The Cullman Tribune

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SHARON KREPS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

LINDA DEGROOT TAKES 1ST PLACE IN SENIOR SPELLING BEE P16

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NATIONAL AG DAY CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT COUNTY

Dr. Amber L. Adams
Cullman County Schools Child Nutrition Director

CULLMAN – The Cullman Farm City committee worked in tandem with the Cullman County Commission and Cullman County Schools Child Nutrition Program (CNP) recently to organize events to celebrate National Ag Day on March 15, 2016.

National Ag Day is a day to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture P6



DR. AMBER L. ADAMS

Fairview School students filled this pickup truck with more than 1,470 pounds of food for Cullman Caring for Kids as part of the National Ag Day celebration March 15.



HANCEVILLE FARMER'S MARKET

HANCEVILLE'S FARMER'S MARKET ENJOYS OPENING WEEKEND P7

OUTPOURING OF PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR CHS PRINCIPAL, VICE PRINCIPAL P3

JESSE NEWSOM APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF TOURISM AT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE P2

FORMER CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOODY JACOBS RUNNING FOR MAYOR P6

FIVE YEARS LATER

Remembering April 27, 2011



PHOTO COURTESY JENNIFER MYERS

P8

Cullman County Sheriff's Deputy Stephen Thomas Receives Commendation in Montgomery

Deputy honored for saving the lives of a fellow Deputy and others in December 2014

Bradley Williams
CCSO



BRADLEY WILLIAMS

Alabama Rep. Corey Harbison, R-Good Hope; Alabama Rep. Howard Sanderford, R-Huntsville; Cullman County Sheriff's Deputy Stephen Thomas; Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry; Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley and Alabama Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview

MONTGOMERY - Cullman County Sheriff's Deputy Stephen Thomas was honored today at the 2016 Alabama Legislative Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement event during a joint session of the Alabama Legislature P16



JOSH MCBRAYER/CULLMAN TRIBUNE

KOBE SMITH TAKES HIS GAME TO THE NEXT LEVEL, SIGNS WITH HUNTINGDON COLLEGE P4

MUNICIPALITY NEWS

CRANE HILL: NEW SENIOR CENTER AND CCSO FIELD STATION DISCUSSED AT MEETING

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

CRANE HILL – On Thursday, April 21, Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry held a public meeting and community social at the Crane Hill Volunteer Fire Department.

After the free drinks and grilled hot dogs were eaten, Gentry spoke about the land that was purchased in the Crane Hill community across from the fire department.

In the very near future, a new building will be built on the land and will be used as a Cullman County Sheriff's Office field station and a new Crane Hill Senior Center.

"In the last five years, our call volume has increased at the Sheriff's Office over 40 percent," said Gentry.

"Right now at the Sheriff's Office we are receiving about 117 calls a day for service that our deputies are answering. Our goal is to provide the best service to the citizens that we can, but how can we do that? How can we keep our deputies in their area to serve the needs of the community?"

The Sheriff's Office has divided Cullman County into seven districts.

There are two field offices now, one in Baileyton and one in Good Hope.

There is a major need for a field office to serve the western district of our county.

"Right now, when deputies need to turn in reports or when they need to meet people from time to time or lots of other things, they have to drive to Good Hope or the Sheriff's Office in town. If they are on the P16

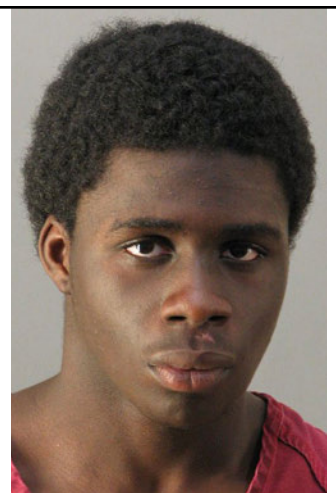
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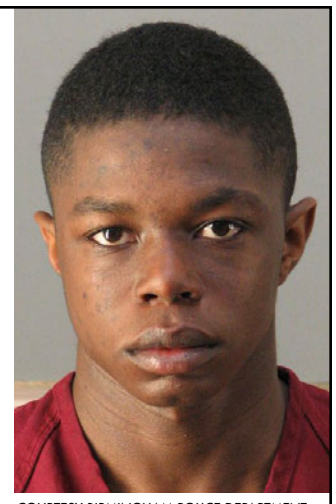
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2 TEENAGERS CHARGED WITH CAPITAL MURDER IN DEATH OF CULLMAN MAN IN BIRMINGHAM

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmansense.com





COURTESY BIRMINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

BIRMINGHAM – Vershawn Edwards, 17, and Horayshio Fletcher, 17, have been arrested and charged with capital murder in the homicide of James Bennefield, 46, of Cullman. They are being held without bond at the Jefferson County Jail.

Officers from the Birmingham Police Department responded to a shots fired call at 11:47 a.m. Wednesday on Lomb Avenue Southwest in Birmingham to find Cullman resident Bennefield deceased on the scene.

"On Wednesday, April 20, 2016 around 11:47 a.m., officers from the West Precinct responded to the listed location on a person down," said Lt. Sean Edwards, public information officer for BPD. "Officers observed the victim lying on the ground in the driveway suffering from what appeared to be gunshot wounds to the body."

Edwards stated that Birmingham Fire and Rescue pronounced Bennefield deceased.

As far as a motive, Edwards stated on Wednesday, "Investigators learned the victim might have been in an altercation with someone right before he was shot. According to a witness, while she was inside her residence she heard people outside arguing around 10 p.m. last night and later heard several gunshots. The next morning, the witness found the victim lying next to her car in the driveway around 11:30 a.m. and immediately notified police."

According to WBRC FOX6 News, Cleopatra Hogan lives in the 1500 block of Lomb Avenue. She said she was on the phone when she heard some men arguing around 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 19. Shortly afterward, she heard a couple of gunshots.

Hogan didn't call police on Tuesday night or look outside to see what was happening. When she was leaving her house for church on Wednesday morning, she found the body of a white male in her driveway, Birmingham Police Lt. Sean Edwards said.

Hogan said she thinks the victim tried to knock on her door for help but didn't make it.

According to a BPD media release that was issued late this afternoon, West Precinct Task Force officers were able to locate the victim's truck several hours later on Powderly Avenue SW. Officers attempted to stop the truck on 24th Street Southwest, but the suspects refused to stop. After a short pursuit the vehicle turned into Cooper Green Park, where the driver lost control of the truck and struck a tree. The suspects exited the vehicle running and were immediately apprehended by West Precinct officers.

"This homicide shows the multiple issues we face with violent crime. Here we have two young men, one out on bond for another crime, committing a senseless act of violence. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victim's family and yet we cannot forget about the potential of these young men that has now been wasted," said Birmingham Police Chief A.C. Roper.

For background, see http://www.cullmansense.com/articles/2016/04/20/cullman-man-found-deceased-lomb-avenue-birmingham.

CHAMBER NEWS

JESSE NEWSOM APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF TOURISM

Wendy Sack
wendyu@cullmansense.com



Jesse, Natalie, Jack and Jenna Kate Newsom CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CULLMAN – The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center yesterday announced the appointment of Jesse Newsom as its new director of tourism.

According to a media release from the Chamber, "Jesse comes to us with more than eight years of experience in the tourism industry, having served at the Fayetteville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau since 2012. He has expertise in sports marketing, economic impact collection, ROI feasibility bidding, database collection and management specific to tourism."

Newsom holds a bachelor's degree in Recreation Administration from Middle Tennessee State University and has certifications in numerous tourism and marketing fields.

"The Chamber Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Jesse and his family. We expect his vast experience and background will help take the visitors center in new and exciting directions," said Sammie Danford, Chamber chair.

Chamber President Leah Bolin shared, "We are fortunate to have Jesse join our team as we continue our efforts to promote the Cullman Area."

Newsom and his wife Natalie have two children, 4-year-old Jack and 18-month-old Jenna Kate.

Newsom will begin his new role with the Chamber on May 31.

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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OUTPOURING OF PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR CHS PRINCIPAL, VICE PRINCIPAL

Community rallies around educators

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Last week the community was stunned when Cullman High School Principal and Assistant Principal Dr. Elton Bouldin and Mark Stephens were arrested for third-degree criminal trespassing. The arrests stemmed from a parent of one of the school's students filing a report for an alleged trespassing incident and obtaining arrest warrants from the Cullman County Warrant Magistrate's Office. Bouldin was also arrested for failure to report an incident of school violence to Cullman City Schools Superintendent Dr. Susan Patterson. Both men turned themselves in, were processed and released in a short amount of time. The next day, both men were placed on administrative leave.

Although multiple sources claim the alleged incident involved Bouldin and Stephens being on the student's family's property without consent, official details will not be released until the public hearing takes place in the coming weeks.

Both men have been advised not to speak about details of the case until after the hearing. When reached for comment, Bouldin stated, "I am appreciative of the public support!"

Since the news broke of the arrests and subsequent leave, there has been an enormous outpouring of public support for the two educators on social media from current and former students, parents and others. Many are concerned that the pair will not be able to attend Cullman High's graduation ceremony on May 27, and most want to see the men cleared of any wrongdoing.

"I have had the opportunity to have Dr Elton Bouldin as my principal for 7 of the 9 years I have been a student in the Cullman City Schools system. When I moved from a tiny school to a huge school, he treated me like his own, helping me adjust and helping me catch up on my work.

When I got to high school, nothing changed, he still cared just as much and wanted to know us each individually so he could help us out in any way possible. Now that graduation is upon us, and things are skewed, I along with many of my fellow classmates are praying and hoping that Dr Bouldin will be the one to give us our diplomas. He is someone who has encouraged, someone who has put in extra work just for one student to succeed, and someone who genuinely cares for every student at Cullman High. I believe the duties of graduation belong to Dr. B. We love you!!" ***Treyla Rasco via Facebook***

"I support the reinstatement of Dr. Elton Bouldin and Mr. Mark Stephens to their respective leadership positions at Cullman High School immediately. I encourage Superintendent Dr. Susan Patterson and members of the Board of Education {Steve Sides, Suzanne Harbin, Kim Addison, Brenda Howell and Jason Neal} to act quickly so that these gentlemen may get back to work doing what they love.

The motto of the Cullman City School system is "Inspiring students for lifelong success through character, citizenship, and scholarship".

Dr. Bouldin is a living example of these 3 qualities. His character and integrity are beyond question and above reproach. A man who has worked many years to excel in all areas of education should not be removed from his leadership position due to an accusation that he is unable to address until almost 2 months after the fact.

Given the current schedule, he will be unable to defend himself until after the CHS Class of 2016 graduates. This is not fair to this year's Senior Class or to Dr. Bouldin and Mr. Stephens.

Dr. Bouldin is an example of a school principal who goes above and beyond his job description or required duties to support all students at Cullman High School. I have no idea how many extra hours he devotes to his job, but I do know he gives an enormous amount of time and effort to his school.

He is seen at countless extracurricular activities and sporting events, always taking pictures and posting to social media because he is so proud of the achievements of the his students. Children today need affirmation more than ever before and Dr. Bouldin makes sure they receive that under his watch. His weekly newsletter is filled with the achievements of his students. I have seen Dr. Bouldin mourn with the student body when 3 members of the Class of 2015 were lost. I have seen Dr. Bouldin celebrate with students who won competitions, tournaments & games. He is more than "just a principal" who sits at a desk and shuffles papers. He is INVOLVED DAILY with student body of Cullman High School.

At last week's Honors Assembly, with Dr. Susan Patterson in attendance, Dr. Bouldin was proud to announce yet another feather in the cap of Cullman High School. He had just be notified the night prior that CHS ranks as the 18th best high school in the State of Alabama, according the US News & World Report.

That was only the latest in the string of accomplishments including:

- Washington Post – America's Most Challenging High Schools 2015
- Newsweek – America's Best High Schools 2014, 2013
- Niche – Alabama's Top Twenty High Schools 2016, 2015
- SchoolDigger – Alabama's Top Twenty High Schools 2015, 2014, 2013

All of these accolades and accomplishments have occurred during Dr. Bouldin's tenure at Cullman High School. Rather than taking the credit himself, he ALWAYS thanks the wonderful faculty, staff and students who make these recognitions possible.

Dr. Bouldin was at the helm during the recent renovations of Cullman High School. As with most constructions jobs, there were challenges. Not only was Dr. Bouldin doing his job as principal, he also worked closely with the architect, design firms, contractors, etc. to make sure that CHS would a star in the crown of the Cullman City School system. Again.... countless hours of time put in by a man who loves his school.

I encourage anyone who agrees with me to please contact Superintendent Dr. Susan Patterson and each member of the school board; Steve Sides, Suzanne Harbin, Kim Addison, Brenda Howell and Jason Neal, to express your support for Dr. Bouldin and for Mr. Stephens.

This is a disruption not only to the end of the school year but to the careers of these two gentlemen. If they are not allowed to be at graduation on May 27, then it will also be a disservice to the Cullman High School Class of 2016.

I am 1984 graduate of Cullman High School, wife of a member of the Class of 1985, daughter of a member of the Class of 1953, sister of a member of the Class of 1973 and mother of a member of the Class of 2016. Cullman High School has always held a special place in my heart. When daughter graduates on May 27, it is only fitting that Elton Bouldin be the man to shake her hand an give her the diploma that she has worked so hard to earn." ***Pam Binkowski via Facebook***

"I encourage a rapid closure in the case that has two of the administrators of CHS "on leave", and banded from the campus, where they serve the facility and most important, the students of CHS.

I know very little about this case, but I do have some knowledge of our legal system. A rapid closure is possible. They can be returned tomorrow, if desired.

I had the privilege of working with Dr. Elton Bouldin over several years, prior to my recent retirement. He is a leader, a great man, and he understands "service". He serves with humility and love for the students. We did not agree on everything...but each time we worked together, I walked away with my respect for him increasing.

I'm committed to praying for the superintendent of education and each board member, as they make the crucial decision of the future of each student at CHS." ***Craig Green via Facebook***

"The Cullman City School Board needs to hear from you. They want to do the right thing in representing us -the parents, students, and concerned citizens of this community. They are receiving guidance from the board attorney. But the decision is theirs.

And as our elected representatives, they need to hear from us. Let's respectfully encourage them to get Dr Elton Bouldin and Mr Mark Stephens back to school immediately. There is no policy or law that says they need to be on administrative leave.

The accusations against them are unsubstantiated and misdemeanor charges are not investigated by law enforcement officers. Dr Patterson can impose the leave for as long as she wishes, or cancel the leave at any time. And if you are like me and believe our school is better and safer with our administrators there, you need to take action.

These are our school board members: Kim Durham Addison, Brenda Bonds Howell, Jason Neal, Suzanne Harbin, Steve Sides.

Let's be prayerful and respectful in our communication as we encourage them to represent us well." ***Julie Fillinger via Facebook***

"I have had the pleasure of watching my youngest son JonLuke grow and achieve so much since he transferred to CHS in his freshman year. He has been allowed to have a world class education along with expanding his talents with the help and encouragement that Cullman High administration and staff have provided through the last four years.

We would be heartbroken if Dr Elton Bouldin and Mark Stephens are not at the school or at graduation. JonLuke is leaving Cullman High and going on to UAH with a 100% academic scholarship as well as having already earned 11 college credit hours through AP courses he has taken at Cullman.

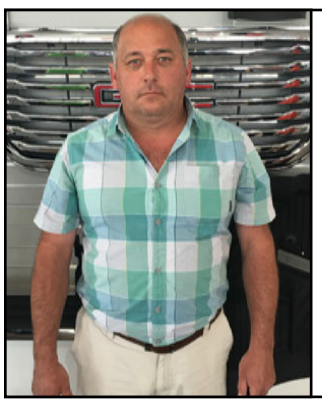
Greatness is achieved when good people come together with a common goal and an expectation of excellence that is set by the leadership. Dr Bouldin has such a caring heart as does Mr Stephens and in my opinion have provided that type of leadership which carries down to the staff and students to allow them to achieve that goal of greatness!" ***Laura York Long via Facebook***

"These two men here, are great men. I have been in the Cullman City School system for 13 years almost now. Dr.Bouldin and Mr. Stephens are more than wonderful. I just hope that on May 27, 2016, I will get to shake their hands as we the class of 2016 go off into the world. I just wanna thank them for everything that they have done to make Cullman High School one of the best!:) We can't wait to see the both of yall soon! We miss you." ***Laura Hood via Facebook***

"The end of the year festivities are upon us and I am saddened of the thought that there may be some empty chairs at these events. The people in the community need to be reminded of the men that have not only led the school to great achievement but also held the hand of grieving parents, sat in the hospital and prayed alongside students and parents for the fate of children, paid for a coworkers medical bill and emptied their wallets to pay school fees for students without recognition. You two are classy men and I pray that you will be there to nurture my children when they get to CHS." ***Leeanna Smith via Facebook***

The night the arrests became public, April 20, Bouldin released the following statement:

Today the parent of a CHS student obtained two misdemeanor warrants from the Cullman County Sheriff Department. One warrant alleges Criminal Trespass 3rd degree against Principal Dr. Elton Bouldin and Assistant Principal Mark Stephens. The second warrant alleges Dr. Bouldin failed to report an incident of school violence to Superintendent Dr. Susan Patterson. The accusations are not true. However, misdemeanor warrants do not allow those accused an opportunity to respond to the charges prior to the court hearing. Mr. Stephens and I look forward to our opportunity to provide accurate information on these two alleged incidences.



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PREP FOOTBALL

KOBE SMITH TAKES HIS GAME TO THE NEXT LEVEL, SIGNS WITH HUNTINGDON COLLEGE

Josh McBrayer
Sports Correspondent

WEST POINT – The library at West Point High School was packed Tuesday morning as star running back Kobe Smith signed his name on the dotted line with the Huntingdon Hawks of Montgomery.

"It is an absolute blessing," Smith said in an interview after his signing. "It is overwhelming how blessed I am. To have this opportunity to keep playing."

Not only was Smith flanked by his coaches, principal and family, he was also surrounded by his teammates. Guys he has grown close to over the last few years.

"They are more than teammates, they are my brothers," Smith said about the outpouring of support from his gridiron family.

"I have been with them all four years, through battles and everything. It meant a lot to have them here."

In four years at West Point, Smith has seen it all.

Ups and downs with the program, coaching changes, playoff runs and his share of accolades, including breaking the Cullman County single season rushing record in his last game as a Warrior.

Smith finished with 2,222 yards in 2015, breaking the mark of 2,214 that was set by Vinemont's Ty Jones in 2013.

"Huntingdon is getting a winner," head football coach Don Farley said about Smith's signing.

CullmanSense and the Cullman Tribune would like to extend sincere congratulations and best wishes to Kobe Smith in the next chapter of his football career.



JOSH MCBRAYER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

PREP GOLF

GOOD HOPE BOUND FOR SUB-STATE AFTER 3RD PLACE FINISH IN SECTIONAL

Johnny Thornton
Sports Correspondent

CULLMAN – Good Hope was pleased to get qualified for the Alabama High School Athletic Association Golf Sub-State after coming in third during the Class 4A, Section 2 Tournament Tuesday at Terri Pines Country Club.

But the scores for the Raiders were not satisfying. The course played different, especially after the NJCAA District 4 Tournament completed its final round at lunchtime.

Good Hope carded a 379 for the 18 holes while Fayette County took to the top of the leaderboard and won it with a 335. Bibb County captured second place with a 349 while Cordova was well behind Good Hope, taking the fourth slot with a 415.

Cole Pearson, the Cullman County Tournament champion, was leading when he came to the 17th hole.

Unfortunately, Pearson had a rough time on the 17th, shooting a double bogey and losing the lead to Fayette County's Karlan Trull.

Trull got a birdie on 17, then had a birdie to finish out his round with a 77, two shots ahead of Pearson's 79.

The rest of the scoring for the Raiders following Pearson were Josh Cofer with an 88, Alex Owens a 105 and Riley Eisner a 107.

Gibson Marlin carded a 78 for Fayette County to support Trull's 5-over par 77.

Luke Nolan was third for the Tigers with an 85 and Sam Selmon finished with a 95.

Trey Miles topped the list for Bibb County with an 84, Jacob Tucker scored an 86, Matt Tucker an 87 and Joseph Meigs an 89.

The top four individuals to qualify for the Sub-State were Zane Massey of Sipsey Valley with a 90, Lawson Clark of Fayette County a 91, Lofton Hood of West Blocton a 93 and Luke Rigsby of Curry with a 96.

Rigsby defeated Sipsey Valley's Joseph Martin in a one-hole playoff, parring the 18th while Martin wound up with a bogey.

The Sub-State will be at Musgrove Course in Japser.

Good Hope played there recently with Pearson shooting a respectable 75. The Raiders are looking to gain a berth to the 4A state under first-year coach Joey House.

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TRIBUNE FILES FROM YESTERYEAR

From The Files of 1905:
There was not more than a third of a crop of strawberries this year.

The little son of Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Stinson was climbing a tree, caught a live telephone wire and was unable to turn loose. Neighbors soon rescued him without injury.

Mr. S.P. Daniel, of Holly Pond, is ill.

Mrs. H. Arnold and children, of Cullman visited Mrs. H. Rehling, on Sunday, at Gays Chapel.

Jesse Howell was thrown from his horse on Monday and broke his leg between the hip and the knee.

From The Files of 1930:
Joe H. Ray spent Sunday with friends in Falkville. Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Ray are the proud parents of a little son. Mr. and Mrs. Herman Price are the proud parents of a little girl.

Kyle Turner, Goldie Eddlemon and Lucille Brooks motored to Berlin on Sunday.

At Arkadelphia, Misses Regina Taylor and Virginia Crowder attended the play at the school on Thursday night. Lewis Dean was the escort of Miss Eunice Crozel, on Friday night. Miss Velaria Strong and Clifford Dye were the Sunday guests of Misses Zelma and Fronia Self, of Welcome.

Miss Esther Perdue, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L.H. Perdue, graduated this week from the Birmingham Baptist Hospital School of Nursing. She had high honors. The many friends of Miss Perdue wish for her much success as she enters the field of caring for the sick.

Mr. Nathan Smith was showing off his beans Monday to friends who visited his barbershop. The beans were grown back of his shop and pods measured six inches long. Miss Frances McPherson was the Valedictorian of the Cullman High School Class of 1930. Salutatorian was Miss Margaret Hartwig. Fred Kelley, son of Mr. and Mrs. W.O. Kelley graduated at Alabama Military Institute at Anniston. He was presented a beautiful sport model Chevrolet roadster for graduation from his parents.

Miss Christine Hembree was neither absent nor tardy during the seven years she attended Cullman City Schools. Miss Hembree also made excellent grades.

Norris Estes and Ludie House were the happy callers of Misses Hester and Flaye Crumbley, on Sunday at Holly Pond. Ulysses Shaw was the caller of Allene Watts, on Sunday. Curtis Reid was the escort of Miss Tessie Ellard, on Sunday night.

"When you know enough to know what you lack, you are in an excellent position to know what stands between you and happiness."

From The Files of 1935:
Bland Motor Company is the new Ford Dealer in Cullman, replacing Mattingly Motors Company.

Allen Gray, Birmingham Southern College student, is home for the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Wise will leave tomorrow for three weeks in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Dunlap, Mrs. Charles Watson and little Miss Jean Gunn left Wednesday for a motor trip through Georgia and Florida.

Mrs. Alfred Newman will leave Saturday for her home in Baltimore, Maryland. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Racke.

From The Files of 1955:
The Reverend Clayton Phillips has announced that the Logan Methodist Parsonage will be dedicated, on Sunday, June 5.

API graduates from Cullman are: Charles Franklin Kinser, Junior, Billy Jack Eidson, Buford Monroe Gross, John Boyd McBrayer and Charles Ervin Bottcher. Howard Tucker, of Logan received a Doctor of Philosophy degree.

Alabama graduates from the Cullman area are: James W. Tucker, William E. Rasco, Martha Sue Smith, Sidney R. Gibbs, Bette Louise Buettner, Gerald A. Davis and Doris E. Bush.

Cullman defeated Woodlawn in the state baseball players on Wednesday. The score was tied, 2 to 2 when Ralph Blalock hit a homerun. DeLane Hulsey was the winning pitcher. Other team members are Van McElroy, Brownie West, Jack Doss, Jimmie Knight, Billy Ray Johnson, Jimmie Hudson, Joe Miller, Frank Duke, Dale Cook and Darrell Owens.

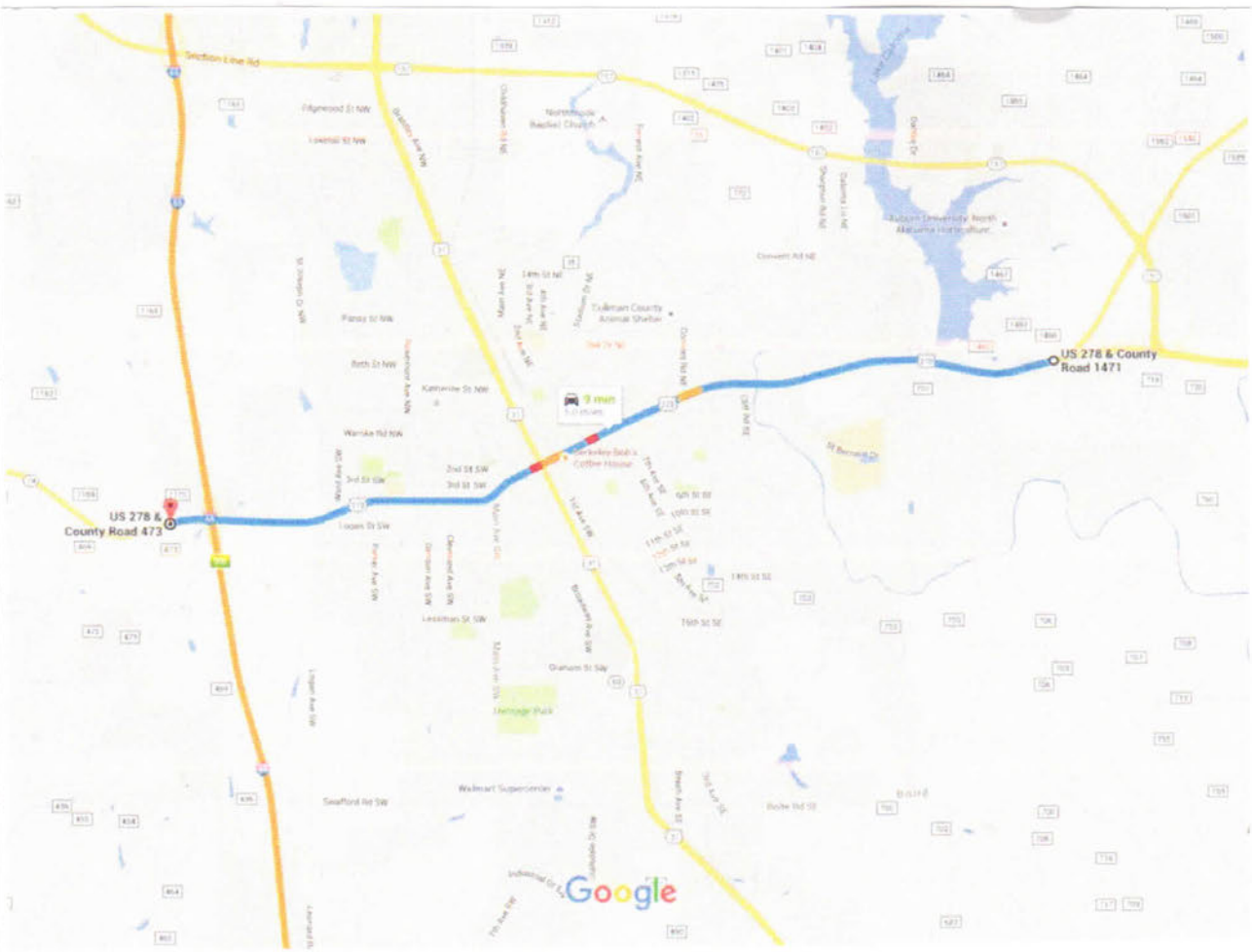
Helen Walker and Delton Stidham were married on Saturday.

"The Plunderers," "Rose Marie," "Hell Below Zero," "Rear Window" and "Fighter Attack" were showing at the 31-Drive in Theatre.

ALDOT Projects NH-0074 (538) & STPAA-HSIP-0069 (550) Resurface SR-74 (US-278) from just West of I-65 to SR-03 (US-31) and SR-69 from SR-03 (US-31) to SR-74 (US-278) with Access Management in the City of Cullman/Cullman County

The Alabama Department of Transportation will conduct a Public Involvement Meeting for the above project as follows:

Tuesday, May 24, 2016, 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm, West Elementary School, cafeteria, 303 Rosemont Ave SW, Cullman, AL 35055



The proposed project is the resurfacing of the highways Alabama Highway 74 (US-278) and 69 from just West of I-65 to Alabama Highway 74 (US-278) with access management in The City of Cullman in Cullman County.

The purpose of this meeting is to ensure that any interested parties have an opportunity to receive information or provide input regarding this project and share their views and comments regarding potential impacts. The meeting's format will be an informal session beginning at 5:00 pm. No formal speeches or presentations are planned. Representatives of the ALDOT and its consultant will be available to answer any questions relative to the project. Preliminary maps and tentative schedules will be available.

Comments, which will become part of the official project record, may be made at any time prior to, at, or within ten days following the hearing. A recorder will be available for anyone wishing to leave recorded comments. Written comments may be left at the hearing or mailed to:

Curtis W. Vincent, PE, Region Engineer, ALDOT, 1525 Perimeter Pkwy NW, Ste 400, Huntsville, AL 35806-3575 or emailed to: bellt@dot.state.al.us

Any individual requiring special assistance due to a disability or sensory impairment should contact Troy Bell at the above address, by phone at 800-819-7418 ext. 7263, by fax at 256-582-8922 or by Email at bellt@dot.state.al.us. Requests for assistance should be made no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, May 23, 2015.

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.

FORMER CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT WOODY JACOBS RUNNING FOR MAYOR

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Although the deadline for formal announcements is not until July 5, former Cullman City Council President Woodrow "Woody" Jacobs on Tuesday, April 26, announced his intention to run for mayor of the City of Cullman.

"I just wanted to let you know so the word could get out that I am going to run for mayor of Cullman this year," said Jacobs in a call to CullmanSense/The Cullman Tribune Tuesday morning.

Incumbent Max A. Townson is planning to run for re-election.

Jacobs served as president of the Cullman City Council for eight years, where he says he learned how to understand and work with all of the facets of city government.

Jacobs said in a statement that he believes the most important job of the mayor is to be an advocate for the people. "I have and will continue to be accessible to everyone, which will translate into an open door policy," he said.

"Second," he said, "the mayor should have a good working relationship with the council as well as other elected officials to bring funding to the community. Lastly, the mayor should work to recruit new businesses and work with our existing businesses to bring jobs and opportunities to our citizens.

"Cullman is a great place to live and raise children," said Jacobs. "We must work hard to make sure that when our children and grandchildren are grown they can find good paying jobs in Cullman to be able to stay here and raise their children."

Jacobs is a graduate of Cullman High School, Cullman College at Sacred Heart and the University of Alabama where he earned a degree in Accounting. He owned and operated Woodrow Jacobs Accounting for 20 years. For more than 20 years, he has served as an executive vice president at Eidson and Associates.

Jacobs has served on numerous boards and with many organizations, including as president of the American Red Cross, executive board member of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, president of the Cullman County Fair Association, president of the Cullman City Council, treasurer of the Cullman Lions Club, president of the Cullman City Parks and Recreation Board and a member of Leadership Cullman.

Jacobs currently serves as a Deacon at Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church,



WOODY JACOBS

member of the Fixed Point Foundation Board, member of the Cullman City Parks and Recreation Board, member of the Cullman Lions Club and coach of the Miracle League Braves.

"This is where I grew up, where I attended school and where my kids Tyler and Hannah attended school. I met and married my wife Connie here. That is why I want to continue serving Cullman as its next mayor. I have a lifetime of experience that I want to continue to put to work for the City of Cullman."

We will bring you more on Townson and Jacobs, as well as Cullman City School Board candidates and others as they make their announcements. The municipal election is August 23, 2016.

Ag (from Front)

by honoring our local farmers here in Cullman County. Every year, producers, agricultural associations, schools, universities, corporations and government agencies across America join together to recognize the contributions of agriculture and revel in the importance and significance of farming to all.

Cullman County Commissioners Kerry Watson and Gary Marchman, along with Commission Chairman Kenneth Walker, signed a proclamation for National Ag Day to be honored and celebrated in Cullman.

The proclamation recognized the role that Cullman County farmers play in providing safe, abundant and affordable food for the people of our county and state. Every American farmer feeds more than 144 people.

Cullman County Schools CNP joined with the Cullman County Farm City committee to host a one-day canned food drive on National Ag Day to benefit Cullman Caring for Kids.

More than 5,200 pounds of food was donated to the Cullman Caring for Kids food bank from Cullman County CNP alone.

Child Nutrition employees also dressed up as farmers on National Ag Day to emphasize to the students that all the food they brought in for the day was provided by a farmer and without farmers we would have no food.

Elementary students enjoyed hearing stories about farming read to them by school administrators, CNP employees and retired teachers.

The day was a tremendous success and was an excellent opportunity to help replenish the Cullman Caring for Kids food bank.

Thanks to all who took part in this activity and especially to Fairview School Principals Marty Hardman, Trina Walker and Christopher Gambrill.

Fairview Schools collected the most amount of canned goods, more than 1,400 pounds, out of all schools in Cullman County! Congratulations Fairview students & administration!

For more information about Cullman Farm City, visit https://www.facebook.com/CullmanFarmCity.



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- To prevent HPV cancers, contact your healthcare provider or the county health department.

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HANCEVILLE'S FARMER'S MARKET ENJOYS OPENING WEEKEND

Sharon Schuler Kreps
sharon@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – The brand new Hanceville Farmer's Market enjoyed its very first day on Friday, April 22. The weather was great and many of Hanceville's finest came out to purchase delicious homegrown produce. The new farmer's market is expected to grow significantly throughout the summer.

"We have a few vendors here today and we are expecting more tomorrow," said owner Diane Nail. "Hopefully the weather will cooperate."

The Hanceville Farmer's Market has locally-grown fruits, vegetables and meats, as well as arts and crafts.

They are open on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Between both the Hanceville Farmer's Market and Cullman Farmers' Market - Festhalle, local produce is available five days a week- every day except for Sunday and Monday.

"I was at the Farmer's Market around 9:30 this morning," said Joann Walls of Hanceville.

"I bought some homegrown lettuce and two bell pepper plants. Had to leave so not sure how many farmers came after I left," she smiled.

RockyCrop Farms was onsite at the Market on Friday. RockyCrop is a small 3-acre farm right there in Hanceville.

The owners, Roy and Kelly McNeely, decided to start RockyCrop Farms because they wanted to create a feeling of association for folks who are interested in farming the food they eat and serving it to their families.

"We grow naturally, without pesticides or other harsh chemicals," said Roy McNeely.

"Bringing healthy, farm fresh produce to our community is important to us, so we were very excited to learn that Hanceville now has its own farmer's market," he smiled.

"Today is opening day and we have enjoyed our time here very much," he added.

"We want to say a special thank you to all who have stopped by our farm stand. Thanks for supporting us, our community and those working to coordinate this market."

There are plenty of vendor spots available; it's not too late to get established and enjoy the fun.

"People are welcome to contact me through Facebook or by calling 256-590-9441," said Nail.

"There is an annual application fee of $10 and a $5 weekly usage fee."

The Hanceville Farmer's Market is located at 200 Bangor Ave. in Hanceville. Find them on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/hancevillefarmersmarket.





PHARMACY TOPICS *by Rex Smith*

Hospital Discount Central



Left to right: Becky Cook, Marie Wright, Regenia Geisen, Rex Smith, Rph. And Vanessa Patton

Among young children with histories of recurrent severe lower respiratory tract illness (LRTI), the use of azithromycin early during an apparent RTI compared with placebo significantly reduced the risk of experiencing progression to severe LRTI, according to a study in the November 17 issue of JAMA. Acute episodes of severe LRTI are common among preschoolers and up to 14 percent to 26 percent of preschoolers present with recurrent wheezing during the first six years of life. These severe episodes are often associated with substantial illness and may result in visits to urgent care and emergency departments. Although viral infections are often present, bacteria may also contribute to illness development. Identification of treatment approaches that lessen the severity of these recurrent episodes would provide substantial benefit to preschool children with recurrent severe LRTI, according to background information in the article.

***

In a study published by the journal Pediatrics, researchers found children given medications for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) take significantly longer to fall asleep, have poorer quality sleep and sleep for shorter periods. About one in 14 children and adolescents in the United States are diagnosed with ADHD, a chronic condition that includes attention difficulty, hyperactivity and impulsiveness. In the most common form of ADHD treatment, about 3.5 million are prescribed stimulant medications such as Ritalin and Adderall. Many research articles have been written in the past 30 years on whether ADHD medications harm the ability to sleep. Some researchers have found that the drugs do interfere with sleep, particularly if taken later in the day. Others maintain the medications improve patients with ADHD's ability to sleep, by relieving symptoms and reducing resistance to bedtime. Indeed, some suggest that sleep problems are caused by the medication wearing off near bedtime, creating withdrawal symptoms.

***

Presented as a service to the community by **Hospital Discount Pharmacy**.





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REMEMBERING APRIL 27, 2011

By: Wendy Sack • Wendy@CullmanSense.com

April 27, 2011 is a day that we will never forget, when tornadoes ripped through Alabama and right through the heart of our beloved Cullman, destroying homes, businesses and churches, cars and large swathes of our beautiful green canopy.

Devastation. Sadness. Fear. Uncertainty. All words that describe that day. But then...Empathy. Love. Helpfulness. Gratitude. Community. All words that describe the moments and days after April 27, 2011. Even now.

In our pages today, we are letting our readers tell their stories and share their photos of that day.

Healing. A word that describes what we've been doing as a family these past five years and what we are still doing, and today's issue is a part of that process.



Zac Bingham

Tornado Forming



Laura Walker

Still Standing watercolor



Trent Parrish

My Story

I was at a house right behind Willingham Salvage and me and John Tolbert rushed to The Cullman Times actually and John went to the houses behind The Times and helped two people out of their houses. Pretty scary day.



Joe Yovino

Near Hwy 69 in between Cullman and Good Hope



Jim Powell

Looking out the back door of Topre America



Nick Lee - My Story

(as told to reporter Sharon Schuler Kreps)

"I remember waking up when the first tornado warning went off for Hanceville," he began. "I called a friend of mine and we went down to survey the damage. We were there all morning. Around 2 p.m. that afternoon I got a phone call from a fellow storm chaser saying that a tornado was headed towards the City of Cullman from Walker County. I decided to head to Cullman and try to chase it.

"When my friend and I got to Wal-Mart Distribution, we parked on the side of the road and began looking for the tornado," he continued.

"While we were sitting there, Officer Joey Duncan of the Cullman Police Department stopped and asked if we needed help. I told him we don't need help, that we are storm chasers. He asked if we were aware that a tornado was heading towards Cullman. Yes, we were very aware of it.

"Later, when we got closer to Cullman I received a phone call saying that my neighborhood was hit by a tornado and there had been extensive damage. So once I got there to Sacred Heart, I parked and walked over to where East Side Baptist Church had been. What was normally a 10-minute walk took me four hours that day," he shook his head.

"The house we lived in at the time was okay but we lost all of our trees and a window was blown out. We also lost my sister's car. Every house on our block was taken out except for mine, my aunt's and the next door neighbor's. If I had been at home that day, I would not be here right now; I would have been dead because where I usually stand to watch them (tornadoes) a tree had fallen.

"The first two days after the tornadoes hit I stayed in my house. After that I started going out and seeing what I could do, what I could get myself into; adventures," he smiled.

"To be honest with you, the day after the tornadoes I tried to find someplace that had internet or something so I could tell my story. We didn't get our internet back until three weeks later.

"Being a storm chaser is fun until you start seeing people's houses get hit and you know there are people in them and you cannot do anything to help. That is a totally different ballgame. Do I personally like chasing tornadoes? Yes. Do I have a new respect from it? Yes, I do. I would like to thank the Cullman Police Department, the Fire Department, EMS, the Cullman Sheriff's Office and all Emergency Medical Responders that helped us out that day."

Vicky Harp

A day I will never forget

I saw my first ever live tornado. It hit West Point. My son and I were about 3 to 4 miles from it but safe. It was the meanest looking thing I had ever seen. Was just evil looking. There was at least one injured at West Point but thankfully no one was killed. There was property damage, trees down, mobile homes destroyed, but again no lives were lost.



Jes Stout-Fortenberry

Took this photo about 2 weeks after April 27th 2011

Incredible how the tornado can twist solid steel on one side of this building and leave the other untouched!



Jennifer Myers

My Story

We spent all day long huddled under a mattress in our "safe spot" in the kitchen floor, because it was the center of the house. The kids were tired, scared, but still my sweet babies. This was the scariest day of my life as a mother. You can't see, but I had belts strapped around each of them, and strapped to me. If they were going to fly off, I was going to fly off with them.

I'll never forget going to check on my sister in Hanceville and driving down 91, or going back through Cullman to see the wreckage downtown and on 278. All you could do is drive in silence and cry, and thank the Lord that lives were spared in Cullman County. We were hit hard.



Tanya Grimmett Skinner

We were at the parking deck when it happened

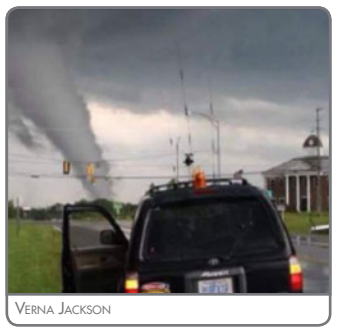
This picture was taken at the top of the old All Steak.



Kristina Moss

My little twister!

My son made his appearance into the world in Tuscaloosa while we were being hit by the terrible storms. It took my mom 6 hours to make the drive from Cullman to Tuscaloosa. Not all things were bad that day!

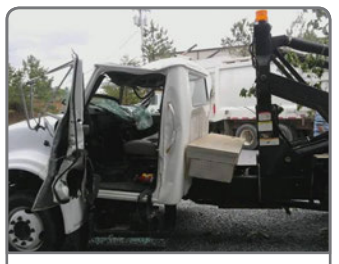


Verna Jackson

Kelley Leigeber Feldner

My Story

My husband had the closest picture I have ever seen taken of a tornado. I wish he still had that phone. He was so close the whole tornado wasn't in the picture. That was also the only time a cop had ordered him to run a red light. Lol



Jessica Howe

My Story

My father, Jim Waters, was one of two men that had a tree fall on their vehicles during the first tornado. My father broke his back, but the other gentleman, in Hanceville, sadly lost his life. We spent the rest of the afternoon at UAB waiting to hear if my father would be paralyzed.

Fortunately, his breaks weren't extensive and he was able to go home later that night. I'll never forget holding my one-month-old, watching a TV monitor as the big tornado destroyed our hometown. Our oldest daughter was home with her other grandfather. I've never felt so helpless. My heart goes out to everyone who was affected that day.



Kim Meyers

Fourth Street Southeast

Katy Dutton

My Story

During the tornado I was helping to take care of my very ill grandfather. He had to be on oxygen 24/7. Thankfully, someone loaned us a generator. My grandmother and I worked just to keep my grandfather alive by keeping the generator going and to keep it full of gas. Our hands were so raw from all the gas and pulling that generator cord all the time.

One night, my grandmother and I were so tired and we both broke down and began crying because our hands and shoulders hurt so bad. Out of nowhere a police officer showed up and helped us get the generator started. I do not know his name, but his act of kindness gave me the strength and motivation to keep going and keep trying.

Betty BJ Hicks (Katy's grandmother): You helped us so much Katy bug!

Katy Dutton: I love you Maw Maw.

Betty BJ Hicks: Randy and Sherri Frost. Also, Sue, Sherri's mom was where the generator came from. Ken and Sandra Allen brought food to us so we could stay with your pawpaw.

Katy Dutton: The outpouring of love was phenomenal. We all really came together as a community.

Billy Barnett

My Story

The not being able to recognize where you were at will be something I will always remember. That evening as we started going into the neighborhoods east of downtown looking for victims we had a really hard time telling which street we were on when asked on the radio. Every landmark was gone it seemed. I am still amazed that as we were walking into that part of town many of the residents were walking out and none of them seemed to be hurt. Shaken terribly but physically they were fine. When I first reached downtown that day my first thought was that we might be digging out dead bodies for days. There were surely angels in those clouds along with the tornado that day.



Latosha Downs

My pawpaw standing by an uprooted tree across the street from my house

We were in Addison that day.

Jason Moore

My Story

(as told to reporter Sharon Schuler Kreps)

"Well, my grandma and I lived in Hanceville in the College Trailer Park at the time," he began. "I had a vision of everything three days before it ever happened, it was weird. I saw everything that happened, but I just ignored it," he shrugged. "Well, two days later my mom said, 'Well, tornadoes are coming this way' but I just blew it off and said, 'Nah, they're not coming here, that's a bunch of bull', ya know?

"We woke up at 5:30 the next morning. The newscasters said tornadoes are heading towards Garden City and Sky Ball Mountain," he continued. "Ten minutes later I looked out the door and saw my neighbor's roof coming right off the house! I screamed and said some cuss words, but I'm not going to tell you just what I said," he chuckled.

"I told Grandma to hit the bathroom and just as we got into the bathroom, the tornado had picked our trailer up, took it off the foundation! What I believe stopped us from dying was a tree; a tree so big it took seven people to go around it... it was humongous. The tree had fallen onto the trailer and into the house, we couldn't get out. We were scared to death by the tree and everything. Then a light pole fell over onto the house; we could have got electrocuted! We were homeless for a very long time. Thankfully FEMA helped us out.

"There is a lot more to the story, but this is all I can remember at the moment. It was absolutely crazy. Thankfully nobody in my family was hurt. We stayed in a homeless shelter for a while, lived in the Armory off and on for about three weeks. During that time, I was helping, trying to clean up. You see, everybody wanted us to clean up our stuff, but I was too busy helping clean up the community because I didn't have anything left. I wanted to help other people out.

"The whole thing made us stronger, it brought our family together. Since then, I have moved away. I live in Arab now. I'm about to get married. I have a friend here in Arab, when the tornadoes went through, a tornado picked a trailer up and it landed on top of his trailer. He was in the Arab newspaper talking about it, it was crazy.

"As a result of the 2011 tornadoes, I hate the dark, I stay inside. Now when we have bad weather, I have chest pains and panic.

I always say, 'We're not staying here!' When we lived in Cullman and had bad weather, we always went to the Rack and Cue pool hall. I mean, if we're going to get hit, we are going to get hit at the pool hall," he laughed.

"But we live in Arab now.... We moved from Hanceville to Gold Ridge, but Gold Ridge is tornado alley, so I was like, 'Look, we don't need to be here'. We had to sell our trailer, so Grandma got a camper and moved to Simcoe, where a guy got picked up by a tornado and died, it's crazy. Nobody figured it would be that bad."



Tiffany Elise



Leslie Carroll Huffman

I had never been this scared

Me and my family were in a basement in Fairview when this went by. We were lucky.



Jennifer McBrayer Dye

Talía Marisia Gomez Mayfield

My eyes got the biggest picture ever...

I didn't have the time to find my phone and snap a picture of something so scary.



Morgan Downs



Maddie Ashleigh Butler

Savannah Ryan Mitchell

My Story

Well we lived in Holly Pond close to Hwy. 67 and early that morning my dad called me and woke my fiancé (now husband) up and told us to wake up and turn the TV on right then. So we did and there was James Spann telling us there was a funnel headed straight toward Holly Pond. About five minutes later, the lights started being drained of energy, not flickering but just being drained. Then I looked outside and the trees were just being bowed over so fiercely it was like they were going to snap. We all took off (he, his parents and I) running as fast as we could to our neighbor's storm pit. Me being 8-months pregnant and his parents having their various health problems, (this) was not an easy thing to do. We made it just in time. The wind was so intense it was roaring. As fast as the storm came it was gone. Our neighbor's motorcycle and roof of their shed, I believe, were in their pond. We couldn't drive anywhere due to all of the downed trees.

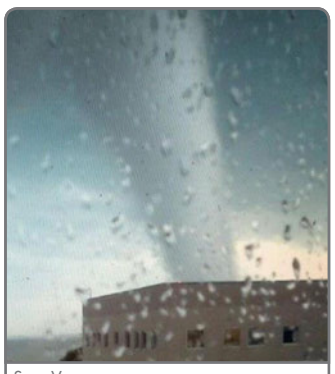
James Ronnie Jones

My Story

My wife and I stood in our driveway at Phelan and watched the tornado go into Cullman. I looked at my wife and said that is going to hit mom's. She was 89 and lived by herself across from the ball fields at West Elementary. My wife ran and got the phone and called her and after several rings she answered. My wife said, "Mom are you ok?" Her reply was, "Yeah I reckon, why?" It didn't even blow a leaf off the trees in her yard, and for that I was thankful.

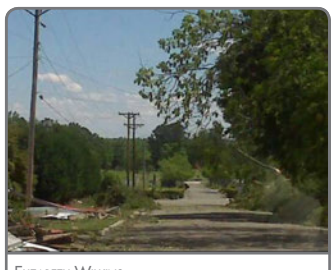


Submitted by Tori Francis, photographer unknown



Steve Vaughn

Taken from CCU @ CRMC



Elizabeth Wilkins

My Story

I was working at TJ Maxx. It was my son's first birthday. I could see the tornado between the Wal-Mart and TJ Maxx parking lot before it touched down. I took a picture of it and it was so big it wouldn't fit in my screen so I went to the middle of the store and finally fit it in. I remember how blue the sky was around the tornado. Prior to that we had a very slow day.

Around 10 a.m., we had a bunch of employees come in from the courthouse. They had closed early, and told us updates. Most were inside the store with us when the power went out and we saw the monster tornado. It took an hour-and-a-half to get home to Jones Chapel. Most of that time was spent inside the town limits.

Thank the Lord we have nine chicken houses with two massive generators so we had power. Expensive but we had power. The stores opening up and the communities coming together. It was a blessing in a devastating time. But I always remember as my son's first birthday described him perfectly. Tornado day.

My daughter had just turned 5 a week before, wanted to do some helping, so she asked if we could go help hand out food and if the kids had anything to keep them busy. So we got some coloring books and took them to Cullman High School. She is now 10 and still helping kids out. She is finishing up her birthday project of collecting coloring books and supplies we will be taking to Childhaven in the next two weeks. She asked to do this in place of a birthday party.

Herbert Tingle

My Story

It was a Tuesday, April 26. I just got out of school and I was watching TV and the news said that they had enhanced the TOR:CON value for north central Alabama to a 7 out of 10 chance of getting a tornado. Well a few hours later my mom got a phone call that school had been canceled because of bad weather for tomorrow. I was excited.

We went to bed around 10 p.m. that night and around 1 a.m. that morning we got a tornado warning for our area. I took action and woke everyone up and told them we needed to head to shelter; my mom and I went to turn the TV on and it was horrible. They were talking about tornado warnings popping up all over north Alabama.

We probably got three or four tornado warnings from 1:30-5 a.m. We were awake ever since, with no sleep we stayed up watching, and when the big one came I was inside watching TV and James Spann came out of nowhere and said Cullman city you need to take action right now get to your safe place now a tornado is on the ground.

Well me I went outside looking. The wind was very quiet; it was barely blowing. I went back inside the house and James Spann said if you live in the city you need to be in your safe place Now, there is a tornado down on the ground, we see it from our camera. He said it was heading towards the court house and that it was going to hit it head on.

I stayed inside for a few minutes then went outside. My dog followed me and we stayed outside for about 30 minutes and then all of a sudden the wind picked up really quick. I saw leaves and branches of trees flying in the air. The next thing I know my mom yells, "Herbert, get in here, the tornado is right on top of us!" I ran inside really quick and got into my laundry room with me, my mom, my sister and my mom's foster kids, then all of a sudden the power goes out. We were all scared; we were praying all together.

About 10 minutes later my mom yells, "Where is Cookie?" (our dog) I told her I didn't know, that he did not follow me inside, so I went outside and there he was hiding under the lawn chair. I picked him up and ran back to the laundry room, the wind picked up really fast and the trees were all leaning to one side. I was scared. I ran back inside.

We waited 30 minutes before getting out of our safe place. When we got out we went outside and our yard was covered with trees and debris all over the place. I went and checked on my neighbors to see if everyone was ok and they were, but there was an elderly women trapped in her home because of a tree on her house. I went to her house and I was trying to save her and get her out, but one of our neighbors said, "Move, I will get to her." So he helped her out of her home. Fourth Street Southwest was covered with trees and power lines. It was horrible. I could not go anywhere. We were without power for two weeks, and I did not have school so we spent time playing games and cleaning our front yard. We found toys, clothes and pieces of a houses. I wish I had pictures, but I don't. Just memories of what happened; it all happened so fast and quick.

I went out to explore the neighborhood and saw trees and power lines down and a path that looked like what the tornado took. It was long, but I could not tell because of the trees. I walked to Main Avenue, and to the bridge and back there were trees everywhere, but luckily all my neighbors were safe and no one was hurt.

My neighbor asked me if we had seen their trampoline anywhere and I said I hadn't. After talking to him, out of the corner of my eye I noticed something up in a tree. I yelled at my neighbor and we both looked and sure enough it was his trampoline way up in the tallest tree. We all laughed and said boy the wind must of been really strong in order to get it way up there.

The whole two weeks we were all cleaning up the neighborhood together. I thank the Lord my family is OK and everyone was safe that day. It was a scary situation for all of us.

Cheryl Westerfield

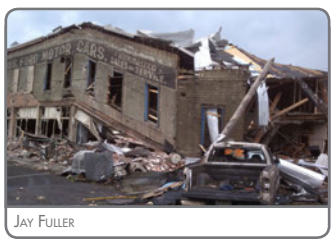
My Story

The day after the tornado we walked to the insurance office to report the damage that occurred to our cars. The smell of oil from the transformers was so strong it was almost nauseating. That was the day that we actually realized how devastating the tornado was, yet at the same time how blessed our community was. (Thankful our homes were not damaged by the tornado. Can't say the same for the place where we sheltered... hence the car damage.)

I always had not one, but several go bags that I would take to the shelter that had extra clothes, snacks, etc. in it. April 27, 2011 taught me that Cullman truly is a community that takes care of each other. Many places had tables set up outside, handing out everything from toothbrushes, socks, clothes to household items, personal items, baby items... you name it. The community was fed and nourished in every way. Pickup trucks with grills in the bed driving through neighborhoods handing out hamburgers and hotdogs amazed me.

I'm still afraid of bad weather, but I'm no longer worried about having what is needed afterward.

THANK YOU CULLMAN! THIS COMMUNITY TRULY IS THE BEST!



Jay Fuller

Cindy Vandiver

My Story

I wasn't there within the city when devastation struck Cullman, Alabama. Even so, the images from that day are etched in my mind forever. As we watched and listened to the tragedy of that day unfolding, I sat and cried saying, "that's my hometown!" The realization of what that town meant throughout the years suddenly came rushing over me! I thought of business owners, merchants and all those that are the life's blood of the City of Cullman. She is much more than this; than a place of business. Cullman is a functioning, life-giving, body of wonderful people working together to maintain a community through their love, convictions, professionalism and service to the people.

My heart ached as the tornado passed over April 27, 2011, not knowing the full extent of the damage or possibly loss of life. All I could do was to pray and trust in God to take care and have mercy upon his people, and he did. In this moment of horror, I could see that God was in the midst.

In just moments help was arriving to help those in need; like blessed angels cast down from Heaven, they came. I will always remember April 27, 2011 and how it caused me to appreciate every working soul that makes up Cullman, Alabama even more.



Alejandro Mejia



David Guthrie

Behind my mother-in-laws



Amanda Chatham



Bill Barksdale



Delmer Bailey

I was in the tornado on Ninth Street

I worked for Allstar Medical and had been in Hanceville delivering oxygen and was on my way back when the tornado got the van I was driving and picked it up and threw it about a half a block, but I lived thank God!!



Caroline Ochoa Sheppard



Allison W. Gurley

DL DeJong

Cullman tornado through the eyes of a street worker

It just so happened that that morning I watched the news and I had seen that we were under a severe tornado watch. As I finished getting ready for work I said to myself "it's going to be a long day." I had said that many times before but this time I really meant it. So when I got to work we didn't even bother talking about what work we were going to do that day instead we talked about where we were going to station our crews around the city to clear roads for emergency vehicles.

So the crew I was with was stationed on the south side of the city next to the Tyson plant. I remember quite early a tornado touching down on Golf Course Road and we were sent out there to clear 69 Highway. When we got out there, there were several trees across the road and traffic was of course backed up, at about the time we were getting the road cleared to get the traffic moving again we got the call that Hanceville had been hit by a tornado. So at that time I had realized that what I had said that morning was already coming true.

Well after a few crews from Cullman went down to Hanceville, the superintendent in charge decided to send us to prepare the equipment for the worst. We gassed up equipment and chainsaws and dump trucks. We tried to become as prepared as possible for the upcoming possible tornado. I started to get a feeling in the pit of my stomach you know the one that you get when you know that you could be in real trouble. After we got everything fueled up, we quick grabbed some food and went back out to patrol for anything hampering traffic.

I remember very clearly it was about 2:30 that afternoon (almost the end of the work day) and we're all in the pick-up truck headed back into the shop and the boss calls and says get everybody to a shelter immediately. So I was driving and did a U-turn right in the middle of Highway 31 and went straight to the Cullman museum. After we got there we looked at the radar and James Spann going nuts on television and he said there was a tornado coming from Walker County and it was headed straight for the city of Cullman. So like any interested people we stood outside and waited for it to come. I remember hearing it long before we ever really could see it and I remember thinking that it was quieter than I expected. I mean there was this huge rush of wind that you could hear it making, but I was expecting more noise. After it had thrown something on top of the depot we decided to make our way back in the shelter under the museum.

When we emerged from the shelter my boss told me to go and clear Highway 31. I arrived at the courthouse and my heart just dropped to my feet. See working construction for a living you get this sense of pride for your work. You hope everything you do will last for many years to come. Seeing all that destruction of many things you built or had a hand in building leaves you with a deep sadness. To go down streets you have been going up and down for years and not being able to recognize what street you are on is really upsetting.

After cleaning up 31 we went behind the Sacred Heart Church and started to clean up Old Hanceville Hwy.

We ended up going to some sort of shelter three times that night. It's kind of scary hearing tornado sirens go off and not knowing where the tornado is (the electricity was out all through town and our radios didn't seem to be working). For the next two months we cleared trees and people's things from the road. To say the least, it was a long day. Still to this day when I go over to the east side of town where the trees are all gone it makes me feel sad to see so many people's lives were changed in a day after the tornado blew through town.

NEWS FROM THE POND

Jimmie Dean Carnell
Contributor

HOLLY POND – Good morning Tribune readers and families. Welcome to springtime or is it really summer? The temperatures this week are supposed to be in the middle eighties and will feel very good on old people's bones. This is also the time of year when a Southern Tradition, known as "Decoration Day" is begun. Some of these begin in April, but the First Sunday in May, is observed here in Holly Pond. It seems to roll around earlier and earlier each year. The month of May begins this up-coming Sunday, with the first day of the month being this Sunday. The Holly Pond Homemakers Club members do a tremendous job of working at the Holly Pond Cemetery.

Many members sign up to work for a two-hour shift either at the tent in the upper part of the cemetery or down at the cemetery chapel on Saturday during Decoration. A lot of visitors come by to decorate in honor of their passed loved ones and donate to the up-keep of the cemetery. These donations are one of the main fund raisers for the year. This pays for the mowing of the cemetery, picking up dead and faded flowers, general clean up and upkeep, as well as other cemetery-related improvement projects during the year.

The Cullman County Sports Hall of Fame induction was held this past Saturday night at the Cullman Civic Center. It is hard for me to believe that this was the 17th year for this annual event. Of course, I remember the first one especially as I accepted the first plaque for my "Special Friend" Bill Shelton, who was instrumental in forming the Hall of Fame on a local level. An inductee is chosen from each of the seven high schools in Cullman County, plus Saint Bernard, Cullman High School and at large candidates. There are also several students who are recognized by their schools and receive scholarships.

The Holly Pond representative for this year was Coach Billy Wayne Oliver. He has recently retired from the active teaching role and has been associated with the state department of education, where he helps in the training of bus drivers all over the northern part of this state.

Mr. Oliver is a native of Marshall County. Bill is a graduate of Boaz High School and began his coaching career at Douglas High School. He came to Cullman County Schools in 1973. Coach Oliver continued his career with stops at Cold Springs, Holly Pond and Vinemont High Schools. He was more than a "coach" for several students down through the years serving as both a mentor and friend.

Coach Oliver his wife, Sharon (Morton) Oliver are the parents of two sons. Their extended family includes one daughter-in-law, and four grandchildren, including two grandsons and two granddaughters. Although a transplant from another part of our state, in the past forty-plus that they have lived in Holly Pond, the Olivers have become very active members of our community. Bill and Sharon and their son Justin and his family are very active members of First Baptist Church in Holly Pond, serving as Sunday School teachers and Bill as a deacon in our church. Bill is serving this year as president of the local Civitan Club and Sharon is a member of the board for the Civitan District North, serving as a Director.

They are a huge asset to our community and I congratulate Bill for being a member of the elite group of coaches and others, who have been inducted into this Hall of Fame.

On last Sunday afternoon in the Guy Hunt Conference meeting room the Holly Pond Historical Society held a special program meeting. Mrs. Donna Dutton, president, presided. Program personalities for the "Bloody Beat 22" presentation included: Donna Dutton, Brenda and Dan Scott, Mike Wisener, Robin Henderson, Carolyn Bryan and Lois White. They presented a historical program on the earliest part of the community of Holly Pond. They told of interesting tidbits about the crimes that were committed in the early 1900's. This was a very interesting program with over 50 people in attendance.

The Holly Pond Homemakers Club had twelve of their members travel by CARTS bus last Tuesday to visit the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham.

A special thanks is extended to Lisa Murphree, our driver. Members who went included: Gail Hatley, Judy Jones, Peggy Ray, Gladys Wisener, Deanie Walker, Julia Floyd, Jimmie Dean Carnell, Carolyn Bryan, Maggie Smith, Brenda Scott, Annette Yates and Amelia Wisener. It was great to see all the beautiful growing things there.

Until next week, enjoy the warm summer- like weather and be safe.



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

14th day of April, 16
Circuit Court

PB MIN BK 153 PG 208 - 04/15/2016 08:58 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC-2016-078

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF KEVIN EDWARD McCOWN, DECEASED

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF KEVIN EDWARD McCOWN, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Peggy Davis Chaffin on the 14th day of April, 2016, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Peggy Davis Chaffin, Personal Representative,
and
Steven C. Smith, Attorney for the Estate

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Smith & Smith LLP
328 1st Avenue SE
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
256-734-4721

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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

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

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

Legal Notice

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

1994 Mazda B3000, Vin. #4F4CR16UORTM39530.
2006 Seabreeze, Vin. #1C3EL65R96N172406.

This vehicle will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Johnson's Auto Tire and Tow, LLC, 178 County Road 1332, Vinemont, Alabama 35179, on Friday, June 3rd, 2016, at 8:00 a.m.

25-JU-2008-000385.03
CIRCUIT COURT OF
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
LISA MCSWAIN, CLERK

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF)
) Case No.: JU-2008-000385.03
HYDRICK EMMA BETH)

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 Emma Beth Hydrick, born on or about 08/20/2006 to Melissa Hydrick, respond to the Petition by the 26th day of May, 2016, or thereafter a judgment may be rendered in favor of the Petitioner.

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

DONE this 11th day of April, 2016.

/s/ WELLS R. TURNER III
JUVENILE JUDGE

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, 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

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

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

Legal Notice

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

2009 V Hyundai Accent, Vin. #KMHCN317690.
2005 Kia Rio, Vin. #KNADC125356383876.
2004 Pontiac Grand Am, Vin.#1G2NF52E54C194267.
2010 GMC Acadia, Vin. #1GKLVMED3AJ197988.
2013 Nissan Murano, Vin. #JN8AZ1MU8DW209104.

These vehicles will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at: Smith's Body Shop and Wrecker Service, LLC, 11597 US Highway 278 East, Holly Pond, Alabama, 35083, on June 6, 2016, at 8:00 a.m.

25-JU-2008-000385.03
CIRCUIT COURT OF
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA
LISA MCSWAIN, CLERK

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF)
) Case No.: JU-2008-000385.03
HYDRICK EMMA BETH)

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 Emma Beth Hydrick, born on or about 08/20/2006 to Melissa Hydrick, respond to the Petition by the 26th day of May, 2016, or thereafter a judgment may be rendered in favor of the Petitioner.

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

DONE this 11th day of April, 2016.

/s/ WELLS R. TURNER III
JUVENILE JUDGE

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

SYLVIA PRICE,
Plaintiff

Vs. Case Number: **DR-2016-900046.00**

WILLIAM PAUL PRICE,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

William Paul Price, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Sylvia Price's Complaint for Divorce by June 22, 2016 or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against him in Case Number 25-DR-2016-900046.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 21st day of April, 2016.

Lisa McSwain,
Clerk of Circuit Court

PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY:
MELVIN HASTING
P.O. BOX 517
CULLMAN, AL 35056-0517

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

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

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 1256, 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

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

Thursday

Cullman Farmers Market – Festhalle
Fresh, local produce, breads and meats, along with plants and crafts. The Farmers Market is now open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. through October. Located at 209 First Ave. NE.

Hanceville City Council Meeting
Thursday, April 28 at 7 p.m. at Hanceville City Hall

Special Called CCBOE Meeting
The Cullman County Board of Education will meet for a Special Called Board Meeting on Thursday, April 28, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. at Cullman County Board of Education central office board room, 402 Arnold Street, NE, Cullman for the purpose of approving the change order for Fairview High football stadium. The Thursday, May 5, 2016 board meeting has been canceled. The Cullman County Board of Education will meet on Tuesday, May 24, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. at Cullman County Board of Education central office board room, 402 Arnold Street, NE, Cullman (5:30 p.m. work session)

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 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

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 hosts 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

Annual Highway Pickers Yard/Antique Sale
Friday and Saturday, 29-30 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Highway Pickers Antique Flea Mall and Market. YOU NEED TO COME BY AND SIGN UP TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!!! Highway Pickers dealers can get a spot for free. General public can reserve spots for $5. "2 Old Dogs" will be serving BBQ, smoked bologna sandwiches, Icees, lemonade and sweet tea. 1354 US Highway 278 W, 256-841-5293.

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.

Hanceville Farmer's Market
The Hanceville Farmer's Market has locally-grown fruits, vegetables and meats, as well as arts and crafts. They are open on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Located at 200 Bangor Ave.

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.

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Saturday

International Tabletop Day
Saturday, April 30, 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. at Comfort Suites, 2048 St. Joseph Drive NW. An event created by Wil Wheaton, International Tabletop Day is a celebration for all the fans of tabletop gaming. A single day where the whole world is brought together in a common purpose of spending time together and having fun. Due to age restrictions on most games, we recommend all children under the age of 10 be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Annual Highway Pickers Yard/Antique Sale
Friday and Saturday, 29-30 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Highway Pickers Antique Flea Mall and Market. YOU NEED TO COME BY AND SIGN UP TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!!! Highway Pickers dealers can get a spot for free. General public can reserve spots for $5. "2 Old Dogs" will be serving BBQ, smoked bologna sandwiches, Icees, lemonade and sweet tea. 1354 US Highway 278 W, 256-841-5293.

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.

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.

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.

The North Alabama Agriplex Harvest to Home Fundraiser and Silent Auction
Saturday, April 30. On Saturday, April 30, the North Alabama Agriplex will host its second annual Harvest to Home Fundraiser event starting at 6 p.m. 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. The event will be held at the Heritage Center at 1714 Tally Ho St., in the Poultry and Egg Association Pavilion. Ticket sales are through this link: http://goo.gl/forms/1TFmEXCOhq.

CP&R Therapeutic Recreation Program Barn Party!
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. For any questions regarding the program contact Kelly Pulliam at 256-734-9157 or kpulliam@cullmanrecreation.org. The Barn Party is Saturday, April 30, 1-3 p.m. at the HOPE (Horses Offering People Encouragement) Facility at 1301 Convent Road NE. There will be food, games, face painting and horses.

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.

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 Farmers Market – Festhalle
Fresh, local produce, breads and meats, along with plants and crafts. The Farmers Market is now open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. through October. Located at 209 First Ave. NE.

Hanceville Farmer's Market
The Hanceville Farmer's Market has locally-grown fruits, vegetables and meats, as well as arts and crafts. They are open on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Located at 200 Bangor Ave.

City of Hanceville Fish-o-Rama
On Saturday, April 30, and the following Saturday, May 6, the City of Hanceville will host its annual Fish-O-Rama, with kids and senior citizens having the respective Saturdays to themselves. On each Saturday the free event will begin at 7:30 a.m. with registration at Hanceville's Veteran's Park. The event will begin wrapping up at around 10:30 a.m. each Saturday, and by 11a.m. the prizes and winners will be announced. There will be a first, second and third place for each of the Saturdays, as well as a "most fish caught," and "biggest fish caught" prize. There will be lunch offered and door-prizes as well on each day of the event.

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

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.

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 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.

Baileyton Town Council Meeting
Monday, May 2 at 7 p.m. at Baileyton Town Hall

Fairview Town Council Meeting
Monday, May 2 at 6 p.m. at Fairview Town Hall

Holly Pond Town Council Meeting
Monday, May 2 at 7 p.m. at Holly Pond Town 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 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.

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.

Cullman Farmers Market – Festhalle
Fresh, local produce, breads and meats, along with plants and crafts. The Farmers Market is now open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. through October. Located at 209 First Ave. NE.

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.

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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 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.

Hanceville Farmer's Market
The Hanceville Farmer's Market has locally-grown fruits, vegetables and meats, as well as arts and crafts. They are open on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Located at 200 Bangor Ave.

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

Leadercast
Friday, May 6 at 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Daystar Church Good Hope Campus. On behalf of Chick-fil-A Cullman, Cullman Chamber of Commerce and Daystar Church, we are pleased to bring you Leadercast 2016, a one-day live simulcast leadership event. This year, we will focus on what it means to be a visionary leader. Sheriff Matt Gentry, Pastor Jerry Lawson, Cullman County Superintendent Shane Barnette and Chick-fil-A Owner/ Operator Randy Earnest will participate in a discussion Q&A during this year's Leadercast! For tickets, visit http://qrne.ws/leadercast. For a full list of simulcast speakers, including Coach Nick Saban, see http://event.leadercast.com/location/cullman.

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 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.

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.

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!

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
• 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

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

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.

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

Fr. Zachary of the Mother of God May 7 Retreat
We would love to invite all of you to join the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament Retreat on Saturday, May 7. Fr. Zachary, SOLT, will be giving two conferences, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. There will be a Noon Day Mass along with confessions at 3 p.m. Please bring your own lunch.

Cullman County Republican Women Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, May 10, 6-7:30 p.m. at Cullman Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2214, 112 Veterans Drive SW. Sen. Paul Bussman will be the featured speaker. Light refreshments served - pizza & tea/water. Open invite, bring a friend!

Rummage Sale
Trinity Lutheran Church, 505 Commercial Street, Hanceville, will have a rummage sale on Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7, beginning at 8 a.m. Proceeds benefit the youth group, who will be attending the 2016 National LCMS Youth Gathering and Missions in New Orleans.

Cullman County Auburn Club Meeting Announcement
The Cullman County Auburn Club has scheduled their annual Scholarship Banquet for Tuesday, May 17 at the Cullman Civic Center. Guest speaker for the banquet will be Bruce Pearl, the head basketball coach of Auburn University's basketball team. Auburn's national champion mascot, Aubie, along with representatives from the alumni office and other AU offices, schools and departments will be there. In addition to the buffet meal, there will be a silent auction, autographs and AU memorabilia available to purchase. The banquet will be held at the Cullman Civic Center, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a Tiger Walk for the coach. Doors will open at 5 p.m. Tickets for the event are on sale for $35.00 for adults and $15.00 for children (12 and under). For ticket information contact the Cullman County Auburn Club, P. 0. Box 2785, Cullman, AL 35056 or 256-734-8461. No tickets will be sold at the door for the event. Cut-off date for ticket sales is May 13.

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(256) 352-3130

CLASSIFIEDS

AUCTIONS

ABSOLUTE AUCTION - Montgomery, Alabama - 150 acre Harness Hill estate, including arena, stables turned suites, office offered in eight parcels and/or entirety - just off Bell Road - May 11, 1:00pm - details at gtauctions.com, 1-205-326-0833. Granger, Thagard & Associates, Inc. Jack F Granger, #873.

AUCTION - 2 DAY auction! Collectible toy & advertising signs. Saturday May 7th, Sunday May 8th - 13 Pension Row, Madison, AL. Jon Bloomberg, Auctioneer 1-309-644-1854. www.auctionzip.com. ID#17775.

STATE OF ALABAMA Unclaimed Property Online Weekly Auctions, www.AlabamaUnclaimedProperty.org or www.LSO.cc or www.LSA.cc. Guns, coins, currency, jewelry, stamps & more! 13% BP, Burgess1335.

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OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

APRIL 20 - 26

SPONSORED BY CULLMAN FUNERAL HOME

Raymond Elvis Maxwell
Service held April 26; Cullman Heritage Funeral Home directed
John Mercer
Service held April 22; Moss Service Funeral Home directed
Elvin Ray Dooley
Passed April 22; Cullman Heritage Funeral Home directing
Nellie Jones Watts
Nichols Funeral Home directed
Melinda Gail Kliegl
Service held April 23; Holly Pond Funeral Home directed
Marie Anna Godeke
Service held April 23; Cullman Funeral Home directed
Timothy Alan Mann
Service held April 23; Moss Service Funeral Home directed
Flora "Tinie" Muse
Service held April 23; Cullman Funeral Home directed
Connie Keller Hudson
Service held April 24; Moss Service Funeral Home directed
Larry McDaniel
Service held April 25; Cullman Funeral Home directed
Wilma Frances Walker
Moss Service Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements
James Edisel Hall
Service held April 25; Moss Service Funeral Home directed
William Douglas Peek
Service held April 27; Cullman Funeral Home directed
Ruby Moody
Passed away April 25; Nichols Funeral Home directing
Thomas Kelvin Myrex
Service held April 28; Hanceville Funeral Home directing
Charles R. Jeffreys
Service held April 28; Nichols Funeral Home directed
Lorene Stokes Sloan
Service to be held April 30; Moss Service Funeral Home directing
Loretta Catherine "Cookie" Haley
Service to be held April 30; Hanceville Funeral Home directing

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PARKS FOUNDATION TO HOST DINNER ON FIRST FUNDRAISER

Nathan Anderson
CP&R

CULLMAN – The Cullman City Parks and Recreation Foundation Board will be hosting its inaugural Dinner on First event to raise funds for the planned Connected Park project, which will feature an all-inclusive playground accessible to children of all abilities and special needs. The event is slated to kick off on Saturday, May 14, at 6 p.m.

The dinner will be catered by Cullman resident and Birmingham restaurant owner Dyron Powell, of Dyron's Low Country Restaurant. The farm-to-table style meal will be hosted in the historic Warehouse District on First Avenue just south of the Festhalle Marketplatz.

"It is an honor to be involved in this event," Powell stated. "After recently moving to Cullman, I am already impressed with all the great, unique things in this community, and the addition of the new inclusive community park is a cause I couldn't pass helping out with."

An after party will kick off at 8:30 p.m. where acoustic group Round 2 will provide music to accompany many other activities.

CP&R Executive Director Nathan Anderson said, "This will be something you won't want to miss! The food will be delicious and the setting will be like no other experience held in Cullman. Great food, location, fellowship and music - all for a great cause, what more could you ask for in an event?"

Tickets are available online at http://cullmanrecreation.org/dinner-on-first/. Tickets can be purchased as a single for $100, a couple for $200 or a table for $800. All proceeds directly benefit the Connected Park project. For more information on the Dinner on First event, contact Christy Turner at 256-734-9157.

WEST POINT SCHOLAR'S BOWL TEAM HEADED FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmansense.com

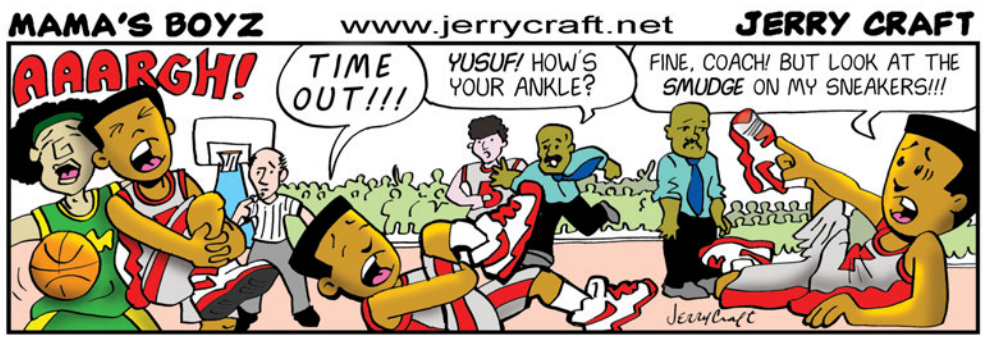
WEST POINT - The West Point High School Scholar's Bowl team is a force to be reckoned with, and they aren't slowing down any time soon. After winning the Class 5A title on Friday, April 8, at the Alabama Scholastic Competition Association (ASCA) High School State Tournament, the team went on to the National Academic Quiz Tournaments (NAQT) 44th Annual Snead State Invitational in Boaz on April 15, winning their pool and going 3-0 in the playoffs, beating Class 7A Buckhorn in the championship match.

At the Snead State Invitational, the oldest scholar's bowl invitational in Alabama, teams were grouped in pool play by size, with the winners of each pool playing in a single-elimination playoff for the championship. 7A Hoover and 4A Good Hope were the other semi-finalists.

Next, the team is headed to Chicago for the NAQT 2016 Small School National Championship Tournament April 30-May 1.

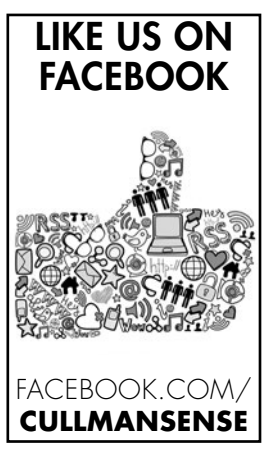
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EDITORIAL CARTOON



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POET'S CORNER

SUCH THINGS 1974

In the window seal of a wooden house, above the kitchen sink, there is a potato in a clear glass jar, of which grows sprouts and vines making their way into different directions across the open view.

This is my mother's doings.

In a skillet cooking is fried chicken smothering in gravy, my grandfather's favorite meal, who will be eating with us this evening.
I'm heading into the yard to bat rocks with an old broomstick as the sun begins to set.

The road we live on has an occasional automobile to pass but my dogs ears perk up at the sound of a particular one. There is a low gruff, followed by a full bark at the my father's car just before he comes into sight and they always beat me to his welcome.

I toss, then swing, connecting the stone with the narrow shaft and sail it into the open field over and over again.

Mother calls, "It's suppertime!"

I swing one last time and watch the rock rise to a peak then fall to earth again, taking pleasure in such things.

By: Randy C. Hale

HOW ARE WE DOING?

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OPINION

WE LIVE OR DIE ALONE AND TOGETHER

Tom H. Hastings
PeaceVoice

Candidates! Can we focus on worthy issues?

We hear about each candidate's tax return but almost nothing about each US taxpayer contributing half of her or his withholding to the Pentagon.

We hear about the relative attractiveness of candidates' spouses but silence about the daily existential threat to destroy life on Earth with a grotesque number of nuclear weapons.

Mother Nature gives us all life and if we attack her—even unthinkingly—she will make us eternally sorry. She bats last.

We spend an awful lot of time valorizing, lionizing, and sacralizing warriors, as though they are the defenders of democracy. In truth, our democracy is eroding just about proportionally to that obeisance, that fawning bowing and scraping many now expect as we interact with military men and women. "Thank you for your service." It is emetic.

Community service comes in constructive ways too, not just destructive. Some farm. Some provide health care. Some educate. Some build. Do we thank the farmer, the nurse, the teacher, the home or bridge builder?

To the logger who brings us pulp for paper and timbers for building—thank you. You have the most dangerous job in America. Fishers, miners, roofers, trash haulers and recyclers, drivers, pilots, repair workers, maintenance workers—all with higher rates of on-the-job fatalities than, for example, police.

More than 4,500 Americans are killed on the job every year. By sharp contrast, fewer than 2,000 American troops have been killed in battle in Afghanistan total in the last 15 years, averaging actually some 114 US troop battlefield mortalities annually.

No offense, but a US soldier in Afghanistan is far safer than some lone logger running his saw until a widow maker nearly kills him, hopping on his skidder that might buck him down a nasty hill, and trying to scratch out a living running popple pulp out roads that can pitch him to his demise.

I refused to go to Vietnam as a young man, telling my draft board that I was already doing my national service as a "Psychiatric Technician" (orderly) in a lockdown mental health unit.

Lots of young men had uglier draft boards who threw them in prison instead.

I decided later that I would extend my tour by offering nonviolent but vigorous resistance to nuclear weapons. I used simple hand tools (twice—once in Michigan and once in Wisconsin) to dismantle portions of a thermonuclear command center, turned myself in, and earned two felony convictions and time in three prisons, all of which I consider national service—well, service to humankind.

No one is trained to thank me for my service. Ha. The last one was Earth Day 1996, so this is my sentimental 20-year anniversary of a special Earth Day in my life.

As peace musician Charlie King sang about the US veterans who were ordered to march straight toward the nuclear fireballs in the era of open-air nuclear bomb testing (while the military assured us all that we shouldn't worry), "We all go out together, but we pay the price alone."

Like Dr. King writing from Birmingham jail about praying long prayers and thinking long thoughts while paying his price alone after being arrested with 50 others, I think about EMTs, social workers in rough neighborhoods, the nonviolent resisters, the loggers, the cab (or Uber or Lyft) drivers, and I think about how we shower all our gratitude on those who kill, who bomb, who kick in doors, who drone to death and who pollute more than any other sector, and I just shake my head.

Save some gratitude for those who preserve life or provide you with the goods of life and stop the overweening, abject displays of mewling groveling at the altar of militarism. Historian William McNeill called the war industries and the military in general the first example of macroparasites on Earth. They take and destroy. Everyone else has to produce, create, and give.

Happy Earth Day. Peace.

Dr. Tom H. Hastings is Founding Director of PeaceVoice.

EDITORIAL

The Ugliest Pants I Had Ever Seen

Bill King
Tribune Contributor

In last week's column I mentioned that my mother once bought me a pair of pants from a traveling salesman. Here's the rest of the story. Do you remember when peddlers used to show up at your door hawking things like shoes, brushes, encyclopedias, and obviously pants? Much like those sack shirts and dresses, traveling salesmen, as well as some of the things they sold, have all but faded away. I recently removed my antiquated set of World Book Encyclopedias from my bookshelf and boxed them up to give away (if I can).

Anyway, back to the pants story. I came home from school that day to find Mama ironing a pair of pants, as she watched The Edge of Night, and grinning ear to ear. She held up what had to be the ugliest pair of pants I had ever laid these two brown eyes on.

She said, "I bought you a nice pair of school pants today." I thought they might be nice but they certainly were anything but pretty. They were cotton pants, much like khakis, but they were not khaki colored. I thought, maybe, hopefully, under more light they might look better. They did not. They were a putrid shade of yellow. When I tried them on I was elated to find they were much too large for me.

I breathed a great sigh of relief and said something like, "Well, that's too bad. I guess we'll have to give them back because they don't fit."

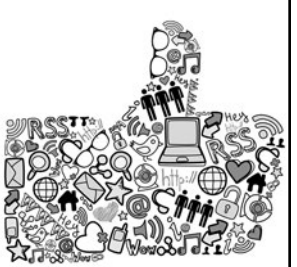
My heart sank when Mama said she believed she could "take them up." To add insult to injury, she did so by sewing pleats in the front of them. Now I know that Cary Grant and Fred Astaire wore pleated pants back in the day, and they've been in vogue a time or two since then, but I had never seen any of the boys at Plainview Elementary School sporting a pair. I doubted that my wearing those pants to school would earn me a spot on my school's best dressed list. I had no doubt in my mind that my mother had set out to ruin my life with those pants. I think that was about the time when I had begun to notice girls in a new light. I sincerely believed if I wore those pants the girls would notice me in a new light too but not one I wanted!

I concluded I probably had learned enough by the fifth grade to get me through the rest of life. I saw no other option so I decided to wrap up my education and not return to school. Mama held my school decision in about the same esteem that I did those yellow pants. Since she cooked most of our meals and I have always enjoyed eating, she won. Would you believe that the first time I wore those pants to school I "accidently" fell on the playground and burst a knee right out of one leg?

No, that was not what I intended. I intended to burst out both knees! I was one happy boy when Mama patched them and said, "I guess you'll have to wear them for play clothes."

Beauty really is in the eye of the beholder. I still don't know how, but I guess Mama really thought those pants were pretty - or could it be that she simply got them at a great price? I know this - In the eyes of your heavenly Father you are beautiful – even if you, or anyone else, don't think so! He loves you!

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LINDA DEGROOT TAKES 1ST PLACE IN SENIOR SPELLING BEE

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CULLMAN – The Cullman County Commission on Aging held its Senior Spelling Bee on Thursday, April 21 at the Cullman Senior Center. Linda DeGroot took the top spot.

"I won second place in sixth grade," chuckled DeGroot. "I was hoping I wouldn't have to spell the word 'commission' today; I still don't remember how many m's and s's are in the word."

The event was for Cullman County residents 50 and older.

"Today's spelling bee was very impressive," said Dusty Baker, director of the Cullman County Commission on Aging. "It is amazing to see what our seniors are capable of. I couldn't spell but about five of the words out of all the words they spelled today."

The day began with six spellers, all anxious to win. When the competition narrowed down to the final three, the contest took on a more competitive tone. When the last two participants were left, things got serious!

"Last year's spelling bee lasted about 25 to maybe 30 minutes; this year it went on for an hour and a half," Baker laughed. "We've got a vision here at the Commission on Aging- we would like to have someone from Cullman to win the National Spelling Bee. Today's spelling bee was the qualifier for the National Spelling Bee," he smiled.

For nearly an hour, the last two spellers went back and forth, back and forth, spelling words most of the audience had never even heard of. The tension was thick and everyone watched the showdown with great anticipation. Finally, after a total of 101 words were spelled, the winners were revealed!

DeGroot took first place, Jack Bray second place and Paula Hoover third place.



Linda DeGroot Jack Bray and Paula Hoover SHARON SCHULER KREPS/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

"I love to spell," DeGroot said. "I'm the person people come to and say, 'How do you spell this word?' I have a friend who will call me up and say 'I can't spell the word enough to look it up online'."

This year's Senior Spelling Bee was definitely full of suspense, and at times, comedy. It was lengthy and the contestants were getting tired, but in the end, someone had to win first place.

DeGroot will now go on to compete in the National Senior Spelling Bee in Knoxville, Tennessee on Saturday, July 9, 2016.

Today's first-place winner received $100, a trophy and an all-expenses-paid trip to the National Spelling Bee; second place received $50 and a trophy and third place received $25 and a trophy.

Commendation (from Front)

at the Alabama State House, where he was given a commendation and resolution for his actions on December 27, 2014. Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry attended the event with Thomas. Thomas was a nominee for the Legislative Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement.

On December 27, 2014, Thomas was dispatched to a call in the Holly Pond community to assist local emergency medical services and rapid responders with a male individual who was exhibiting signs of mental instability and threatening to harm others in the area.

As the individual's anger escalated, he exited the residence and proceeded toward Thomas and Deputy Ryan Fortenberry in a threatening manner, brandishing a samurai sword. As the individual continued to approach the deputies while yelling, behaving in an irrational manner and intending to do physical harm to others with the sword, Thomas and Fortenberry remained calm and asked the individual to stop and drop the weapon.

When the individual failed to comply and continued to advance, Fortenberry deployed his Taser. When the Taser had no effect in deterring the individual and he continued to advance towards Fortenberry, Thomas fired his weapon, stopping the assailant and saving the lives of Fortenberry and others at the scene.

"Although we live in a great community, a Sheriff's Deputy's job is never routine," said Gentry. "We are fortunate to have great Deputies here at the Cullman County Sheriff's Office."

Officer Joey Brown of the Orange Beach Police Department was awarded the 2016 Legislative Medal of Honor for Law Enforcement.

Meeting (from Front)

east side of the county, they can go to Baileyton or the Sheriff's Office in town. For us, Crane Hill is an ideal location because of the travel routes. You can go to Trimble, Jones Chapel, Brushy Pond and multiple travel routes simply located in this part of the community."

The property was purchased with the Sheriff's Office discretionary funds for $23,900.

Gentry met with Cullman County Commissioner Garry Marchman and told him of their plan for the Crane Hill field office and senior citizen's site. (The current senior center is infested with termites and has a lot of problems, which will take a lot of money to fix.)

"Our deputies are in their cars, which is their office and they are going from point A to point B. With us adding an office here, it gives them the ability to stay in their district, which helps on response to calls because they are not leaving their district to go drop off reports, meet with citizens or do the things they do every day which in turn keeps a deputy in your community and helps with response time."

So far, a total of $75,000 has been set aside for construction of the Crane Hill field station / senior center combo.

Right off the bat, Marchman pledged $25,000 from the Cullman County Commission.

State Representatives Cory Harbison, R-Good Hope, and Randall Shedd, R-Fairview, are also supporting the project. They have pledged $50,000.

Gentry expects the new facility to be completed within the next year and a half.

After a question and answer session between Gentry and community members on Thursday evening, the presentation was over. But many people stayed and continued the discussion in much smaller groups.

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