the audience as they watched a couple of the CDC students hamming it up for the crowd and completely stealing the show.

"Often times, our society forgets that everyone has abilities they can bring to the table," Parker grinned.

"I'm not gonna lie, when this started I was very leery of what was going to happen, but this process has been wonderful," said Rebecca Rodriguez, teacher at the CDC.

"It has been a blessing for our kids, and I believe for the Good Hope kids. We have been so excited to hear their response to working with our kids. Thank you for raising these awesome kids that want to take part with us. We just appreciate everything Good Hope has done for us and you all have done for us."

When the show was over, there was a standing ovation, both for the students and for the teachers who put it all together. The Big Brothers and Sisters stood with their Little Brothers and Sisters and giggled, waved and hollered for their parents.

"This has been inspiring; no boundaries whatsoever," said Chris Chambers, principal at CDC.

"It's amazing what teachers can do when you let them loose and let them go; and what kids can do to bring our kids together and understand them. We have local artists along with our music and art program to put it all together; it's just amazing to see what can happen. This was the first time I have seen the whole thing. They wanted it to be a surprise, but I have seen bits and pieces. It was a surprise; it did not disappoint at all."

At the end of the night, many said that Parker's idea of combining the two school bands was brilliant! Showcasing the students from the Child Development Center along with the Good Hope Band was something truly special.

For a full photo gallery, see http://qrne.ws/cdc.

Festival (from Front)

of St. Bernard Monks' Bread, production was greatly increased from last year.

Over 2,400 loaves were sold by 2 p.m. on Saturday. Once sold out, cards were given to other patrons who were invited to purchase the bread online at www.stbernardabbey.com.

"This year was a special challenge because of the ongoing restoration of the St. Bernard Library and Liberal Arts Center," said Joyce Nix, director of the Bloomin' Festival.

"Eidson and Company, the general contractor for the project, made sure to ready the grounds around the construction site. We are especially grateful to them for going over and above what is required to make sure that everything was safe for the public regarding sidewalks and entrances in that vicinity.

"We do our best to meet the needs of our artists as well as our patrons," Nix continued.

"Each year we have volunteers who help us in this task. These volunteers include our current students and their families, our alumni and their parents and a host of people from the local community and beyond. We are grateful for all the people who work so hard to make this festival so much fun. We could not do it without them."

School President, Fr. Joel Martin, likewise thanked everyone for being a part of the 32nd Annual Bloomin' Festival.

He applauded students and volunteers for their tireless efforts to make sure all visitors were made welcomed.

Alumni from the first and second graduating classes of the new Prep School returned to the campus to volunteer.

"It was so nice having our alumni from the early classes of the 80s volunteering to assist with parking. They loved seeing how much the festival has grown in the past thirty years," commented Nix.

On Sunday at 5 p.m. the crowd gathered in front of the Administration Building to give away the slate of prizes. Lynn Ashley of Graysville, Alabama won the 2016 Jeep Patriot; J. Allen of Huntsville was the winner of the iPad Mini2; Thomas Campbell of Muscle Shoals won a $100 Wal-Mart gift card; Joyce Hatley of Holly Pond was selected as the winner of the Samsung Blu-ray Disc Player/DVD; and Mike Heatherly, a graduate of St. Bernard College, won the iPod Shuffle.

"Bloomin' Festival is not possible without the support of our sponsors," Nix said.

"A special thanks goes out to Pepsi, LeafFilter, Hendon & Huckestein, O.F. Richter & Sons, Inc.; Kassouf & Company, Merchants Bank, Cullman Jefferson Gas, Eidson & Associates, Cook's Pest Control; Wal-Mart Distribution Center 6006, Richard Electric and Regions Bank for their support."

All proceeds from the event benefit the operations of St. Bernard Prep School.

The 33rd Annual Bloomin' Festival will be held at St. Bernard Prep on April 22-23, 2017.

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BIG BAND BALLROOM DANCE SWINGS THROUGH HANCEVILLE

Wallace State Jazz Band holds annual event

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE– On Friday, April 15, the Wallace State Jazz Band held its annual Big Band Ballroom Dance in the atrium of the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts. People of all ages came out to enjoy the lovely music and dance the night away. It was the perfect way to spend the evening after a long work week.

"We do the Big Band Ballroom Dance each year as a fundraiser for our spring trip," said Ricky Burks, the band's director and head of the Wallace State Fine and Performing Arts program.

"We are not going anywhere this year, but it is a fundraiser for this ensemble so they can do different things during the year. To the best of my knowledge we have held this event for the 25 years that I have been here. I'm not exactly sure when it first started. Sometimes we incorporate it as an Alumni Band, which is always fun."

The Wallace State Jazz Band is an extremely talented group of students.

But what do we really know about them? Burks was gracious enough to take a minute during the break to tell us all about them.

"The Jazz Band is an auditioned group; it's a select ensemble," Burks explained.

"Our concert band and our concert choir are both mass ensembles that anyone that has playing or singing experience is able to be in. The singers and the jazz band are a more select group of students; they go through a tryout process just to get into the group. Both of those are kind of what we call flagship ensembles; they are the ones who are always out in the public sight representing the college, so we maybe hold their standards a little higher. It's a mixture of music majors and non-music majors. We've got folks in there that are nursing, engineering, everything. So it's a cross section of students.

"The jazz band has traveled all over the world. We've been to the Bahamas, Montreal and all over the United States," he smiled.

"They've played both coasts. We just finished our 14th performance at the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame. We're not members of the Jazz Hall of Fame, but we do have a listing on the wall. I guess you could call it recognition by the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame."

The WSCC Jazz Band and the WSCC Singers work well together.

The entire music department is considered to be a tight-knit group.

The students take pride in what they do and each group supports the other. Many of the singers were in attendance Friday night and it was obvious they had a blast!

"This is awesome! We came to the dance last year, too," said Haley Johnson, one of the WSCC Singers.

"The jazz band has been working on this for, I think, for a year. I think it's a fundraiser so it's awesome to support them because they supported the singers last year so we are supporting them. They are doing so great! Plus, it's fun to dance!"

Catch the jazz band next at The Homegrown Music Festival at WSCC on Saturday, April 30. For more information, visit http://qrne.ws/homegrown.



People young and old danced the night away at Wallace State Jazz Band's Big Band Ballroom Dance Friday night. SHARON SCHULER KREPS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

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Directions: From I-65S travel approx. 46.3 miles. Take the exit towards County Road 222 (Good Hope Exit) travel 0.2 miles. Take 24th Street SW and US-31S to College Drive NE in Hanceville, travel 0.8 miles. Turn left onto Cherokee Ave SW travel 0.2 miles. Turn right onto 24th St SW travel 2.1 miles. Turn right onto US-31S travel 5.0 miles. Turn left onto College Drive NE travel 0.2 miles. The property and sale site will be on the left. From Decatur, AL, follow US-Hwy. 31S. **Watch for our Holland signs!**

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NEWS FROM THE POND

Jimmie Dean Carnell
Contributor

HOLLY POND – Good morning Tribune readers and families. Another nice week of springtime has come and gone. I love the springtime, with warm days – cool nights and everything turning green. We received some rain, some sunshine and some dry weather this week.

The East Cullman Baptist Associational Senior Adults held their quarterly meeting on last Thursday at the Welcome Baptist Church. Mrs. Becky McAnnally, associational leader was in charge. The program was opened as usual by the musical portion presented by the Prime Time Singers under the direction of Mrs. Brenda Scott. Among the hymns the Prime Time sang were: "More about Jesus", "He Looked beyond My Fault", "Love Grew Where the Blood Fell", "He Whispers Sweet Peace", "Love is Why", and "Only Jesus Can Satisfy Your Soul". The featured speaker was Reverend Steve Sellers, a Cullman County native and now an official at the Decatur Campus of the Alabama Children's Home and Family Ministries. Reverend Steve brought an outstanding message. It is always good to see him and hear him tell stories and facts about some of the occupants of the Children's Home. Of course, he is apt to remind us about the blessed, wonderful and successful things that happen there. It truly is an outstanding ministry for several unfortunate children. He also recognized our representative from our association, who has been a great help to the home.

A special event is occurring on Sunday, April 24th at 2:00 p.m. at the Guy Hunt Library Conference Room, when the Holly Pond Historical Society will present, "Bloody Beat 22". This program will be presenting some of the interesting and tragic events that occurred in the Holly Pond area in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. Models of early Holly Pond buildings made by the late James Scott will also be on display in the museum. The public is invited to attend.

Get well wishes are extended to Mike Wisener in Cullman Regional Medical Center and Agnes Grimes who had a fall last week in her home.

The Alabama District North Civitan Clubs held their Spring District Meeting last Saturday, April 16th in the Nursing Education Building on the campus of Wallace State Community College in Hanceville. This building is one of the newest buildings on their campus and is extremely modern, 'high-tech' and beautiful. Special thanks to Wallace State for letting us hold our meeting in this new building. Hosts for these meeting included members of the Hanceville and Holly Pond Civitan Clubs. Walt Floyd, Governor of Alabama District North and a Holly Pond Civitan, presided at this meeting. The general meeting began at 10:00 a.m., with a luncheon at noon and workshops in the afternoon. This was a very enjoyable meeting. The next meeting will be in July at the Civitan International Convention in Norfolk, Virginia. The next district meeting will be held in Decatur the District Convention to be held in August.

The Holly Pond Homemakers Club has moved their April meeting to Tuesday, April 19th, because of the run-off election, and will journey to Birmingham for a tour of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. I'm sure this will be a very pleasant trip.

Until next week, stay cool, be safe and be well.

Presentations (from Front)

Music Festival on April 28-30 in Atlanta.

Permission was also given for two summer programs: The Child Nutrition Program will provide a Summer Food Service Program at West Elementary School during the summer of 2016. Cullman High School will conduct summer school sessions as follows: June 6-24, 2016 Monday – Thursday (Term 1) and July 6-26, 2016 Monday – Thursday (Term 2).

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be on Tuesday, May 17, at 6 p.m. in the Central Office board room.



SHARON SCHULER KREPS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Students from East Elementary School's archery team were recognized by the Cullman City School Board for their achievements this year. The team claimed the titles of County, Regional and State champions in the elementary division. They are now bound for Nationals in Louisville, KY May 12-14.

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 Larry D Williams Husband And Cindy J Williams Wife to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Cullman Savings Bank dated August 17, 2009; said mortgage <STRONG>transferred to Branch Banking and Trust Company</STRONG> being recorded in Book 1607, Page 4 in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama.
The undersigned, Branch Banking and Trust Company, 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 19th day of May, 2016 the following property, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:
Commence at the southwest corner of the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 14, Township 11 South, Range 2 West; thence South 89 degrees 45 minutes East 350 feet; thence North 0 degrees 20 minutes West 629 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue North 0 degrees 20 minutes West 133 feet; thence South 89 degrees 45 minutes East 344.8 feet; thence South 15 degrees 08 minutes West 88.1 feet; thence South 11 degrees 13 minutes 04 seconds West 47.73 feet; thence South 89 degrees 58 minutes West 309.3 feet to the true point of beginning and containing 1.0 acres, more or less. Said land lying and being in the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4. of Section 14, Township 11 South, Range 2 West.

Said property is commonly known as 130 County Road 5401, 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 Larry D Williams and Cindy J Williams 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.

BRANCH BANKING AND TRUST COMPANY
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. 914816
www.foreclosurehotline.net

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
4/14/2016 11:10 AM
25-JU-2014-000500.02
CIRCUIT COURT OF
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
LISA MCSWAIN, CLERK

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF)
)
) Case No.: JU-2014-000500.02
)
WILLIAMS ALIZABETH YVONNE)
)

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 Alizabeth Williams born on or about 07/30/2014 to Mikayla Williams, respond to the Petition by the 26 day of May, 2015, 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 14th day of April, 2016.

/s/ WELLS R. TURNER III
JUVENILE JUDGE

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In County - $40
- Senior Citizens - $37

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- Senior Citizens - $46



VALUATION NOTICE

The appraised valuations of all property listed for taxation in Cullman County have been fixed as provided by law and filed in my office according to Sec. 40-30-20, 1975 Code of Alabama. The Board of Equalization and Adjustment will hear protest on any of these valuations provided these protests are filed in writing by May 20, 2016.

Barry Willingham,
ACTA
Revenue
Commissioner
Board Secretary
Cullman County

PB WIL BK 75 PG 904 - 04/06/2016 10:23 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)
JANICE JOHNSON, Deceased,) CASE NO. PC8016-088

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to **ALLEN DOUGLAS JOHNSON**, Personal Representative on the estate of **JANICE JOHNSON** on the 5th day of April, 2016 by the **Honorable TAMMY BROWN**, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by the law or the same will be barred.

Gregory A. Johnson
Attorney for Petitioner
100 4th Avenue N.E.
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 739-0006

TO: Publisher of **The Cullman Tribune**

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

HONORABLE TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

PB WIL BK 75 PG 980 - 04/08/2016 08:55 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)
MAXINE D. COLLETT, Deceased,) CASE NO. PC2016-096

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to **AARON DAROLD COLLETT, MARY BOYD**, and **JOEL M. DRIVER,** Personal Representatives/Co-Executors, on the estate of **MAXINE D. COLLETT** on the 8th day of April, 2016 by the **Honorable TAMMY BROWN**, Judge of Probate Court of Cullman County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by the law or the same will be barred.

/s/ Gregory A. Johnson
Gregory A. Johnson
Attorney for Estate of Maxine D. Collett
100 4th Avenue N.E.
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 739-0006

TO: Publisher of **The Cullman Tribune**

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

Tammy Brown
HONORABLE TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

STATE OF ALABAMA IN THE PROBATE COURT

CULLMAN COUNTY CASE NO: PC2016-104

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ERIKA VERUS, AN INCAPACITATED PERSON

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PETITION FOR GUARDIANSHIP

TO: **THE NATURAL MOTHER OF ERIKA VERUS WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN**

Please take notice that the Probate Court of Cullman County shall hold a hearing on the above matter on **the 6TH day of MAY, 2016 AT 10:30 A.M.** in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, for the Petition Guardianship filed in said Court by CULLMAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT HUMAN RESOURCES. That any objection to the Petition for Guardianship should be known in writing and filed with this Court before the day and time of said hearing.

Dated this 19TH day of APRIL, 2016.

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice once a week for three (3) successive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

/S/ TAMMY BROWN
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

OF COUNSEL:
DIANE L. DUNNING
Assistant Attorney General
State of Alabama
Department of Human Resources
P.O. Box 13248
Birmingham, Alabama 35202-3248

Auction Notice

Contents of storage unit **B-7,** rented to **Kelly Cunningham,** on **January 30, 2015,** will be sold for auction for past due rent on **April 30, 2016** at **10:00 a.m**. Consisting of: children's furniture, clothing, assorted household goods.

Contents of storage unit **A-15**, rented to **Jonathan Reed,** on **June 6, 2015,** will be sold for auction for past due rent on **April 30, 2016**, at **10:00 a.m**. Consisting of: wooden table, wooden chairs, metal table, clothing.

Contents of storage unit **B-25**, rented to **Derek Sherill,** on **June 26, 2015,** will be sold for auction for past due rent on **April 30, 2016,** at **10:00 a.m.** Consisting of: assorted electrical equipment, service poles.

Your Extra Attic
c/o Werner's Trading Company
1115 4th Street, Southwest
Cullman, Alabama 35055

PB ADT BK 43 PG 750 - 04/04/2016 08:27 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY

STATE OF ALABAMA
CULLMAN COUNTY CASE NO.: AD2016-013

IN THE MATTER OF:
SHANIA RENE KRAFT,
A minor child.

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: AMANDA NATASHIA KRAFT AND THE UNKNOWN FATHER WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN

A PETITION FOR ADOPTION WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA BY PAMELA KAY BASINGER. IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS ADOPTION, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE LAST NOTICE OF PUBLICATION. YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE FILED WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONER, 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 4th DAY OF April, 2016.

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

ANNETTE IRONS-PARKER
Attorney for Petitioner
PARKER AND PARKER, P.C.
215 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256)775-4444

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on January 6, 2004 by Michael Wayne Yeager, a married man, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book 1364, Page 431 in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the following described property will be sold at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door of said County, in Cullman, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on May 11, 2016:

Commencing at the Southeast corner of the West half of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 15, Township 9 South, Range 1 West, Cullman County. Alabama; thence along the twenty line North a distance of 528 feet to the point of beginning. thence North 792 feet to a point; thence West 330 feet to a point; thence South 792 feet to a point; thence East 330 feet to the point of beginning, containing 6.0 acres more or less, lying and being in Cullman County. Alabama.

LESS AND EXCEPT: An easement for ingress and egress purposes being approximately twenty (20) feet evenly off the East margin of the aforementioned property.

RESTRICTIONS: No commercial poultry houses shall be permitted on the herein conveyed property.

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

EvaBank, Mortgagee
Dewayne N. Morris
Attorney for Mortgagee
2131 Third Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
The Cullman Tribune-April 20, 27, May 4, 2016

STATE OF ALABAMA)
)
COUNTY OF CULLMAN)

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

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

Date & Time of Sale: Monday, May 9, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.
Sale Location: Cullman County Courthouse East Entrance
500 Second Avenue, S.W.
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Writ of Execution Parties: Premier Bank of the South
vs.
Errol Day and Victoria Chambers
757 County Road 1135
Vinemont, Alabama 35179

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

The East ½ of the North ½ of the West ½ of the Southwest ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 36, Township 10 South, Range 2 West, containing 5 acres, more or less.

Source of title: Deed Book 416, Page 759 in the Probate Office in Cullman County, Alabama.

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

Dated this the 5th day of April, 2016.

BY: Matt Gentry, sheriff
Sheriff Matt Gentry

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE ESTATE OF)
BETTY JUNE KIMBRIL,) CASE NO.: CV 2014-26
DECEASED.)

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to a judgement in the above-styled cause rendered by the Honorable Martha Williams, Circuit Judge, on the 4th day of April, 2016, I, Lisa McSwain, Clerk of the Circuit Court, shall on Tuesday, the 3rd day of May, 2016, at 11:00 O'clock A.M., proceed to sell at public auction the following-described real estate at the West door of the Cullman County Courthouse in Cullman, Alabama, for cash to the best, highest, and last bidder: Two (2) of the seven (7) most western parcels of Lots 13, 14 and 15 of the Quail Ridge Subdivision located in Cullman County at 302 County Road 1258, as recorded in Map Book 7, Page 247 in the Office of Probate in Cullman County Alabama.

DONE this the 11th day of April, 2016.

Lisa McSwain
Circuit Court Clerk

Legal Notice

Pursuant to the provisions of the Alabama Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, Section 32-13-1, Code of Alabama, 1975, notice is hereby given to the owners, lienholders and other interested parties, the following described vehicles, to wit:
Year: 1988 Coachmen, Model: Classic Companion
VIN:
Tag:
Abandoned date: 04/11/2016

Was taken into possession and will be sold to the highest bidder for cash at: Smith Lake Park, 416 County Road 385, Cullman, Alabama 35057. Date of Sale: May 21, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. The seller shall have the right to reject any and all bids. (256) 739-2916

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on June 10, 2013 by Norman Keith Smith, A/K/A Keith Smith and wife, Wilma Smith, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book MTG 1710, Page 807 in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the following described property will be sold at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door of said County, in Cullman, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on May 11, 2016:

Commencing at the northwest corner of the NW ¼ of the SE ¼, Section 20, Township 9 South, Range 2 West; thence N 87° E 60 feet to the true point of beginning, said point being on the east right of way of the Goldridge Road; thence continue N 87° E 147.5 feet; thence S 18° E 150 feet; thence S 87° W 147.5 feet to a point on said right of way; thence N 18° W along said right of way 150 feet to the true point of beginning. Said land lying and being In the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 20, Township 9 South, Range 2 West, Cullman County, Alabama.

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

EvaBank, Mortgagee
Dewayne N. Morris
Attorney for Mortgagee
2131 Third Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
The Cullman Tribune-April 20, 27, May 4, 2016

PB WIL BK 76 PG 103 - 04/14/2016 04:08 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA IN THE PROBATE COURT

CULLMAN COUNTY CASE NO: PC2015-227

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF **DOLORES BROWN GOSSETT,** DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED
BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Ancillary Letters of Administration of said Deceased having been granted to **CATHY MATHIS**, as personal representative on the 13th day of April, 2016, by the Hon. TAMMY BROWN, Judge of Probate of Cullman County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

/S/ CATHY MATHIS
Executor/Personal Representative of the Estate of
DOLORES BROWN GOSSETT, Deceased

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on May 20, 2008 by Keith Smith and wife, Wilma Smith, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book MTG 1568, Page 347 in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the following described property will be sold at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door of said County, in Cullman, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on May 11, 2016:

Beginning at the Southeast corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 20,Township 9 South, Range 1 West; thence South 88 degrees 50 minutes 01 seconds West 1296.40 feet to on Iron ½ inch capped rebar set on the East right of way of County Road No.1583; thence North 0 degrees, 10 minutes 14 seconds West 787.90 feet to an iron ½ Inch capped rebar set on the East right of way of County Road No. 1583; thence North 86 degrees 56 minutes 57 seconds East 293.15 feet to an iron ½ inch capped rebar set; thence North 1 degree 03 minutes 35 seconds West 533 feet to an iron ½ inch capped rebar set on the South right of way of Highway 69; thence North 89 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds East 610.35 feet to a point on said right of way; thence North 89 degrees 05 minutes 10 seconds East 293.05 feet to an iron ½ inch capped rebar set on said right of way; thence South 0 degrees 19 minutes 08 seconds East 424.56 feet to an iron ½ inch capped rebar set, thence North 88 degrees 47 minutes 14 seconds East 105 feet to an iron ½ inch capped rebar set; thence South 0 degrees 19 minutes 04 seconds East 901.22 feet to an iron ½ inch capped rebar set back to the point of beginning. Said land lying the Northwest Quarter of Section 20, Township 9 South, Range, 1 West, Cullman County, Alabama.

Description obtained from that survey of James W. Baldy, dated November 4, 2003, AL. Reg. No. 11845. Subject to the easements, restrictive covenants and ad valorem taxes of record.

Source of Title: Deed Book 534 Page 586.

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

EvaBank, Mortgagee
Dewayne N. Morris
Attorney for Mortgagee
2131 Third Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
The Cullman Tribune-April 20, 27, May 4, 2016

Thursday

Spring Band Concert
Thursday, April 21, the sixth, seventh and eighth-grade band students from East and West Elementary Schools and Cullman Middle School will present their spring concert. 7 p.m. at the Cullman High School auditorium. Free admission.

Senior Spelling Bee
The Cullman County Commission on Aging's Senior Spelling Bee will be held Thursday, April 21 at 1 p.m. at the Cullman Senior Center- 1539 Sportsman Lake Road NW. Call to register by Thursday morning: 256-734-1241.

Autism Spirit Day
Thursday, April 21 at Chick-fil-A Cullman. 4-8 p.m. Must mention you support Autism Awareness to benefit autism and special needs community when you order. Dine-in or drive-thru. Call Rhonda, 256-962-2208 or Brittany, 256-595-4075 for more info.

Discovering Alabama's Dr. Doug Phillips to speak at WSCC
Wallace State Community College's Earth Day events will include Discovering Alabama's Dr. Doug Phillips, who will speak on Thursday, April 21, at 11:30 a.m., in room 219 of the School of Nursing and Center for Science. The event is free and open to the public.

Cullman Community Lions Club Meeting
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 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

2016 April Community Luncheon
Friday, April 22 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Chamber of Commerce monthly community luncheon at All-Steak Restaurant. Speaker: C.S. (Sean) Michael, Walkabout Production Group, LLC; Reservations required. If you would like to attend, please register by calling the Chamber office at 256-734-0454 or emailing info@cullmanchamber.org. 48-hour cancellation policy; $15 for Chamber Members & $20 for Future Members.

2016 Nursing Alumni Connection: Pharmacology Update
April 22 from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. The event is open to the public. Registration is $35 before April 20 and $40 at the door the day of the event. Participants may register at http://qrne.ws/pharma. For more information, call 256-352-8071. Fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, exhibit hall, breaks and six hours of CEU. Breakfast begins at 7:30 am with registration at 8 am. Bring your license so it may be scanned for CEU credit.

Sacred Heart Catholic School Presents "The Lion King Jr."
Friday, April 22, 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 23 at 7 p.m. at Stone Bridge Farms. Tickets are $5. Tickets may be purchased at the school office or at the door. For more information, call 256-734-4563.

Hanceville Farmer's Market
Opens Friday, April 22. 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Located at 200 Bangor Ave., Hanceville, Alabama 35077

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

America's Car-Mart All-Day Relay for Life Event
Saturday, April 23. Bake sale, rummage sale, cotton candy, raffles. WZYP will be live onsite from noon-2 p.m. 1634 Brantley Ave. NW

Community Yard Sale at Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center
Saturday, April 23. Indoor yard sale, rain or shine! Setup begins at 6 a.m. Sale begins at 7 a.m. Spots are $10 each. Call 256-739-4959 for more information.

Smith Lake Environmental Preservation Committee Meeting
Meeting is in Dodge City at the Iron Skillet Restaurant on Saturday, April 23 at 9 a.m. The meeting is open to public. Everyone is welcome to attend.

East Cullman Baptist Association BBQ Meal Fundraiser
The East Cullman Baptist Association will be hosting a BBQ Meal Fundraiser at the Goldridge Community Center on County Road 1545 on Saturday, April 23, from 4-7 p.m. BBQ is from none other than Mad Dog Mike's Famous Bar B Que. Cost is $10 per person. All proceeds will be used to purchase tools and supplies to be used on ECBA Construction Mission trips. For more info, please call 256-737-9918. Tickets for meal are on sale at the East Cullman Baptist Association Office, 341 AL Hwy 157, Cullman. (across from Yutaka plant).

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/.

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."

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.

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.

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 and in-need veterans. Volunteers are needed and donations are accepted. See Facebook page "SFW" 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

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.

Monday

Cullman City Council Meeting
Monday, April 25 at 7 p.m. in the Cullman City Hall Auditorium

Good Hope City Council Meeting
Monday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Good Hope City Hall

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.

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

Cullman County Commission Meeting
Tuesday, April 26 at 10 a.m. in the Commission office conference room, first floor, Cullman County Courthouse, unless otherwise specified.

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

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.

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.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

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.

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.-2 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.

Strawberry Festival Senior Day
Friday, May 6, from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. Will include Leiper's Fork Bluegrass Band, Bingo and a free sack lunch for the first 300 senior citizens. Located across from the Festhalle at 209 First Ave. NE. For more information, contact Angie Jochum at 256-734-4803.

Spring Upcycle Art Exhibition underway at WSCC
Wallace State Community College's Arts in April celebration is underway with the Spring Upcycle Art Exhibition. Works of art created by area citizens are on display on the second floor of the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts. Many of the pieces use recycled materials. The exhibition is free and open to the public through April 30.

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.

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 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.

Special Olympics Fundraiser
Law enforcement officers will be conducting their biggest fundraiser of the year for Special Olympics at the Cullman Wal-Mart on Olive Street on April 29-30, from 8 a.m.- 8 p.m.

Cullman County Alabama Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics
On Tuesday, May 3, the seventh annual Cullman County Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics will take off from the Cullman County Courthouse at 9 a.m., with officers from the Cullman County Sheriff's Office and the Cullman Police Department racing their way toward Cullman High School's Oliver Woodard Stadium, where the Special Olympics will take place. Stay up-to-date at http://qrne.ws/so.

Special Olympics
Tuesday, May 3 at Cullman High School's Oliver Woodard Stadium. Events start at 9:30 a.m.

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

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.

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.

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.

Little Mister & Miss Cullman County Pageant
Sunday, May 29 at 3 p.m. at the Cullman Civic Center. Deadline for entries is Sunday, May 15. http://www.divineroyaltypageants.com/cullman-county-pageant.html

Cullman Spring Cleanup Week
May 2-6. A FREE service for all City of Cullman Sanitation customers! FREE pickup of large items- old appliances, furniture, mattresses, etc. Just place the items curbside on your normal trash day that week. Batteries, tires, chemicals, rocks, concrete or other building materials not included.

The Link of Cullman County's 2016 Reverse the Cycle Sprint Triathlon
Saturday, June 18 at Smith Lake Park; INDIVIDUAL RACE: 3-MILE RUN, 7-10-MILE BIKE RIDE and 200-YD POOL SWIM; KID'S RACE (up to 15 years): 1-MILE RUN, 2-MILE BIKE RIDE and 50-YD POOL SWIM. For more info: http://linkingcullman.org/reversethecyclesprinttriathlon/

Ground Zero Men's Conference-Center for Rapid, Intense Change
Saturday, May 7, 8:30 a.m.-noon at WSCC School of Nursing Building. This conference will empower males, ages 10 and up, to be the men God has created them to be in an effort to help them understand the importance of their leadership role and involvement in the home, the family and the community. The event will provide tools to guide them as they walk through the struggles of daily life and give them a support group to move forward as they strengthen our community. Speakers: Mark "Oz" Geist, member of the Annex Security Team that fought the Battle of Benghazi and co-author of "13 Hours: The Inside Account of What Really Happened in Benghazi."; Chette Williams, chaplain for Auburn University Football and campus director for Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Jerry Lawson, Lead Pastor, Daystar Church serving multiple communities throughout North Alabama. http://qrne.ws/zero

Busy Bee Café Annual Reopening Celebration
On Saturday, April 30, starting at 6 p.m., the Busy Bee Café will hold what has become an annual celebration of its reopening back in 2012 after being destroyed by the tornadoes of April 2011. Festivities will include live music from Tres Locos.

Good Hope Decoration
Good Hope Public Cemetery will hold its annual Decoration Weekend on Saturday, April 30 and, Sunday May 1. Request all flowers and decorations be removed from the Good Hope Public Cemetery by Sunday, April 24. Any flowers and decorations remaining after April 24 will be subject to removal by Cemetery maintenance with respect to condition. Additionally, all graves with grave edging must have the edging and internal grave area appropriately cut and maintained by the family. Graves not properly maintained with edging will have their edging removed on Wednesday, April 27 and cut by Cemetery maintenance. The removed edging will not be replaced.

City of Cullman Municipal Election
August 23, the election for City of Cullman mayor, council and school board will be held August 23. For more information on the upcoming municipal election contact the City Clerk's office.

Cross Baptist Church Singing
The Freedom Quartet will be at Cross Baptist Church, on Saturday, April 30, at 6 p.m. A love offering will be accepted. For more information, call 256-990-6345.

Wallace State hosting Homegrown Music Festival
As part of its 50th Anniversary Celebration, Wallace State Community College is hosting its first Homegrown Music Festival featuring family-oriented musical entertainment, food, games and activities. The event will be held on Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts, with scheduled performances by Tangerine Tambourine, Wallace State Singers, Wallace State Jazz Band, WSCC Concert Choir, WSCC Concert Band, Round 2, Three on a String, Edd Jones Orchestra. Admission is free. Food trucks will be on site as well as student clubs and organizations. For information, contact Stefany Pate at 256-352-8277 or stefany.pate@wallacestate.edu.

2016 Hanceville Fish-O-Rama
The Kids' Fish-O-Rama will be April 30 and the Senior Citizens' Fish-O-Rama will be May 6. The fishing pond will be stocked as soon as the fish come in.

Fairview High School Band Community Yard Sale
May 7 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fairview Town Park. Multi-family donations. Something for everyone! All proceeds go toward purchasing new band uniforms. Booth spaces are $10. For more information or to donate, call or text Michelle at 256-531-2548 or Julie at 256-531-6504. fairviewbandboosterclub@gmail.com

Cross Baptist Singing
There will be a gospel singing at Cross Baptist Church on April 30 at 6 p.m. Featured singers are Freedom Quartet. For more information, call 256-990-6345 or 256-297-0645.

Hanceville Funeral Home
100 Michelle Street Northwest,
Hanceville, Alabama 35077
(256) 352-3130

CLASSIFIEDS

AUCTIONS

WAYNE BROCK Estate Auction live and online bidding April 30th, 10AM, 900 Asaville Church Road, Anderson, SC Farm Liquidation joeymartinauctioneers.com, 1-864-940-4800 for more information.

SERVICES

DIVORCE WITH or without children $125. Includes name change and property settlement agreement. Save hundreds. Fast and easy. Call 1-888-733-7165, 24/7.

SWITCH TO DIRECTV and get a $300 gift card. Free whole-home Genie HD/DVR upgrade. Starting at $19.99/mo. New customers only. Don't settle for cable. Call now 1-800-988-5676.

WANT YOUR ad to be seen in 123 newspapers statewide? Place your ad in our Classified Network for just $210 per week! Make one call to this newspaper (a participating ALA-SCAN member) or call 1-800-264-7043 to find out how easy it is to advertise statewide!

HELP WANTED-DRIVERS ATTN: DRIVERS - $2K Sign-On Bonus. Recent pay increase. Make over $60,000 your first year! Newer KW T660 and T680's. CDL-A required. 1-877-258-8782. drive4melton.com.

ATTN: NEW Driver Trainees needed now! $800-$1000 a week avg. + benefits. 15-day CDL Training available. Some programs no credit check. Call 1-800-878-2546.

HELP WANTED-SALES

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OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

APRIL 12 - 19

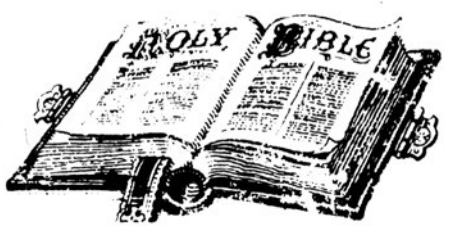
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Sheree Diane Steele
Service held April 12 at Moss Service Funeral Home
David Ray Pinyan
Service held April 12 at Blountsville Funeral Home
Brad Martin Colburn
Service held April 12 at Moss Service Funeral Home
Douglas Wade Hester
Service held April 13 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home
Joyce Lucas
Service held April 13 at Lemley Funeral Home
Hugh Eben Shivers
Service held April 14 at Moss Service Funeral Home
Betty Jean Goggans
Service held April 15 at Moss Service Funeral Home
Clara Lovett
Entered into rest April 15; Nichols Funeral Home directing
Willie Jeanodell McMellon
Service held April 16 at Moss Service Funeral Home
Sybil Kathleen Davis
Service held April 16 at Moss Service Funeral Home
Jeremy Wayne Harris
Service held April 16 at Cullman Funeral Home
Flossie Courington
Service held April 16 at Nichols Funeral Home
Mary Louise "Lucy" Campbell
Service held April 17 at Moss Service Funeral Home
Marville "Bud" Wisner
Service held April 18 at Moss Service Funeral Home
Clara "Pug" Jewanda Lovett
Service held April 18 at Nichols Funeral Home
Talmadge "Junior" Thrasher
Passed away April 18; Holly Pond Funeral in charge of arrangements **Harvey Owen Knight**
Service held on April 20 at Hanceville Funeral Home
Dorothy Dean Gable Davis
Service held on April 20 at Holly Pond Funeral Home
Buddy Wayne Glover
Service held on April 21 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home

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Run (from Front)

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Tuesday, May 3, the seventh annual Cullman County Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics will take off from the Cullman County Courthouse at 9 a.m., with officers from the Cullman County Sheriff's Office and the Cullman Police Department racing their way toward Cullman High School's Oliver Woodard Stadium, where the Special Olympics will take place.

The Special Olympics will begin at 9:30 a.m.

The torch run will feature students Stormie Brock from Cullman City Schools and Taylor Auston from Cullman County Schools, according to Lt. Rex Sorrow with the CCSO.

Sorrow, who was instrumental in getting Cullman's law enforcement community involved with the Special Olympics, first got involved with Special Olympics himself back in 1992, when he was working for the Oneonta Police Department.

"What started out as 10 to 15 participants now ranges in the 30s for our local run," said Sorrow.

"However, the state run will normally range from 50-60 participants."

The CPD and CCSO will be at the Cullman Wal-Mart on Olive Street on April 29-30 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. both days to raise money for the Special Olympics. It is the group's biggest fundraiser of the year.

The torch run is to show enthusiasm and support for the Special Olympics athletes, as well as to bring awareness to the Special Olympics themselves.

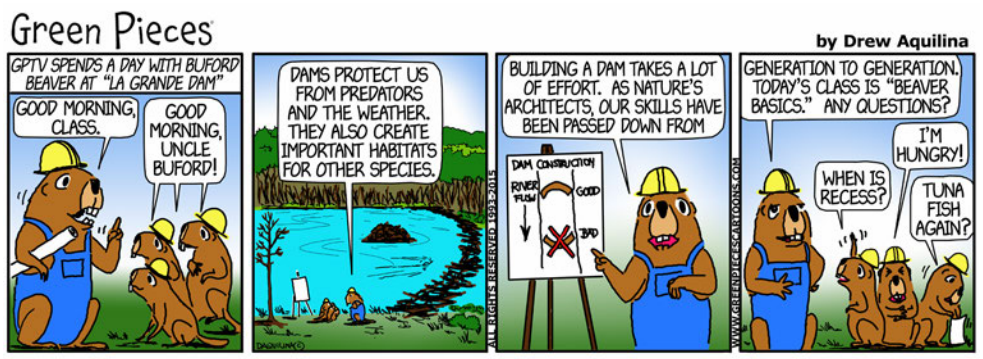
The runners are the "guardians of the flame" and carry the Special Olympics torch with them on the run, similar to the way the Olympic torch is carried before the start of the Olympic Games.

"These runs are not races and are basically a slow jog to bring awareness to Special Olympics and also to hand off the torch to one of our Special Olympic athletes," Sorrow said.

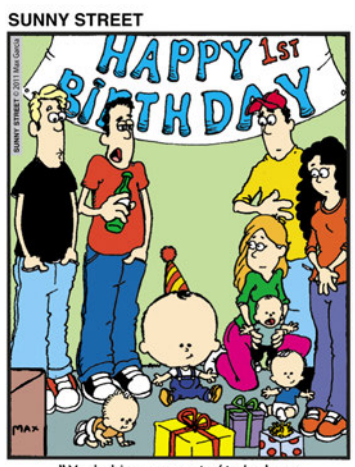
T-shirts for this year's torch run are available for purchase at the CPD and CCSO offices.

For more information about the torch run, check out http://qrne.ws/torchrun.

COMICS







"Yeah, his mom *wanted* to be here.



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POET'S CORNER

Memorial events beginning in April and lasting through June gives us opportunity to show honor to our love ones who have passed before us. I cherish this time each year to place flowers upon the graves of those I trust to see again. The following poem is by a dear friend of mine and captures the importance of paying tribute to these precious memories. Glynn Gattis and his wife Beverly are both poets and live in Odenville Alabama.

FADING MEMORIES

The Rustic Gate in the crumbling old
wall caught my eye,
The tombstone standing out, begging
to not be forgotten,
Like the others, whose names
are visible no more,
Memories faded away.
I strained to read the name, Thomas Butler,
The dates even harder to discern,
Born, 1840-something;
Died, is it 1920-something?
"Something" - because they're fading
away.
Nearly one hundred " something " years,
Erases the lives of those who knew
Of the life of Thomas Butler,
All their memories faded away.
My own life will all too soon be o'er,
Then I will join all those who
have gone before,
And when all the tears fade away,
All that is left here, are
Memories fading away.

By: Glynn Gattis • Odenville Ala.

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OPINION

BEYOND TRANSPARENCY, WE NEED ACCOUNTABILITY

Lee H. Hamilton
Contributor

Over more than three decades in Congress, I had the chance to question a lot of federal officials. Most of the time I wasn't after anything dramatic — I just wanted to understand who was responsible for certain decisions. Want to know how often I got a straight answer? Almost never.

It was easily one of the most frustrating aspects of trying to ensure robust oversight of the government. Our representatives' job, after all, is to help make government work better. And you can't do that if you don't know whom to hold accountable for important decisions. I don't want to be unfair to officials in the executive branch, many of whom are dedicated public servants who work long hours to serve the rest of us. But they have raised to an art form the ability to dodge responsibility.

This is a problem. Accountability is essential to good governance. I'm not just talking about "transparency" — that is, citizens' ability to know what's being done in our name. That's important, but equally important is holding accountable those who made the decision to do it: ensuring that they are accountable to policymakers, adhere to their obligations, follow the law, and that their actions are appropriate and responsive to the needs of the country.

This may be part and parcel of good governing, but it's elusive. Accountability requires that officials step up and take responsibility for their decisions, and not try to shift that responsibility to others or to some ill-defined group. It requires unambiguous performance standards, clear codes of ethics, timely reporting, and acceptance of responsibility, especially with regard to budget or spending decisions.

It's sustained by procedures that encourage responsible stewardship of public funds and a focus on correcting inefficiencies and poor performance. And above all, it rests on robust oversight and review of officials' performance, not only within the executive branch, but also by Congress and the media.

So how do we get there?

The first step is to make information available to the public, especially when it comes to budgeting. Government performance rests on how it spends the public's money.

Yet making sure that people see and hear what government is doing only promotes transparency. It's taking the next step, and ensuring that there's a clear command and control structure, that promotes accountability. Without clarity on who's in charge of what and who's responsible for which decisions, it becomes too easy for officials to remain unanswerable for their actions.

Clear lines of authority mean nothing unless the deciding officials are identified and measured against what actually takes place. No official, in other words, should be without accountability for his or her decisions, which means that executive agencies and Congress alike need to perform regular and robust oversight. Regular audits focused on inefficiencies, waste, and poor performance are critical. Officials need to give a full account of what they do and the decisions they make.

As a nation, we face a growing issue on this front when it comes to federal contractors — that is, the private workforce doing jobs for federal agencies. The government itself doesn't know how many contract employees it has, but the Washington Post reported last year that federal spending on contracts grew 87 percent — or about 5 percent a year — between 2000 and 2012. This is a problem because it creates an accountability vacuum. There are very few mechanisms for holding contractors responsible for their errors, abuses and missteps.

Which is why I noted above that the media is as important as Congress and internal government overseers. We as citizens depend on the media to tell us what's going on in the entire system: within the bureaucracy, in the behavior of contractors, and among legislators who ought to be overseeing both but often don't. This is a key public responsibility, and the press needs to be staffed and have access to the resources to do a good job — which, these days, is increasingly rare.

Accountability, in other words, is key to good government. All I wanted to know in those congressional hearings was who made the decision about the public's business. Is that too much to ask?

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar, IU School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

EDITORIAL

Sack Shirts, Skirts And Dresses

Bill King
Tribune Contributor

My parents lived through the great depression. Dad was thirteen and mom was seven when the market crashed in 1929. They knew the feeling of doing without. Their families grew most of their food, including vegetables and meat, so they didn't go hungry. They rarely had store bought items such as sugar, tea, and coffee. Bananas were unheard of and they might have oranges at Christmas, along with a stick of peppermint candy, but no other time during the year. They owned few clothes and only one pair of shoes at a time. When warm weather arrived they went barefoot. Most of their clothes were home-sewn. Many of those were fashioned from cloth sacks.

Back then items such as flour, sugar, seed, feed, and fertilizer came in cloth bags. In the south cotton was king so cotton cloth was common and cheap. Many companies packaged the goods they sold in cloth sacks rather than the wooden barrels or crates that had been used in earlier years. Poorer families fashioned shirts and dresses from these sacks.

When companies first began to use sacks, back in the 1800s, they were mostly white except for perhaps the company name or logo printed on them. High fashion may have included a white dress or shirt with Martha White Flour written across it!

By the 1920s mills began to make sacks in printed fabrics. Suddenly fashion rose to a new level! The number of sacks required for a shirt or a dress depended on the size of the wearer.

A dress might require material from two or three sacks. Once they started an outfit, Mamas hoped to be able get enough of the same print to finish it. If a young lady had put on too many extra pounds someone might say, "I'll bet that dress took five sacks – bless her heart!" If the dress was too short someone might say, "She should have waited for one more bag of flour for that dress!"

I did not grow up with wealth but I must confess that I have never worn a sack shirt or pants. My clothes were store bought, mostly from one of the Williams brother's stores. Well, there was that one time when a traveling clothes salesman came by our house but that's a story for another column.

Billy Bob's Bohannon's Uncle Lonzo had grown tired of wearing those sack shirts. He saved up enough money to go into town to buy a shirt. He put on his best homemade shirt and strutted into Ned Jenkins General Store like he owned the place. He told Mr. Jenkins he had come to purchase, "A factory made store bought shirt." Ole Mr. Jenkins asked, "Son, what size shirt do you wear?"

Uncle Lonzo didn't have a clue as to his size. Eventually he said, "I guess about a three sacker." Mr. Jenkins grinned as he picked up a shirt, looked at the label inside and said, "This one is a 16." Then Uncle Lonzo said, "Oh," then looked on the inside of that fertilizer sack shirt he had on, and said, "This one is a 13-13-13!"

Some people may have viewed those sacks as worthless and threw them away once they had emptied them of their contents. Others realized the sack's material could be reused and fashioned into something worthwhile.

Kind of reminds me of myself. There was a time when I was little more than an empty shell but then God refashioned me and made me into something brand new – a new creation – one bought with a price.

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CITY OF CULLMAN HONORS MR. DELTON BLALOCK

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – At the April 11 Cullman City Council meeting, Mr. Delton Blalock, longtime owner and editor of The Cullman Tribune, was honored with an official resolution.

Cullman Mayor Max A. Townson presented the framed resolution, 2016-64, to Blalock as a commemoration of Blalock's retirement and as an expression of commendation and appreciation for Blalock's contributions to the City of Cullman.

"Mr. Blalock has now retired, and on April 1, 2016, the Cullman Tribune changed ownership; but Mr. Blalock will forever be associated with this historic business and will forever be a part of Cullman's history."

Please join us in honoring Delton Blalock as we begin our journey as The Cullman Tribune.

His are some mighty big shoes to fill.



EMILY DURDEN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

WEST POINT TOWN COUNCIL MEETS, UPDATES ON NEW FIRE STATION, STORM SHELTER AND 157 PROJECT

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

WEST POINT – A regular West Point Town Council meeting was held on Monday night, and the biggest topics of the night were the new fire station and storm shelter, as well as the Alabama Highway 157 turn lane project.

Coming soon to the old Doris Diner location on Highway 157 are the new West Point Volunteer Fire Department station and Community Storm Shelter No. 2. The fire station is tentatively scheduled to be finished by the end of July. The storm shelter is expected to be complete by the end of June.

West Point Mayor Kenneth Kilgo met with the town's fire chief to discuss the progress on the new fire station. The West Point Volunteer Fire Department contracted with Randy Powe of Powe General Contracting, LLC to pour the foundation of the new station. Kilgo said he requested that Powe go ahead and pour the foundation for the storm shelter, but it wasn't possible.

Safety Shelter, the company responsible for the new storm shelter, claims they have to be the ones to pour the new pad due to special specification; however, this was not the case when the company installed the first shelter for the town.

Discussion began on the Alabama Highway 157 turn lane project. A meeting will take place on Wednesday morning, April 20, between Kilgo, the Alabama Department of Transportation and the developer. Kilgo encouraged all of the council members to attend.

The town is hoping to secure the turn lane to attract developers off Highway 157.

PALS Community Cleanup is slated for Saturday, April 23. A dumpster will be placed in front of the park's maintenance building, which will be out of the way of the baseball crowds at the park. PALS supplies bags. Anyone who needs bags should come by town hall to pick them up.

A tractor belonging to the County is being transferred from the Town of Colony to West Point. According to Kilgo, he met with Joe Perry, head of the County's maintenance department, and was told that the tractor had been sitting unused for three years until the County picked it up and serviced it. Since then, the tractor has sat unused for another two and a half years. Kilgo met with County Commissioner Garry Marchman, who said he would notify County Commission Chairman Kenneth Walker that Marchman approved the transfer and have the tractor taken to West Point.

The council discussed the State's decision to keep the State Surplus Store in Eva open. It was scheduled to close last year, but will remain open the remainder of the year.

West Point Park Maintenance Director Wesley Laney and Councilman Darion Daniels were praised for all of the hard work and time they put in at the ballpark.

The West Point Town Council meets on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at West Point Town Hall. Meetings are open to the public.

CHS NAMED 18TH BEST PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN ALABAMA

Wendy Sack, U.S News & World Report

CULLMAN – U.S. News & World Report released its annual ranking of public high schools on Tuesday, and in the state of Alabama, Cullman High School came in at 18th and was awarded a silver medal based on state assessment performance, graduation rates and college preparedness. Nationally, CHS ranked 1,839th.

The Best High Schools rankings, featuring top-performing schools at the national and state level, evaluate data on more than 21,500 public high schools to identify which schools are best at preparing students for college and careers. U.S. News recognizes high schools with gold, silver and bronze medals, with gold medals indicating the greatest level of college readiness.

Available exclusively on usnews.com, the Best High Schools rankings feature data on a number of factors, including enrollment; graduation rates; diversity; participation in free and reduced-price lunch programs; and the results of state assessments, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests.

In the Student/Teacher category, CHS has a total enrollment of 867, with 55 full-time teachers.

In the Test Scores category, the school's college readiness index was reported as 29.8, based on student performance. Perhaps most impressive is the graduation rate of 95 percent. Also, 47 percent of the student body participates in Advanced Placement courses.

"This is the first time CHS has made the U.S. News list of Best High Schools in America. To be ranked in the top five percent in Alabama and top ten percent in the U. S. is a tribute to our teachers and students," said Principal Dr. Elton Bouldin.

"They ensure that's Cullman High School provides an amazing learning experience every day."

U.S. News worked with RTI International, a global research firm, to implement the comprehensive rankings methodology.

"RTI implemented the U.S. News comprehensive rankings methodology, which is based on these key principles: that a great high school must serve all of its students well, not just those who are college bound, and that it must be able to produce measurable academic outcomes to show it is successfully educating its student body across a range of performance indicators."

Top 25 High Schools in Alabama, as ranked by U.S. News:

1. Loveless Academic Magnet Program (Montgomery)
2. Booker T. Washington (Montgomery)
3. Mountain Brook High School (Mountain Brook)
4. Huntsville High School (Huntsville)
5. Homewood High School (Homewood)
6. Bob Jones High School (Madison)
7. Virgil Grissom High School (Huntsville)
8. Spain Park High School (Hoover)
9. Ramsay High School (Birmingham)
10. New Century Tech Demo High School (Huntsville)
11. Oak Mountain High School (Birmingham)
12. Auburn High School (Auburn)
13. Hewitt-Trussville High School (Trussville)
14. Vestavia Hills High School (Vestavia Hills)
15. Brewbaker Technology Magnet High School (Montgomery)
16. Hartselle High School (Hartselle)
17. James Clemens High School (Madison)
18. Cullman High School (Cullman)
19. Sparkman High School (Harvest)
20. Hoover High School (Hoover)
21. Athens High School (Athens)
22. Jacksonville High School (Jacksonville)
23. Muscle Shoals High School (Muscle Shoals)
24. Chelsea High School (Chelsea)
25. Wetumpka High School (Wetumpka)

For details on the Alabama rankings, see http://qrne.ws/alabama.

For a comprehensive explanation on RTI's methodology, see http://qrne.ws/rti. To see the press release from U.S. News, see http://qrne.ws/rankings.

MAYOR PROCLAIMS RELAY FOR LIFE DAY AND PAINT THE TOWN PURPLE DAYS IN CULLMAN

Leanne West
Office of Max A. Townson

CULLMAN – On Friday, April 15, Mayor Max A. Townson proclaimed May 6, 2016, "Relay for Life Day" and May 1-6, 2016, "Paint the Town Purple Days" in the City of Cullman to help raise awareness of the upcoming Cullman Relay for Life event and the American Cancer Society's ongoing fight against cancer.

Relay for Life began in May 1985 when Dr. Gordy Klatt walked and ran for 24 hours around a track in Tacoma, Washington, raising $27,000 for the American Cancer Society to help fight cancer.

From that event, the Relay for Life movement has grown into a worldwide phenomenon, raising nearly $5 billion to fight cancer and a symbol of the emotional commitment each of us can make in the fight against cancer.

The American Cancer Society is making progress toward a world without cancer. Fundraising and awareness campaigns help them in their fight against every birthday threatened by every cancer in every community.

"We are fortunate to have people in our community who work to educate the public about cancer, and who plan and promote events like Relay for Life to help raise funds for the American Cancer Society," said Mayor Townson.

"Relay for Life is a very important event each year in Cullman, and I encourage all of our citizens to take part or support the events that will be taking place."

In the days and weeks leading up to the Relay for Life event at the Cullman County Fairgrounds, businesses throughout Cullman are asked to Paint the Town Purple by displaying purple ribbons on their doors.

Then, on May 6, 2016, the Relay for Life event will be held at the Cullman County Fairgrounds to celebrate local cancer survivors.

On hand to accept the proclamation from Mayor Townson were Haley Marecle, Helen Allen, Gail Crutchfield, Shirley Wise and Linda Walker.