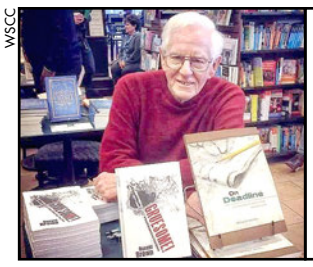
The Cullman Tribune

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WSCC

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Cullman group supports families with special needs

W.C. Mann
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CULLMAN – For families of those with special needs, Cullman has help and support in the form of the Cullman Autism and Special Needs Family Support Group. Founded in 2003 by Rhonda Davis, Jessica Dyson and Jo Keeton, the group's mission is to support, educate and help others on their unique and individual journeys. Starting as an Autism support group, the founders discovered others who needed help; so over the years the group has grown to more than 120 families with a variety of special needs. Today, they partner with Flourish of Cullman and the Cullman City Parks and Recreation Therapeutic Recreation program.

Group leader Sarah P5



David Laney CONTRIBUTED

Former Cullman County Sheriff David Laney dies at 60

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Former Cullman County Sheriff David Laney passed away early Tuesday morning at his home. He was 60 years old.

Cullman County Coroner Jeremy L. Kilpatrick says Laney died of natural causes.

Laney served as P14

CHS promises crowd pleaser with spring production of

'Shrek: The Musical'



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Three Fionas share the stage during rehearsal. P16

West Point Performing Arts gearing up for 'High School Musical'

Will Hogue
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WEST POINT – The West Point High School Performing Arts department is gearing up for its spring production. The group will present "High School Musical" March 24-25.

Director Ty Parker is excited about the upcoming show.

"I am trying to jump-start the theater program here," Parker said, "so I really included the students on choosing which show to do. We all decided as a group on 'High School Musical.'"

The musical is an on-stage version of the hit Disney movie series from nearly 10 years ago.

"I am just excited for the community getting to see the show, getting to see how hard these kids have been working," Parker said.

"I am also excited for the fall, for these students who will gain a lot of experience from this show to carry that on into the next year."

According to Parker, the theater culture at West Point High School used to be much more active than it is now.

"There used to be a thespian club," he said.

"I want to rebuild that pride in the performing arts, using the talented people who are all here in the student body by giving them an opportunity. I think this play will give those students a chance they haven't had yet."

The performances will be during the school day on March 24, and there will be two performances on March 25: one at 4 p.m. and one at 7 p.m. The cost of admission is $7; the show will be held in the West Point Auditorium.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
March 16, 2017

Applications being accepted for 2017 Sheriff's Youth Leadership Academy

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CULLMAN – Sheriff Matt Gentry and his staff at the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) have a vision for reaching out to the youth of Cullman County. It's evident in the CCSO's support of Special Olympics, and in the Sheriff's Rodeo. Last year, the department started another new program for high school students: the Sheriff's Youth Leadership Academy (SYLA), to introduce them to law enforcement and help develop their leadership abilities. The program continues this year, and will take place July 10-14, based at Wallace State.

Who should come?

The SYLA is open students who will be juniors and seniors in the next school year, and who have their driver's licenses. The ability to drive is required because activities will take place at several locations around the county, including Wallace State in Hanceville, the sheriff's office in Cullman and the Cullman County Fire Association training center in Vinemont.

The program may not be for everyone. Gentry explained, "It's a week-long academy, and it's 40 hours. For participants, we look for those in high school: 10th, 11th and 12th grades, that can drive. How they get accepted is they have to write a resume and an essay to why they should be accepted in the academy. It's not just sign up and do it; they have to do some work to get into this academy."

What does the CCSO look for in these applications? According to Gentry, "Just those individuals that possess the desire or the want to be good leaders, to make a change in their community, that want to be part of something more than what they're doing currently in school. We want somebody that wants to be engrossed with law enforcement, leadership and their community."

What will they do?

Starting around 5:30 a.m. (That's in the morning!) on July 10, accepted students will arrive at Wallace State and get ready for physical fitness training. Then they will move into a combination of classes and outdoor exercises.

"They will have guest speakers, a bunch of team-building and leadership exercises, community leaders and business owners that come in and talk to them," said Gentry. "To finish it, last year we did a paintball exercise at Mt. Doom, and then we had graduation. We do everything from classwork, PT (physical training) early in the morning, to rappelling. They also have to read a book, 'The Killer Angels,' about the leaders in the Civil War, and write an essay on that book, on leadership."

Lt. Rex Sorrow, who will be running the day-to-day activities of the SYLA, gave more details:

"It's going to be in various different places. We won't be at Wallace State all the time (which is why participants must be able to drive).

"We'll be coming back to the sheriff's office to do a tour of the office and the jail. We'll be carrying them out to the range to fire weapons. We'll be taking them through a SWAT team demo, where they'll be able to get in line with a SWAT team as they go through and clear a house. We have the ropes course that's going to be available to them. We're going to take them up to the fire association's training center at Vinemont; they have a 40-foot tower, and we're going to do some rappelling.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

2016 Sheriff's Youth Leadership Academy participants

"We're going to have great speakers coming in from various areas of life: attorneys, some of the judges, some very impressive business people here locally. I have a World War II veteran who served at the Battle of the Bulge, with some great stories to tell."

When and how do students apply?

"We're taking applications right now," said Sorrow. "We're trying to get with all the high schools, including private schools; any school that's in Cullman County. If they're a sophomore or junior (right now), they qualify for the SYLA. We're asking any of the students that's interested to apply for that. We have applications at all the schools, so all they have to do is stop by the office and pick up an application."

Applications will be accepted until the end of the school year in May.

For more information and coming updates, visit the SYLA Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ccsylacademy.

At a glance:

Cullman County Sheriff's Youth Leadership Academy

July 10-14, 2017, based at Wallace State

- Open to students who will be juniors and seniors in the next school year, and who can drive
- Applications available from school offices or school resource deputies
- Applications accepted until the end of the school year

Fairview gearing up for Spring Fling April 1

W.C Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

FAIRVIEW – Last year, representatives of the Lions Club of Fairview told the Tribune that they hoped to increase the number of family-friendly community activities in their town, and they are staying true to their word. On Saturday, Apr. 1, the Lions will host a free Spring Fling at Fairview Park.

There will be an abundance of activities and folks will be coming from all over to bring fun and interesting things to see and do such as:

- The U.S. Army will be bringing vehicles and activities for the kids to see and climb on.
- Air Evac will be bringing one of its helicopters.
- The Soil and Water Conservation District will be bringing out a trailer full of goodies.
- The North Alabama Agriplex will be bringing out experiments and activities.
- Rickwood/Cathedral Caverns will be sending someone out with fossils and minerals.
- Cullman Regional will offer free health screenings.
- LifeSouth will be holding a blood drive.
- Arts and crafts for sale
- Carnival games for kids
- Lions will be selling BBQ chicken plates for $10.

All the money raised through games and food will go to support Lions Club projects. Lions spokeswoman Stephanie Giancatarino shared a little about one of the Lions' most well-known charitable efforts: "Probably the biggest of the projects is helping those who can't afford glasses get them. We recently had a woman who could not afford an exam, let alone glasses. Through the funding we have, she was able to get the exam she needed and the glasses. She also found out through the exam she had the beginning stages of glaucoma. So we were able to get her started on some medicine to help keep it from progressing. Had she not gotten the exam, she would have never known and would have eventually lost her sight completely."

She also spoke about the Lions' community activities in Fairview:

"This Spring Fling is just another way we can also reach out to the community and let them know we are here. We want to help in whatever ways we can. This last year we have really hoped to branch out further and do some more fun things in the community to bring others together for some good, clean family fun. We did the movie in the park at Halloween and the Christmas tree parade with the tree lighting, both of which will be happening again this year. We are looking to offer opportunities throughout the entire year."

If you live in the Fairview area, be on the lookout for even more Lions Club activities, like pancake breakfasts and more movies in the park. Labor Day will see possibly the biggest event of the year, with a parade and celebration at the park. "To me," said Giancatarino, "the biggest blessing is being able to reach out and help others. I'm not much, but God gave me a big heart for a reason. Why not share it with others? I feel most of us in the group feel the same way. We just want to do what we can, and help where God leads us. I get a lot of joy out of seeing families together having a good time and they don't have to worry about things being unsafe or questionable. Kids are allowed to be kids, and the parents are able to enjoy themselves too."

AT A GLANCE:

Fairview Lions Club Spring Fling

Saturday, April 1, 2017
10 a.m til 2:30 p.m.
Fairview Park
Visit the Fairview Lions on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/fairview.lions.

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Doss Bridge on Beech Grove Road officially reopened

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GOOD HOPE – After being closed for almost five months, Doss Bridge on Beech Grove Road was reopened by the City of Good Hope Monday morning. (The bridge has been open for a few days; today was its official reopening.) Mayor Jerry Bartlett, town council members, representatives of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, heads of Carcel and G Construction and several local residents were on hand for a ribbon cutting that officially opened the thoroughfare.

According to Bartlett, several factors contributed to the closing.

"They had to move it about 10 feet off this ditch," said the mayor, "because this ditch was declared a wetland. They found some arrowheads in here, too (making the creek a potential archaeological site). So, we had to move the base over about 10 feet. Then there was a telephone pole right in the middle of where the center line would be.

"We had to rebuild that base 10 feet over, and when they dug down it was sludge. All the way to the end of it had to be completely dug up, and the base rebuilt all the way from the bottom up."

A survey conducted of the site yielded no significant archaeological evidence. The bridge itself was also found to be in poor condition (stampings on the concrete indicated that the old bridge was built in 1937), and was narrow for the type of traffic that frequents the road.

Justin Schuman, project manager for Carcel and G Construction, explained, "The main thing is, we widened it. That way, traffic can flow free. If you met a truck beforehand, it was dangerous. Mr. Doss said it was a quarry at one time; we opened it up, and had to do a lot of undercutting that was not expected."

In spite of the extra work and weather delays, the construction company still completed the project ahead of schedule.

Bartlett praised the crew, "I thought they did an outstanding job. They built the bottom part of the bridge in a record time. We've had some rain that slowed it down, but they still finished a good bit ahead of schedule."

The reopening of the bridge will allow residents from the south to enter Good Hope without having to go out to the interstate, and will shorten the trip for kids on school buses.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Good Hope Mayor Jerry Bartlett with Justin Schuman and Wes Hastings of Carcel and G Construction, who oversaw the project

According to Bartlett, "Our bus was having to park down here (the south side of the bridge) and turn around, and go back and hit the interstate. So now, for all of these kids, this is probably going to take about 30 minutes of their bus ride off."

Vinemont council up in arms over Air Evac contract

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

VINEMONT – The Vinemont Town Council met Tuesday evening, with Mayor Radginal Dodson and all council members present, along with Town Attorney Roy Williams. Several items were on the agenda, but an item not on the agenda received a substantial amount of attention: Dodson gave a critical update on the town's contract with Air Evac Lifeteam.

"The gentleman come by here," began Dodson, "and according to those in power above him, they ran out of money to notify all the people in the town about their insurance that we ended up with. It really didn't sit too good with everybody that's aware of the situation, me included. I don't think we've been treated right. As far as I'm concerned, he hasn't fulfilled his word."

The notification in question was to inform Vinemont residents of the availability of Air Evac services under the town's contract.

Not only has that not been done, but there was even a question of whether or not the company's bulk mail notifications would reach the right people when they do go out.

Due to the odd boundaries between Vinemont, Cullman and West Point, the council says a good chance exists that Air Evac's plan will offer service to people on the south side of town, who are actually Cullman residents and ineligible under the contract. It could also fail to notify town residents near West Point. The council also discussed alleged discrepancies in the representative's claims about when the notification would take place.

"We've had all kinds of different stories," said Dodson.

Councilwoman Sonya Mabry followed, "Well, I caught him in three different stories right up here (at town hall) the other day. I happened to be here when he come, and I didn't believe him."

In the end, Williams offered to review the contract to see what Air Evac's obligations are. Beyond that, no council action was taken at the time.

The council also took up a previously tabled request from a local tattoo shop (the shop was not named and is for sale; the request came from the person looking to buy the shop) to extend its closing time from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The reason allegedly given by the potential new owner, according to Mabry, was to "get younger kids in there to get tattoos; he could do it after a certain time and not have to get permission from their parents."

Williams pointed out that minors must have permission for tattoos, and that the law is not affected by time of day.

According to him, the late closing time would simply give kids a better chance to sneak out of their homes and get to the shop. The council voted unanimously to leave the shop's hours as they are.

Mike Graves presented the council with two matters. He and the mayor found two rolls of used AstroTurf that would be appropriate as a durable, low-cost floor covering for the town park's concession stand.

The council voted to purchase both rolls at a cost of $500. He also presented information on a building that has been offered to the town for use in the park.

The building sits on private property, and the owner offered to donate it to Vinemont, if the town would pay to move it. With an estimate of $1,175 in hand, the council voted to accept the building and move it to the park.

Lastly, Williams requested that the remainder of the meeting be an executive session, with no voting but closed to the public and press, to discuss "the sale, exchange, lease, purchase, convey real estate. It's an exception to the open meetings act, so I ask that y'all go into executive session to discuss it."

With that, the public meeting was adjourned.

The Vinemont Town Council meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Vinemont Town Hall. The public is invited to attend.

Bartlett declares April "Fair Housing Month" in Good Hope

Heather Mann
Tribune Correspondent

GOOD HOPE – Good Hope Mayor Jerry Bartlett this week signed a proclamation declaring the month of April "Fair Housing Month." April 11, 2017 will mark the 49th anniversary of the passage of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968. Also known as the Fair Housing Law, this title prohibits housing discrimination based on "race, color, religion, sex and national origin."

Other items discussed included the financial report from February.

Due to a miscommunication in November, the excise taxes the City should have been getting from the Pilot gas station have been going to the City of Cullman. The mix-up has yet to be fixed, resulting in a loss of income between $12,000-$14,000 total. After this discussion, the finances were approved.

Councilman Maxie Jones reported that the re-opening of the newly-minted Doss Bridge on Beech Grove Road had led to "a bunch of happy people."

"Took us eight years, but we finally got it done," Jones said happily.

Councilwoman Susan Eller reported that two new replacement sludge pumps were needed urgently. The costs of the pumps themselves, the wiring panels and the labor to install it all was estimated to be around $18,000. Due to the cost, Eller made a motion to pay for the repairs without exceeding $20,000.

In parks and recreation, Councilman Taft Dillashaw reported that there will be a softball tournament this weekend requiring three fields, and he was very pleased with the new field-fixing machine. He also said that many concessions stand workers had requested adding an additional touch screen to the stands to help take orders.

The Good Hope City Council meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Good Hope City Hall. The public is welcome to attend.

Going, going, GONE!

Lady Cats belt 4 homers in 17-0 rout of Oakman

Josh McBrayer
josh@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The bitter, biting cold did nothing to slow down the Cullman Lady Bearcats; Olivia Schwaiger was red hot in the circle, pitching a perfect four-inning game. The Lady 'Cats backed her up at the plate, belting four home runs on their way to a 17-0 drumming of the Oakman Lady Wildcats.

After Schwaiger retired the first three Oakman hitters, Sierra Easterwood immediately put the Lady 'Cats on top when she blasted a deep shot that landed over the right centerfield fence for the first of her two home runs.

Bailey Swann and Hannah Morton both reached base with two outs, bringing Schwaiger to the dish. She promptly smashed a hot shot to shortstop that was mishandled, allowing her to reach base and for Swann to come home to score.

This brought Kennedy Wren to the plate with a chance to add to the lead, which she did. She roped what looked to be a rise ball into left center to score Morton and Schwaiger to make the score 5-0.

Following another three up, three down, Cullman went right back to work. Swann lead off the inning with a bunt single and took second on a wild pitch.

With one out, Morton singled and took second when the Oakman defense was not paying attention, putting runners at second and third with one out.

The next Lady 'Cat hitter fouled out to bring Schwaiger up to bat. She helped her own cause by roping a two RBI double to the outfield to make the score 7-0.

Wren singled later in the inning, bringing home Schwaiger and putting the Lady Cats in command, 8-0.

Cullman added a single run in the third on an RBI single by McKenzie Burks, but the real damage came in the fourth when the Lady 'Cats plated nine. Tiffani Schwaiger got the merry-go-round started with a lead-off single.

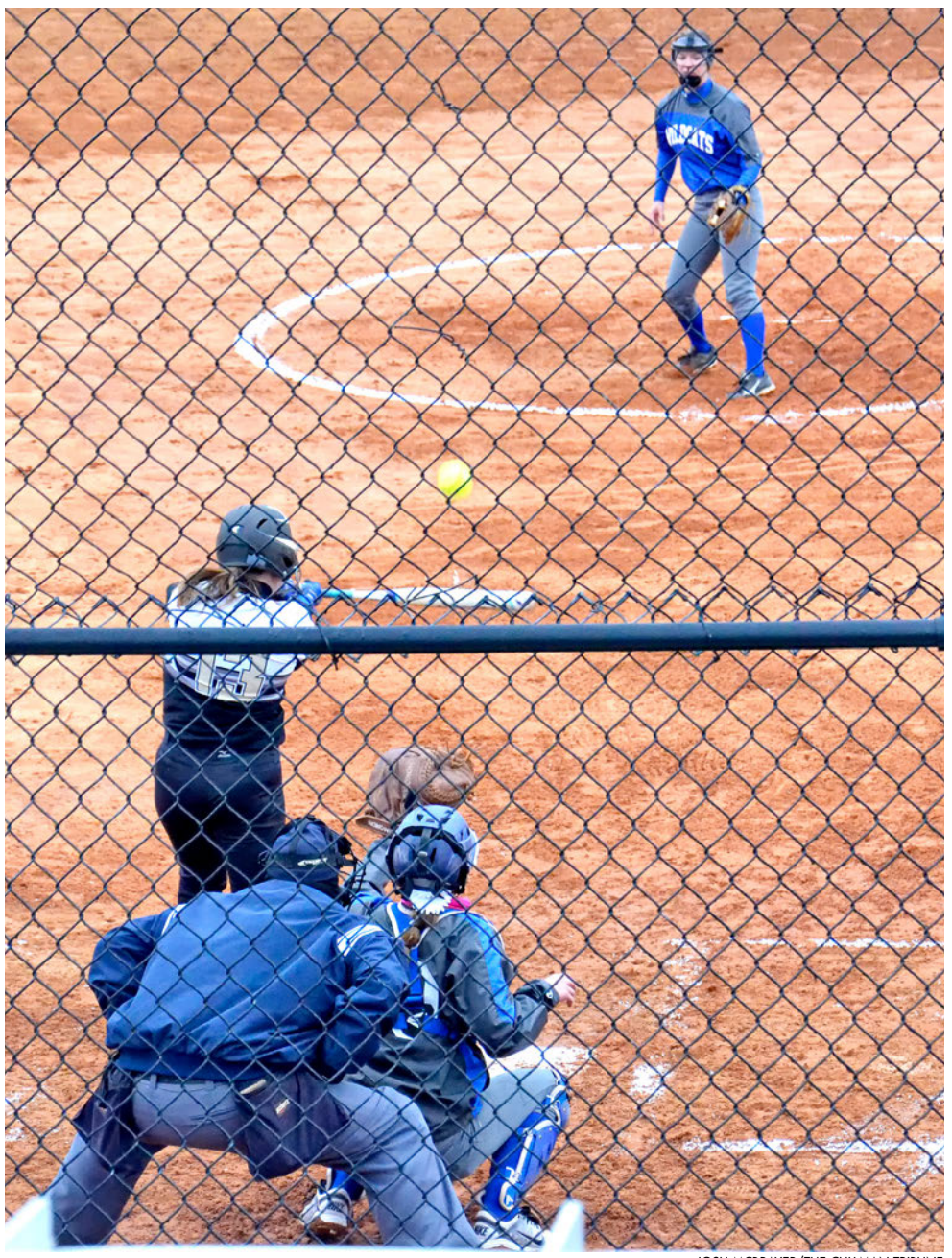
Olivia Schwaiger followed with a booming two-run home run to make the score 11-0. Sydney Holder was next up and she responded with a single. Hanna Brook McPherson then stepped into the batter's box and she also singled, her first varsity hit, much to the delight of the Cullman faithful.

After two quick outs, Easterwood came to the plate and immediately crushed a three-run homer for her second four bagger of the game to make the score 14-0.

Burks and Morton reached on a walk and a double respectively, bringing Tiffani Schwaiger to the dish where she deposited the ball over the right centerfield fence for a three-run homer and ended the game in the fourth via the mercy rule.

Final score: Cullman 17, Oakman 0.

Cullman will look to keep the momentum rolling as they welcome the Brewer Lady Patriots to town Friday afternoon.



JOSH MCBRAYER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Stop Movement Order issued on certain poultry in Alabama amid 3 avian influenza investigations

Amy Belcher
Ala. Dept. of Agriculture and Industries

MONTGOMERY – State Veterinarian Dr. Tony Frazier in consultation with Commissioner John McMillan on Tuesday issued a stop movement order for certain poultry in Alabama. "The health of poultry is critically important at this time," said Frazier. "With three investigations of avian influenza in north Alabama on three separate premises we feel that the stop movement order is the most effective way to implement biosecurity for all poultry in our state."

The first two investigations were on two separate premises in north Alabama. One flock of chickens at a commercial breeder operation located in Lauderdale County was found to be suspect for avian influenza. No significant mortality in the flock was reported. The other premise was a backyard flock in Madison County. Samples from both premises have been sent to the USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa and are being tested to determine presence of the virus.

The most recent investigation began following routine surveillance while executing Alabama's HPAI Preparedness and Response Plan. USDA poultry technicians collected samples at the TaCo-Bet Trade Day flea market in Scottsboro located in Jackson County on Sunday, March 12.

Samples collected were suspect and those samples are on the way to the USDA Lab in Ames, Iowa.

Frazier reminds poultry owners to be vigilant about biosecurity. It is the department's responsibility to protect backyard flock, exhibition, show and commercial poultry and stopping the movement of certain poultry is the most effective way to do so.

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working closely with the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) on a joint incident response.

The U.S. has the strongest AI surveillance program in the world and USDA is working with its partners to actively look for the disease in commercial poultry operations, backyard birds, live bird markets and in migratory waterfowl populations.

This suspected strain of avian influenza does not pose a risk to the food supply.

No affected poultry entered the food chain. The risk of human infection with avian influenza during poultry outbreaks is very low.

"Following the 2015 avian influenza outbreak in the Midwest, planning, preparation, and extensive biosecurity efforts were escalated in Alabama. Industry, growers, state and federal agencies and other stakeholders have worked hard to maintain a level of readiness," said Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries John McMillan. "Our staff is committed to staying actively involved in the avian influenza situation until any threats are addressed."

Frazier has been working closely with USDA and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture this past week. He encourages commercial poultry producers and backyard flock owners to observe their birds closely and continue to practice strict biosecurity measures.

These include:

- Isolating poultry from other animals
- Wearing clothing designated for use only at the poultry house
- Minimizing access to people and unsanitized equipment
- Keeping the area around the poultry buildings clean and uninviting to wild birds and animals
- Sanitizing the facility between flocks
- Cleaning equipment entering and leaving the farm
- Having an all in, all out policy regarding the placement and removal of the poultry
- Properly disposing of bedding material and mortalities
- Avoiding contact with migratory waterfowl

Frazier reminds all poultry owners and producers to strictly adhere to the biosecurity guidelines mentioned above. During this time, backyard flock owners should refrain from moving birds offsite or introducing new birds.

The ADAI Poultry Division is available to answer any questions concerning movement of poultry and should be notified at 334-240-6584 and/or USDA at 1-866-536-7593 if birds show unusual signs of disease (flu-like symptoms) or flocks experiences unexplained mortalities.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has created a website to assist backyard flock owners with maintaining healthy birds and to provide answers for avian influenza control. It can be found at www.AlabamaAvianInfluenza.com.

Find out more at http://agi.alabama.gov/.

Group (from Front)

Bates shared, "Support and helping is important because many who walk our journeys can feel overwhelmed at times and feel like nobody understands our circumstances. Many special needs families have received unsolicited comments from people who just 'don't get it.' Sure, most people have good intentions, but it is hard for them to comprehend our circumstances.

"Our support group provides a safe, loving and caring outlet for parents to share with others who 'get it.' It's a place where we can celebrate milestones that typical families don't have to fathom. It's a place where nobody judges. It's a place where you hear 'I remember when my kids did the same thing' and you feel a sense of relief.

"Educating is important. It can be extremely difficult to navigate insurance, schools, doctors, care options and more. We often have speakers provide information to help with different topics of importance and interest. We also advocate and bring awareness to special needs to prevent families from being left behind."

When asked what people need to know about the group or its members, Bates decided to pose that question to other members. Below are some of the answers that came back.

"Don't think people with special needs can't learn, live and work in our community."

"I wish people would ask how to best communicate with Kaden before they just start asking him questions he is never going to answer."

"My favorite quote is from the book 'Big Words for Little People' by Jamie Lee Curtis and Laura Cornell, which is: 'Different means nobody's ever the same. All bodies are different and so are all brains. Different is what makes this world great. Different is never something to hate.'"

"Just because we look 'normal' it doesn't mean we aren't a special needs person. Don't judge the outward appearance."

"Advice is great if it is solicited and if it is given as a kindness. Observations voiced are really not too helpful as we as the parent, surely already know what you may have just discovered."

"I want people to understand that less words is best and when talking to me and my son, Jordan, it is okay to ask him instead of me. Many times, we are too wordy in our statements and questions.

"Individuals with special needs require more time to process what you are saying. If we would slow down and limit our words, they will understand and you can have a meaningful conversation with someone with special needs and you will be better for it."

"We all want the same things: to be involved, to be happy, excited, asked our thoughts, wants, needs, goals. Stop and take time to smell the roses. Get to know a special needs person. See the world from their point of view."

"I don't really care what the question is, I just want people to ask. I love to talk about my children just like every other mom. As long as people are asking from a place of kindness and wanting to understand my child, I'm happy to answer."

"I think if more people took the time to get to know my family they would see that my son is a sweet little boy who just has some extra challenges and I may be more tired or stressed than others, but I'm still a mom who is trying her best to raise her children to be good, healthy and well-adjusted adults."

"My favorite quote 'Normal is a dryer setting.'"

The Cullman Autism and Special Needs Family Support Group has quite a few events coming up just in the next couple of months:

Fundraisers

• **Buffalo Wild Wings** (Cullman Location), Wednesday, March 16 between 4-8 p.m. Show your ticket to your server. Digital tickets are available via social media; contact Sarah Bates at 256-338-1301 for information.

• **Special Pancake Breakfast** March 18 from 7-9:30 a.m. Funds will benefit Flourish of Cullman and Cullman Autism and Special Needs Family Support Group. Your $5 donation buys pancakes, sausage links, orange juice or apple juice, coffee and soda. Carry-outs are available. Your servers will be our special needs individuals and their families. For information and tickets, contact Rhonda Davis at 256-962-2208, Sarah Bates at 256-338-1301, Melissa Dew at 256-338-4249 or Sharon Kane at 256-708-9647.

• **Dairy Queen north Cullman location**, Saturday March 25 from 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Dairy Queen south Cullman location, Sunday Mar 26 from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. The group will have a table set up at the entrance; please take a card and hand it to the cashier, no additional cost to customers.

• **Bojangles**, Tuesday, April 4 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; mention you support autism awareness.

• **Chick-fil-A**, Thursday, April 27 from 4 - 8 p.m. Mention you support autism awareness and write down your amount paid on the clipboard at the register.

Group meetings and events

• **Saturday, March 11, 5-7 p.m. Margaret Jean Jones Center**. 1807 Beech Ave. SE Cullman.
Special guest speakers:
Kevin Kimberly, Allstate agent
Cecil and Sarah Crunk, financial specialists
Kenneth Weldon, attorney
We will discuss the importance for families to start early planning for the future for the special needs children and Special Needs Discretionary Trust. Most families who have special needs children have no future plans if something happens to the parents. There are affordable options for these families to give them peace of mind that their children will be taken care of in the event the parents are no longer able to care for them. For more information, contact Rhonda Davis at 256-962-2208 or Sarah Bates at 256-338-1301.

• **Monday Night Swims** at the Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center from 6-8 p.m. on March 13, 20, 27; April 3, 10, 17, 24. Free swim for all with disabilities and their family members. Sign in at front desk.

• **Thursday Bowling Nights at the Bowling Center**, 1710 Tally Ho Street, Cullman from 5-7 p.m. on March 16, April 13 and 27. Free to all with disabilities, $5 for other family members. Wear good gripping shoes. RSVP REQUIRED!

• **Glow Bowl at the Bowling Center**, 1710 Tally Ho Street, Cullman, Sunday, March 19, 7-9 p.m. $5 per person with disabilities, $8 for other family members/ friends bowling with our group.

• **Monthly meeting at Margaret Jean Jones Center**, 1807 Beech Ave. SW, Cullman, Saturday, April 1, 5-7 p.m. Family fellowship and meal time!

• **Walk and 5K for Autism**, Saturday, April 8, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. at Heritage Park. There will be bounce houses, BBQ, special needs information vendors, kite flying and more. Sponsorship packets available – request to be mailed or emailed. Call Rhonda at 256-962-2208 or Sarah at 256-338-1301.

• **Miracle League Easter Egg Hunt**, Wednesday, April 12, 5:30 p.m., Field of Miracles, Cullman Parks and Recreation Therapeutic Recreation event.

• **Special Needs Prom**, Tuesday, April 18, 6-8 p.m., Cullman Civic Center, Therapeutic Recreation Event.

For more information on the Cullman Autism and Special Needs Family Support Group, contact representatives at the phone numbers listed in the schedule, or visit the group on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/365701250298039/.









News from the Pond

Jimmie Dean Carnell
Tribune Contributor



Good morning *Tribune* readers and families. Hope that you have had a good week.

This has been a week of unusual weather. On last Thursday, we left Holly Pond with temps in the upper 70s and returned on Sunday with temps in the 40s. It got so cold in Auburn where we were, my sister had to buy an Auburn sweatshirt-jacket from the bookstore there.

I have been with a group of people from the Dripping Springs Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Auburn for their annual conference meeting. Those that were attending from our local Cullman County Chapter included: Julia Floyd, Chapter Regent; Athelia Gibbs, State Treasurer; Rhonda Van Zandt, State Schools Chair; Jane Neal, Belinda Kilgore, Jimmie Carnell, Linda Schiger, Brenda Scott, Teresa Goodwin, Pat Kahler, Donna and Jerry Cornelius, Peggy Day, Pat Kahler and yours truly.

We have heard some wonderful speakers, saw some beautiful gowns worn by the members. There was a great deal of focus on the Alabama Bi-Centennial and along those lines, we heard from Mr. Bob Murray from the Alabama State Archives in Montgomery, Mr. James Hudson, of Huntsville and several others.

Mrs. Nancy Folk, of Birmingham, is the State DAR Regent and presided admirably for the entire four days. We stayed in the hotel on campus, where all the meetings were held. They also had six very young ladies in white dresses who served as "Pages" to the visiting state regents and our own state regent. They were at the attention of the state officers the entire time. You could always know someone was coming because the young pages were there, leading the way. Anytime Mrs. Folk entered a workshop area or presided at a meeting the members showed her respect by standing.

We were also honored to have our own Mrs. Brenda Scott lead the group in singing of the National Anthem and other selections throughout the conference. Mrs. Linda Schiger served as accompanist for several programs as well as the State Chorus.

We are always blessed with great talent from our Chapter and are thankful for their willingness to serve. An author, Mr. Bailey, retired from the Birmingham News told about his research on the "Six Capitals in the State of Alabama," which was humorous in some instances, but also very interesting. All the program personalities were exceptional.

Awards were also presented to the state winners who were chosen in several areas state- wide. There were some very smart young people that made presentations about the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School in Grant. Some adults were also included in the awards part of the Friday night banquet. The Conference theme of "Honoring God, Home and Country" was beautifully portrayed throughout the very inspirational conference.

We were too busy to include much sight-seeing on the trip. However, when the conference ended on Sunday morning my sister and I took a short driving tour of the beautiful Auburn Campus.

I was fascinated and awed with the Jordan-Hare Stadium. Of course, we couldn't go inside, but I couldn't believe the size of the structure and magnetron screen. The campus certainly has changed a lot since I last saw it in 1965.

This was my first trip to the conference and I enjoyed it very much. Hope that more members can attend in future years. Have a great week and enjoy this spring weather.

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From The Files Of 1955

R.C. Berry, of Vinemont, has a very long gun (65 inches) of the Civil War era, given to him by his father, the late Robert

R. Berry. Carved on one side of the stock is Co. H First Texas. R.C. and his brother have used the gun many times to hunt squirrels and rabbits. R.C. and his wife were married on March 16, 1902. They have three sons: Enoch, of Cullman, Lester, of Gold Ridge and Siris, of Memphis, Tennessee and four daughters, Mrs. J.B. Brewer, Mrs. Clyde Barnett and Misses Annie and Lexie Berry, all of Birmingham. Mr. Berry says he learned to read in the Blue Back Speller and the Cullman Tribune. He has been a continuous subscriber, since 1904.

Snakes have bitten two children here during the last few days. Both were quite ill for a while, but are much better now.

Last Saturday, four-year-old Linda Clemmons, daughter of Doctor and Mrs. L.H. Clemmons, was bitten by a brown rattler in the Clemmons yard. Doctor Clemmons brought her to his office, to give her a shot, which she of course didn't want to take.

By the time they arrived at the office the sting of the bite had subsided and Linda tried hard to cajole her Daddy into foregoing the shot. However, he knew it was necessary and couldn't be persuaded. She was quite sick for a day, but is feeling fine now.

On Tuesday afternoon, Lonnie Clifton Yeager, eleven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Yeager, was bitten by a snake, either a rattler or a moccasin. He was in a field near the Yeager home in the Good Hope community when bitten by the "black and gray" snake.

Lonnie was rushed to Cullman for a shot and is recovering nicely. One of his favorite television programs is "Lassie," on which he' had seen first aid given for snake bite and had remarked recently that if he were ever bitten he would split open the wound and suck the blood out like was done on television. However when his father later asked him about his first aid, Lonnie admitted he forgot all about it, when he was actually bitten.

Lonnie says something terrible happens every spring. Three years ago he was bitten by a mad dog and had to take shots. Two years ago he broke his arm and last year he stepped on a rusty nail and had to take all kinds of shots.

"Maybe it will be different when I grow up," comments Lonnie.

After 40 years, Leigeber has sold the Chevrolet dealership to Roy Drinkard. Mr. Drinkard is age 70.

Fire destroyed a barn and two story chicken houses on the Bert Smith farm, near Holly Pond, at 1:30 a.m., on Sunday. Both buildings, 1400 pedigree laying hens, whose eggs are used for special hatching purposes, a calf, a tractor, electric milker, crusher, as well as two loads of chicken feed were a complete loss. No insurance was carried.

Forgetting to close a barn door on the evening before proved a blessing to the Smiths. They had had guests and forgot to close the barn door. Thus 25 milking cows escaped from the fire. The cause of the fire is unknown, unless it was caused by a spark from the feed crusher, which Mr. Smith had used on Saturday.

Funeral services were held at Moss Chapel, on May 4th for Horace E. Lynn, 70, of Route Seven, of Cullman, who died at the Cullman Hospital on the preceding day. The Reverend J. Gilbert Speake conducted the rites and interment was made in the city cemetery.

Pallbearers were: Orvil Walker, James Nobel, Woodrow Taylor, Milton Edge, Marlon White and Garman Yarbrough.

Honorary pallbearers were Doctor C.M. Gross, E.C. McCain, Feltus Mullins, Wallace Yarbrough, Lawrence Howse, Willie Howse, Whatley Thurston, Graf Hart, Kenneth Weeks and Hershel Butler. Surviving are his widow; two sons, Guy Lynn, of Huntsville and Clyde Lynn, of U.S.M.C., Jacksonville, North Carolina and six daughters, Mrs. J.C. Bailey, of Hurricane, Utah, Mrs. H.H. Franklin, of Chattahoochee, Florida, Mrs. John M. Edwards, of Montgomery, Mrs. Jack Lindsey, of Birmingham and Miss Ruth Lynn, of Cullman.

Twelve seniors from the senior high schools of Cullman County will spend next Tuesday, in Montgomery for a tour of Alabama's Capital City.

They will visit the Capitol, attend sessions of the state legislature, as well as do some sightseeing around the city. This will be the first trip to Montgomery for several of these boys and girls, who have been chosen as winners of the Good Citizenship title in their various schools.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

I Think They Should Call It A Colon-Not-So-Sweet

Bill King
Tribune Contributor



My doctor asked me if I had ever had a colonoscopy. He suggested since my fiftieth birthday had passed, well, more than a year or two ago, that I should have one. I wasn't too keen on the idea, but since he was, he ordered me one. I went last Friday and I've decided that they should call the procedure a colon-not-so- sweet.

Well, honestly, the procedure was not so bad. I slept right through the entire thing. Honestly, the rough part was the preparation the day before the procedure. Prep day started like most of my mornings, with a couple of cups of Joe. I normally have a fried egg and some grits, or maybe a biscuit with a piece of ham, with my coffee. Sometimes, I have a bowl of cereal, with fruit and almonds and two percent milk and coffee. On the morning in question, I had coffee with my coffee. For lunch, I had two cups of warm chicken broth. It wasn't bad, which is another way of saying it wasn't all that great. I would have preferred a slab of pork ribs, slathered in sweet, spicy, barbecue sauce, but that was not listed on my instructions. I think the reason was because I wasn't supposed to have anything red and barbecue sauce is red. For desert, I had a cup of sugar-free, orange Jell-O. Hey, isn't orange made from red? Just asking. For dinner that evening, I had planned on some more of that delicious chicken broth, but I never have been really keen on leftovers!

At precisely five o'clock, I began drinking "the stuff." The stuff was called GoLYTELY. Why on earth they named it GoLytely, I may never know. I now totally understand why they came up with the "go" part, although I am completely baffled by the "lytely" part. I remember running races as a child and the starter said, "ready, set, go." I ran races that night too, but it didn't matter whether I was ready or set. I was also reminded of what we shouted when we played hide and go seek - "ready or not, here I come!" They also didn't go "lytlely" on the amount I had to drink. I had to mix water with powder in the bottom of a gallon- jug. Boy, was it good? That's a rhetorical question, by the way. Actually, mixed with a little Crystal Lite lemonade, the first fifteen glasses weren't too bad. (You do remember what that means; don't you?) Before I finished it all, that gallon- jug had begun to look like a fifty-five

gallon barrel!

When I was a boy helping my dad in his store, this old man named Mr. Hall used to stop in almost every afternoon for what he called "a cold drank." He usually had an RC or Coke. Coke came out with a new grapefruit-citrus flavored diet-soda called Fresca.

It's pretty good now, but originally, they used saccharin as the sweetener and it tasted awful. Mr. Hall had never tasted a Fresca, or even seen one for that matter. I talked him into trying one. He took one big sip and immediately spewed that stuff out all over the place. He hollered, "King boy, are you trying to poison me or something?" Compared to GoLYTELY, the old Fresca tasted like nectar from heaven, or at least like a Grape Ne-Hi.

The results of my test were all good. For that I am thankful. For the fact that I don't have to drink GoLytely again for ten years, I say, "Glory, hallelujah, amen and pass the Fresca please!"

Bill King can be reached at bkpreach@yahoo.com or 334-745-0588 (office) or 334-728-5514 (cell).



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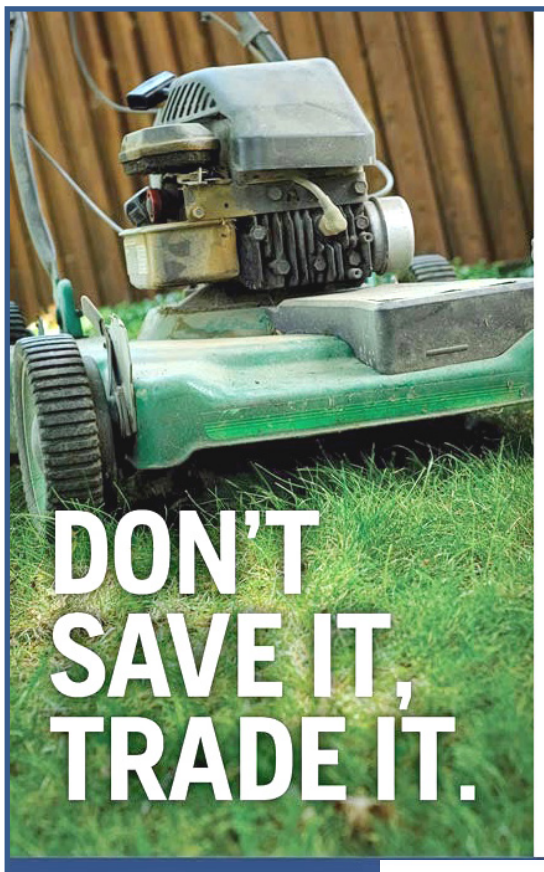
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PHARMACY TOPICS

by Rex Smith
Hospital Discount CENTRAL



Pictured L-R: Vanessa Patton, Becky Cook, Becky Burks and Rex Smith, RPh

The smoking cessation medications varenicline and bupropion do not appear to increase the incidence of serious neuropsychiatric side effects compared to placebo, according to a study published in *The Lancet*. The study is the largest trial to date looking at the safety and efficacy of three first-line smoking cessation treatments-varenicline, buproprion and nicotine patches – compared to placebo in smokers with and without psychiatric disorders, and finds that smokers who took varenicline achieved higher abstinence rates than smokers on bupropion, nicotine patches or placebo. The study involved more than 8,000 people and was requested by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) following concerns about the neuropsychiatric safety of varenicline and buproprion.

***

In a study of children with mild persistent asthma, scientists found that acetaminophen was tolerated without the worsening of asthma, when compared with ibuprofen use. The study, funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute's asthma network, (AsthmaNet), appears in the August 18, 2016, issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. While acetaminophen (e.g., Tylenol, Panadol) and ibuprofen (e.g., Advil, Motrin) are often used to treat pain or fevers in children, some prior reports suggested that use of acetaminophen in children with asthma was associated with the worsening of asthma. Consequently, some health care providers avoided the use of acetaminophen in children with the disease

***

Lorcaserin (trade name Belviq), a weight-loss drug, dampened the response to food cues in regions of the brain associated with attention and emotion, leading to decreases in caloric intake, weight and body mass index (BMI), according to a study published in the journal Diabetes.

***

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Catching up with American Legion Post 4

Andrew Cryer
Tribune Correspondent

GOOD HOPE – Cullman American Legion Post 4, located at 181 Reid Road in Good Hope, held its monthly meeting recently. The group, along with members of the Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, gathered to discuss future plans.

Post 4 has several upcoming events that will benefit veterans of Cullman County.

Not only does the American Legion provide financial support to veterans, they also provide a social atmosphere; every Saturday night, Post 4 hosts a bingo night.

All veterans and their families are encouraged to attend.

From April 20-23, the American Legion will be hosting a membership drive.

Membership in the Sons of the American Legion is available to all male descendants of veterans who served during wartime.

The veteran does not need to have been deployed in the war; if he or she served during a wartime then membership is accepted.

Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is available to all female veterans and their dependents, both male and female, if the veteran meets the wartime criteria. New members will participate in the nomination of officers, which will be held in April. The election will be held at the May meeting, and installments will occur in June.

On June 2-3, the American Legion will be working Rock the South, assisting with parking. Volunteers are needed for this event. The Legion will use this as a fundraising opportunity to further assist veterans.

In addition to providing assistance and social support to veterans, the American Legion also works toward educating youth about American civics.

The American Legion fully supports the proposed Alabama Senate bill which would require students to pass a citizenship exam before receiving their diplomas.

Not only does the American Legion, according to Arceneaux, support the Alabama bill, but they hope that a bill will bring the requirement to the national stage.

"One out of three students (nationally) don't know the three branches of government," stated Arcneaux, as he expressed the importance of such a bill.

The American Legion, and associated groups, meets on the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. for dinner; meetings begin at 7 p.m.

Learn more at http://qrne.ws/americanlegion.



ANDREW CRYER /THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Scott Bealer (district chaplain), Charles Wunderlich (Sons of the American Legion), Frederick Arceneaux (Squadron 4 commander), Dan Raley (commander, Post 4) and Don Reid (post adjutant)

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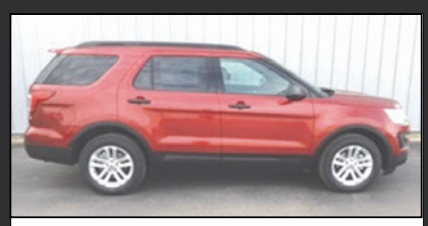


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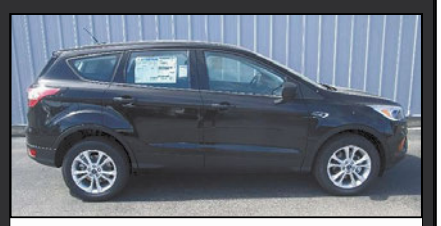
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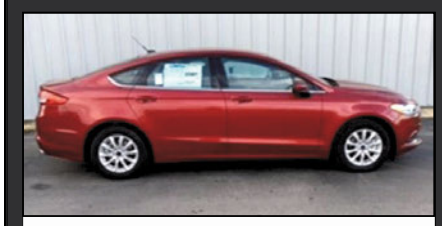
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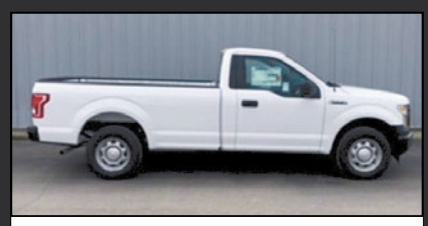
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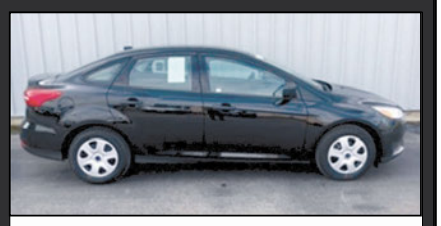
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Author of true crime book to speak April 11 at Wallace State

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State Community College is honored to announce it will host author Donald Brown on April 11, at 6 p.m. at the Burrow Center Recital Hall to discuss his book "Mr. X and Mr. Y." His appearance was rescheduled from the fall semester.

Brown's book is a non-fictional exploration of the "Torso Murders" that occurred in Calhoun County in 1959.

Viola Hyatt was the woman convicted of the murders in which she spread her victims' dismembered bodies across three conjoining counties in Alabama.

Brown was the original reporter covering the investigation of the "Torso Murders" in 1959 for The Birmingham News.

"Tapping out these words on a desktop 57 years later, I am as certain about that as ever.

"That story and that woman have lived in me for a long time. They finally convinced me to share them in a lasting way. So I am shaping a book, perhaps the last lap on my track." –Don Brown, al.com.

Wallace State invites all to attend the event and Brown will be able to give insight about the gruesome murder that some Alabamians may still remember.

He will also give advice on how to construct a book, hold a Q&A at the end of his dialogue and hold a book signing at the end of the event.

Admission is free and is open to the public.

For more information, call 256-352-8356 or visit www.wallacestate.edu.

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IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY

STATE OF ALABAMA
CULLMAN COUNTY CASE NO: **AD2017-008**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF

CONNER ALAN GOFF

A MINOR CHILD. DOB: **04-25-2005**

NOTICE OF PETITION OF ADOPTION TO BE PUBLISHED

TO: **Any Alleged, Purported Father, known or unknown person, who might be the biological father of Conner Alan Goff.**

YOU MUST ANSWER THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION FILED BY DENNIS ALAN GOFF & CINDY RAE GOFF WHICH WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA ON THE 2ND DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2017, AND THAT SHOULD YOU CONTEST THIS ADOPTION, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE LAST PUBLICATION HEREIN WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONER AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE SAID PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, 500 2ND AVENUE SW, SUITE 101, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055.

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice once a week for four (4) successive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

DONE THIS 10th DAY OF February, 2017.

Tammy Brown

TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABMA

Attorney for Petitioner:
Melvin Hasting
407 2nd Avenue S.W.
P.O. Box 517
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0517
256-736-2230

Cullman Sense – Legal Ad

The Alcohol Review Committee of the City of Cullman will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 20th, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the administrative conference room at City Hall located at 204 Second Avenue NE. The Committee will receive public comments for and against the alcohol license applicant listed below:
Johnson's Pure - 1006 Second Avenue NW – Beer and Wine Off-Premises Alcohol License

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE:)
W.C.L.,) CASE NO. JU 2016-440.02
A Minor Child, 05/24/2016)

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

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

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Father of the child born on or about 06/24/2016 to Erika Verus, respond to the Petition of the Alabama Department of Human Resources for the Termination of Parental Rights by the 20th day of April, 2017 or thereafter a judgment may be rendered in favor of the Petitioner.

It is further **ORDERED** that this Order and notice be published once a week for four successive weeks in *The Cullman Tribune*, a newspaper of general circulation in Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE this the 3rd day of March, 2017

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

FILED IN OFFICE
MAR 03 2017
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY

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.

2005 Nissan Maxima VIN # 1N4BA41E35C827476
2000 Chevrolet Cavalier VIN # 1G1JC1243Y7136250
2000 Chevrolet Blazer VIN # 1GNDT13WOY2185883
2000 Pontiac Grand Prix VIN # 1G2WP52KXYF171532
2012 Nissan Maxima VIN # 1N4BA41E55C805396

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 April 14, 2017, at 8:00 a.m.

This vehicle will be auctioned at our Albertville, Alabama location, 9821 US Hwy 431:

2004 Chevrolet Corvette, Vin. #1G1YY22GX45114235

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

CATHERINE S. LEDFORD,
Plaintiff

Vs. Case Number: **DR-2016-000355.00**

HAL ROSS LEDFORD,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

Hal Ross Ledford, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Catherine S. Ledford's Complaint for Divorce by April 17, 2017 or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against him in Case Number 25-DR-2016-000355.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 15th day of February, 2017.

Lisa McSwain,
Clerk of Circuit Court

PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY:
RANDY A. HAMES
427 2nd AV SW
CULLMAN, AL 35055

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE:)
W.C.L.,) CASE NO. JU 2016-440.02
A Minor Child, 05/24/2016)

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 W.C.L. born on or about 05/24/2016 to Erika Verus, respond to the Petition by the 20 day of April, 2017, or thereafter a judgment may be rendered in favor of the Petitioner.

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

DONE this the 3rd day of March, 2017

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

STATE OF ALABAMA, CULLMAN COUNTY
I, Lisa McSwain, Clerk of Circuit Court in and for said County and State, hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy as the same appears of record in this office.

Witness my hand and official seal, this 8 day of March, 2017.

Jean White
Clerk of Circuit Court

FILED IN OFFICE
MAR 03 2017
LISA McSWAIN
CIRCUIT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY

NOTICE

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER APPLICATION TO VACATE A PORTION OF CULLMAN COUNTY ROAD 1615.

WHEREAS, property owner AGCOR Steel, LLC, desires to vacate a portion of a county road within the County limits of Cullman, pursuant to Ala. Code § 23-4-20 (1975);

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ala. Code § 23-4-2 (1975), the Cullman County Commission is required to hold a public hearing, prior to taking final action;

WHEREAS, notice of which is required by statute, shall occur once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks;

WHEREAS, a public hearing will take place on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. at the Cullman County Commission Meeting Room; First Floor; Cullman County Courthouse; 500 2nd Avenue, S.W. Cullman, Alabama 35055;

WHEREAS, applicant, AGCOR Steel, LLC, is requesting vacation of a portion of Cullman County Road 1615, more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Commence at the Northeast Corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 9, Township 10 South, Range 2 West, thence S 1°36'10" E 1338.25 feet to an existing iron, thence S 88°48'46" W 467 feet to an existing iron, thence N 1°37'11" W 101.08 feet to an existing iron, thence N 1°24'08" W 198.07 feet to an existing iron on the South R.O.W. of Co. Rd. 1615 and the point of beginning, thence N 2°52'23" W 40.38 feet to an existing iron on the North R.O.W. of Co. Rd. 1615, thence along said R.O.W. the following bearings and distances, thence N 83°56'30" W 88.50 feet, thence N 82°28'50" W 111.88 feet, thence N 78°12'40" W 93.15 feet, thence N 71°25'59" W 79.54 feet, thence N 63°47'45" W 61.88 feet, thence N 54°42'55" W 60.21 feet, thence N 48°04'49" W 85.38 feet, thence N 45°14'25" W 92.68 feet, thence N 43°28'14" W 155.44 feet, thence N 42°59'57" W 152.44 feet, thence N 40°39'28" W 82.63 feet to an existing iron on said R.O.W., thence S 6°27'44" E 81.56 feet to an existing iron on the South R.O.W. of Co. Rd. 1615, thence along said R.O.W. the following bearings and distances, thence S 76°13'13" E 9.97 feet, thence S 43°04'55" E 161.12 feet, thence S 43°28'54" E 156.72 feet, thence S 45°14'48" E 93.82 feet, thence S 48°09'24" E 88.75 feet, thence S 54°48'20" E 65.53 feet, thence S 63°17'25' E 67.65 feet, thence S 71°23'54" E 84.68 feet, thence S 78°09'50" E 96.97 feet, thence S 82°27'17" E 114.04 feet, thence S 84°00'26" E 95.10 feet back to the point of beginning.

WHEREAS, an action is requested for an adoption and approval of a Resolution vacating a portion of Cullman County Road 1615.

WHEREAS, said notice is posted in accordance with Title 23-4-2, et.seq. Code of Alabama, 1975. All persons who desire shall have an opportunity of being heard in opposition to or in favor of such resolution. This public notice is posted a minimum of Thirty (30) days prior to the date of the public hearing at: Cullman County Courthouse Entrance Bulletin Board.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the provision of the Resolution vacating a portion of Cullman County Road 1615, will be considered by the Cullman County Commission at a Public Hearing to be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at the Cullman County Commission Meeting Room at 10:00 a.m. at which time and place all persons who desire shall have an opportunity of being heard in opposition to or in favor of such Resolution or any provision thereof.

Dated this the 14th day of March, 2017.

BY:
J. Chad Floyd
Attorney for Cullman County
500 Second Avenue, S.W., Room 110
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Telephone: (256) 775-4893

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC2017-038

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF WESLEY OWEN WEEKS, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Donna Jo Oden and Wesley Owen Weeks Jr. on the 21st day of February, 2017, 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.

Donna Jo Oden and Wesley Owen Weeks Jr., Joint Personal Representatives

To the publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Sherry H. Barrett
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorney for Personal Representatives
P.O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Telephone: (256) 734-4721

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC2017-048

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF JERRY JACKSON LUCAS, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Amy Lucas Smith on the 24th day of February, 2017, 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.

Amy Lucas Smith
Personal Representative

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith, LLP
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

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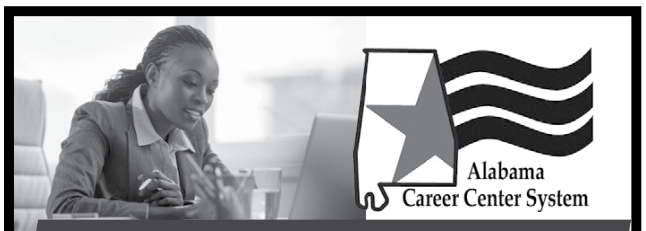
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Event will be April 1, 2017 at the Heritage Park Soccer Field
Gates open at 8 am
Show begins at 9 am

OPEN TO PUBLIC
Registration fee for those wishing to enter event
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Event will include:
- Best Costume
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- Best Pooch Smooch
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And many others!!

Price will be based on number of categories chosen to enter.
1 category for $10.00
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Whole event for $25.00
All proceeds go to the Cullman County Relay for Life.

For information on how to register email:

James Powers- powers.james16@yahoo.com

Or Call (256) 615-3644

Tracy Powers- tpowers35057@hotmail.com



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HELP WANTED-NEWS

A GROUP of three weekly newspapers in southwest Alabama is looking for an editor/reporter. The individual should have journalism training and/or experience and be versed in layout and photography skills and be able to work well with the community. The individual would be based at one of the newspapers but would be part of a team that provides coverage for all three publications. This is a rural area (if you are a hunter or fisherman, you'll love it!), 1 hour from Mobile, 2.5 hours from beach. Send resume to Jim Cox, The Clarke County Democrat, P.O. Box 39, Grove Hill, AL 36451, email jimcox@tds.net.

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Weekly online news recap, Mar. 9 - 15

The Cullman Tribune's weekly print edition is packed full of important community news and current events. Did you know that you can also access our content for free online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?

Find us three ways: on our website at CullmanSense.com, on social media at facebook.com/CullmanSense and twitter.com/CullmanSense or through our free mobile app, "CullmanSense NOW," available from the App Store or the Google Play Store. Also online is our calendar, so you never miss an important community event. Find it at CullmanSense.com/calendar.

Here's a recap of our online news you may have missed since last Thursday.

Tip leads to arrest of tri-county burglary suspect; property recovered

DANVILLE – A Danville man is being held at the Cullman County Detention Center without bond after authorities arrested him for a string of burglaries in Cullman, Morgan and Lawrence Counties this week. Joshua Felton Ledlow, 33, of Danville is facing two counts of third-degree burglary in Cullman County, as well as additonal, pending charges from Morgan and Lawrence Counties. The Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) had been conducting an investigation into burglaries that occurred on County Road 1101 in the Battleground community. A BOLO (be on the lookout) was issued on a silver Dodge Ram pickup truck by the CCSO after the vehicle was photographed in the area of the burglaries.

Vinemont woman perishes in early morning fire

VINEMONT – An early morning house fire claimed the life of a Vinemont woman. The incident happened at approximately 2 a.m. Tuesday on County Road 1367 in the Vinemont community. Rebecca Self, 45, was pronounced dead at the scene, according to Cullman County Coroner Jeremy L. Kilpatrick. Firefighters from the Vinemont-Providence and West Point Volunteer Fire Departments responded to the blaze, along with members of the Cullman County Sheriff's Office. No further information is available at this time, as the Alabama State Fire Marshal's office continues to investigate.

Alabama's unemployment rate rises to 6.4%; Cullman Co. among lowest at 5.7%

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Labor Secretary Fitzgerald Washington announced Monday that Alabama's preliminary, seasonally adjusted January unemployment rate is 6.4%, up from December's revised rate of 6.3%, and above January 2016's rate of 6.1%. January's rate represents 141,268 unemployed persons, compared to 137,875 in December and 131,483 in January 2016. There were 2,054,204 people working in January, up from December's count of 2,047,753, and significantly higher than January 2016's count of 2,034,498.

Details of 3-year bicentennial celebration announced

MONTGOMERY – Gov. Robert Bentley has announced that a Capitol Bicentennial Park will be constructed as part of the state's three-year bicentennial birthday commemoration. The area facing the Capitol, between the Attorney General's and the Lurleen Wallace office buildings, will become the park and will feature bas-relief sculptures telling the history of Alabama.

Local law enforcement officers raising funds for Special Olympics; catch them Saturday at south Wal-Mart

CULLMAN – This weekend, the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) and Cullman Police Department (CPD) are out in force, for a worthy cause. Deputies and officers were at the south Cullman Wal-Mart Friday and will be again tomorrow, Saturday, taking donations to help support Cullman's Special Olympians, and to provide free services to Olympians and their families at the local meet scheduled for April 21 in Cullman.

CCSO deputy and ALEA trooper honored by Sheriff Gentry

CULLMAN – Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry recently presented commendations to Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) Sgt. Daniel Cummings and Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) State Trooper Rodney Wallace.

Cullman Rotary Club holds annual fundraising auction

CULLMAN – Crowds filled the Cullman Civic Center on Friday evening for the Cullman Rotary Club's 44th annual fundraising auction. Hundreds of items were available through silent and open auction including big-screen TVs, furniture, jewelry and watches, firearms, art, lawn care equipment, tools, gift certificates, fine wines and liquors, Cullman City Parks and Recreation family memberships and Smoky Mountain vacation packages. Raffles and games gave away additional prizes and cash. Donors to the event included businesses and individuals from all over Cullman County, as well as Walker and Winston Counties and even as far away as Birmingham.

Cullman artist/writer salutes Alabama 200

CULLMAN – Alabama turns 200 years old in 2019 and the birthday celebration, dubbed Alabama 200, has begun. Cullman, Alabama- based artist, Ben Johnson South, known as "The Alabama Aphorist," is adding a savory smorgasbord of fun and laughter to the offerings by creating 200 original aphorisms about his beloved, native state in an immersive art installation he calls "THE ONE-LINER ALABAMA DINER."

2017 Cullman County Baseball Tournament: Fairview takes county baseball title with 9-1 triumph over West Point

GOOD HOPE – Good hitting and strong pitching on a cool Friday night carried the Fairview Aggies past the West Point Warriors 9-1 in the Cullman County High School Baseball championship at Good Hope High School.

Corner edges Good Hope in Umpires' Association Championship

VINEMONT – Good Hope's quest to take home the championship in the 16th annual Cullman Softball Umpires' Associations Invitational was denied Saturday afternoon when the Lady Raiders suffered a 3-0 loss to the Corner Yellow Jackets at the Vinemont Sports Complex.

Cullman holds off Hazel Green late, 2-1

CULLMAN – Cullman took on Hazel Green on day two of the Cullman Shamrock Invitational. It was a very physical game between both teams, and Cullman took advantage of some sloppy passing by the Lady Trojans, scoring one in each half, holding off a late scoring opportunity by Hazel Green to win, 2-1.

Cullman defeats Arab, 2-1, in Cullman Shamrock Invitational

CULLMAN – In the fourth annual Cullman Shamrock Invitational, Cullman looked to get off to a good start following their 7-3 loss to Albertville recently. Now they entered in a battle against the Arab Lady Knights, and all the goals were scored in the first half by both teams. The Lady Bearcats went on to win, 2-1.

Running wild: Cold Springs' Cayde Elliott signs track scholarship with Lindsey Wilson College

BREMEN – Clad in the familiar royal blue of the school where he has made a name for himself as a standout track athlete, Cayde Elliott strode into the Cold Springs High Scholl Library brimming with confidence, just as he does before each and every track meet. Only this time he was not getting ready for a meet, he was getting ready to meet his future. Just moments after he entered the library, Elliott sat at a table flanked by his father, mother and brother, surrounded by coaches and administration he has known his entire career at Cold Springs, to sign a track scholarship with Lindsey Wilson College (Columbia, Kentucky), taking his athletic career to the next level.

Cullman chapter of Sons of the American Revolution forming

Submitted by Ken Brown

The Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) are founding a chapter in Cullman: "We exist to teach our youth about our early American History, to promote patriotism and to support our veterans." Members must prove they have an ancestor who was a patriot in the American Revolution; The group has a chapter registrar who will assist potential members in doing that. If you are interested in learning more about the SAR, call Chapter President Ken Brown at 256-507-1121 or drop in on the next meeting at the Cullman VFW post on Monday night, March 27 at 7 p.m. The VFW is located at 112 Veterans Drive SW in Cullman.

Fairview High School Class of 1972 searching for members

FAIRVIEW – The Fairview High School Class of 1972 is trying to locate the following classmates for their reunion on Saturday, April 1, 2017. If you have contact information for the following individuals, please contact Jackie Donovan at 205-908-3555: Carol Ellenburg Winn, Jackie Helton, Donna Powe, Debbie Burgess Crawford, Coy Hankins, Dewayne Ivey, David Jester, Dwight Lebowski, Carl Lewis, Joey Payne, William Pruett, Douglas Smith, Coyce Walker, Randall Walker. Please like our Facebook page – Fairview High School Class of 1972 – 45th Reunion, to receive updates.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Holly Pond High School's Zackery Reynolds wins state geometry tournament

HOLLY POND – Zackery Reynolds enjoys running. He competes in track and field and cross-country for Holly Pond High School (HPHS), scoring near the top of the team roster this year in 2-mile and 5K events. And while he's running circles around most of us, he'll probably be able to tell us the circumference and area of those circles.

Reynolds's most recent honor came off the field at the 2017 Alabama Statewide 1A-4A Math Contest on Feb. 25, when he competed in the geometry exam portion against students from all over the state. Since the exam was given simultaneously at eight locations around the state, competitors left without knowing their results. More than a week after he took the test, Reynolds heard during the school's morning announcements that he was the top scorer. That's not top scorer at Wallace State, where he took the test; that's top geometry scorer in the state of Alabama!

OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS: MAR. 8 - 14

Funeral service for Faye Fant, 82 of Walter, held March 11 at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel; Ken Tyler officiated. Interment in Gibbs Chapel Cemetery. Mrs. Fant passed away March 8 at her residence. She was born on August 9, 1934 in Arab to James Eli & Myrtie Idella Garrett Gullion. Survivors include two children, Richard (Jennifer) Fant and Jamie (Darrell) Allbright; and two grandchildren; Chase Allbright and Jordan Allbright.

Kathy Frederick, 60 of Haleyville, entered into rest on March 10, 2017 at her residence. Kathy was born on September 13, 1956, in Sylacauga, Alabama. She was a member of Bear Creek Church Of Christ for 50 years. Kathy attended Phillips High School and went on to Real Estate School. She enjoyed arts and crafts and her cats. She was called "Cotton" by her grandpa Jeffreys because of her curly white hair. Graveside service will be held March 11 at Roden Cemetery Town Creek, Alabama. Brother Jeff Griffis officiated. Kathy is survived by her father, Lowell C. Chaffin; sons, Andy Frederick and his girlfriend Shanta Yancey and Scott Frederick and his girlfriend Shirley Norris; sister, Carol Chaffin and her husband Joe Brazier. She was preceded in death by her husband, Al Fletcher; mother in law, Margie Frederick; grandmother, Katie Jeffrey's; mother, Nellie Galloway.

Funeral service for William Crane Tunnell, 78 of Hanceville, held March 11 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Chapel, Bro. Bobby Waddell officiating, with interment in Ft. Mitchell National Cemetery in Ft. Mitchell. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Tunnell passed away March 8 at his residence. He was born July 1, 1938, in Aurora, Mo. He was preceded in death by his parents, Guy and Dorothy Parker Tunnell; and his wife, Delores Tunnell. Survivors include his children, Christopher Tunnell, Kevin Tunnell, Steven (Shannon) Tunnell and Teddy Tunnell; six grandchildren, Kimberly Henderson, Jessica Brown, Christopher Tunnell, Jr., Heather Hudson, Matthew Pittman and Joshua Tunnell; and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral service for Pam Bailey, 63 of Bremen, March 12 at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel; Allen Speegle and Paul Campbell officiated; interment in Good Hope Cemetery. Mrs. Bailey passed away March 10 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. She was born August 18, 1953 to Felton and Barbara Sandlin Speegle. Mrs. Bailey taught at Cold Springs High School for 23 years. She was also the cheer coach and enjoyed Cold Springs Basketball. She loved teaching, cooking, spending time with her grandson and loved her family dearly. She was preceded in death by her daddy; granddaughter, Dahlia Bailey and grandparents, Lacy and Olma Sandlin, Aaron and Ethel Speegle. She is survived by her loving husband, Donald Joe Bailey; mother, Barbara Faye Speegle; devoted son, Chris (Cherry) Bailey; her pride and joy grandson, Jackson Bailey; grandchildren, Violet Owens, Alex Owens, Daisy (Chris) Sides and Patrick Freeman; great grandchildren, Andrew Sides, Audrey Sides, Alli Freeman and Jaiden Freeman; sister, Phyllis (Billy) Stricklin, brothers, Allen (Janice) Speegle and Jason (Cathy) Speegle; sisters-in-law, Wanda Aaron and Deborah (Bobby) Peake and a host of nieces, nephews and other family and friends who loved her very much.

Ledell Thornton Walker Whisenhunt, 90, born Sept. 9, 1926, passed away peacefully at her residence on March 10 with her son, Steve Walker, and caregiver, Willodean Waldrop, by her side. Ledell was raised in Arley and attended Brickyard Baptist Church in Cullman. She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph Wesley Thornton and Vela Clark Thornton; brothers, O.Z. Thornton, Calvin Thornton, Alan Thornton; sisters, Fayenell Lee, Winnie Lee Manning and Glenda Sue Phillips; husband, Other J. Walker, who was the father of her children; and husband, Arthur "Ott" Whisenhunt. Mrs. Whisenhunt is survived by sons, Steve (Paula Reid) Walker and Russell Walker; grandchildren, Andrea (Brad) Talley, Jake Walker, Tracy (Shawn) Burgess and Wesley (Tina) Walker; brother, Melvin "Bud" (Reba) Thornton; and a host of family and friends. The family would like to thank special caregivers, Willodean Waldrop and Linda Suits for taking such good care of Ledell during her last several years. A special "thank you" to her hospice nurse, Jason Bailey, for taking such good care of her during her last days. The celebration of Ledell's life held March 12 at the funeral home; burial in Crossroads Cemetery in West Point. Tommy Graves and Randy Phillips officiated.

A celebration of life for Marvin C. Twilley, 63 of Hanceville, held March 13 at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel. Mr. Twilley passed away on Friday, March 10. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He was preceded in death by his parents, Buster and Claud Ree Pruett Twilley; step dad, Marsell Twilley and brother, Roy Gene Twilley. He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Sharon Twilley; daughter, Christy (Kevin) Thomas; son, Damon Twilley; grandchildren, Karson Thomas, Kennedy Twilley and Kylie Twilley; brother, Freddy Twilley; sisters, Martha Baylor and Kay (Billy) Hardin and a host of other family and friends.

Michael "Mike" Lawrence MacLaren, 49, of Haleyville, entered into rest on March 11. Mr. MacLaren was born on May 4, 1967, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mike was a 1986 graduate from Winston County High School and went on to serve his country in the United States Army. He enjoyed crossword puzzles and playing games on his phone. Funeral service held March 12 at Barnett Chapel Church, Double Springs. Brother Chris Meador and Brother Delmar Duboise will officiated. Burial in adjoining cemetery. Mike is survived by his wife, Docie Dill; mother, Betty Claborn; step-sons, Randy (Pam) Pruitt, Danny Pruitt, Darrin Pruitt, Ricky (Tammy) Pruitt; step-daughters, Loretta (Stephen) Plemmons, Emily Pruitt; brothers, Duane MacLaren, Robert (Jennifer) MacLaren, Paul (Shannon) MacLaren, Scott (Shawna) Claborn; step-sisters, Jackie Tyler and Janie (Tim) Burch. He was "Paw Paw" to 13 step-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father, William "Bill" Claborn and step-brother Ricky Claborn.

Donna Bartlett Turrentine passed away March 9 at the age of 57. She was born on November 26, 1959 in Cullman. Funeral service held March 13 at Moss Funeral Home Chapel; Rev. Tim Aris officiated. Interment in New Hope #1 Cemetery. She is survived by: Daughter: Tasha (Chris) VanOrmer, Mother: Deloy Bartlett, Father: Grady Bartlett, Brothers: Mike Bartlett, Chris Bartlett, Grandchildren: Carly, Callie and Emy VanOrmer.

Funeral service for Floyd D. "Doug" Watson, 86 of Hanceville, March 13 at Arkadelphia Baptist Church; interment in Bethesda Cemetery. Mr. Watson passed away March 9. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert D. and Lealer Payne Watson; his daughter, Susan Cox and thirteen siblings. He is survived by his wife, Mona Watson; children, Buddy (Sharon) Hale, Jr. (Jena) Watson, Miguel (Laura) Watson, Cookie Lovern, Diane (Walter) Myer, Michelle (Jerry) Moore and Melanie (Lee) Collier; sister-in-law, Vida Vasquez; 15 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Memorial service for Brenda Nobinger,76 of Cullman, held March 14 at Unity Freewill Baptist Church. Mrs. Nobinger passed away March 11 at her residence. She was born in Cullman County on February 19, 1941 to Floyd and Coreene Neely. She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include her husband J Eugene Nobinger; three sons, Mark (Debbie) Nobinger of Georgia, Eric (Elaine) Nobinger of Falkville, and Robert (Cindy) Nobinger of Decatur; eleven grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the American Diabetes Association, 2451 Crystal Drive, Suite 900 Arlington, VA 22202.

Lera Joyce McKenzie, 83 of LaVergne, TN., formerly of Cullman, passed away March 9. She was preceded in death by husband Earl "Mac" McKenzie; mother & father: James & Lois (Camp) Starling; sister, Virginia Cook Covington; and brothers: Johnny Starling & Roy Starling. She is survived by daughter, Elizabeth Carney (Rick); son, Greg McKenzie (Deedie); sisters: Faye Rutledge, Gail Brooks, Vickie McElroy; brother, James Starling; beloved sister-in-laws: Virginia Hooper, Barbara Starling & Orena Starling; 6 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and a several nieces and nephews. A celebration of Mrs. McKenzie's life held March 14 at Moss Service Funeral Home in New Hope Cemetery. Rev. Mike Pepple will be officiated. Family and friends will serve as pallbearers.

Funeral service for Johnny Lee Mead, 83 of Cullman, held March 15 at Center Grove Baptist Church; interment in adjoining cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Mead passed away March 13 at his home. He was born June 2, 1933 in Jefferson County. He is preceded in death by his mother, Dixie Mead; a grandson, Johnathon Cary Mead; and mother and father-in-law, Elva and Fred Graham. Survivors include his wife, Melvorie Graham Mead; three sons, Johnny (Carol) Mead, Jr., Joe (Daphne) Mead and Jackie (Doris) Mead; five grandchildren, Jennifer Leigh Mead, Katrina Ann (Eddie) Tankersley, Jody Alan Mead, Kristi Ann Griggs and Jordan Ashleigh Mead; four great-grandchildren, Juston (Mattie) Tankersley, Lexi Tankersley, Jacie Ann Griggs and Jalee Ann Griggs; and one great-great-grandchild, Tymberlyn Tankersley.

Funeral service for Brenda M. Williams Edwards, 73 of Hanceville, March 15 at New Prospect Baptist Church; Brother Steve Hallmark officiated. Interment in the church cemetery. Mrs. Edwards passed away on Sunday. She was born in Cullman County on May 8, 1943 to Willis Leathel Williams and Lena Christine Asherbranner Williams. She attended school at New Prospect and graduated from Cold Springs High School. She worked at Wrangler (then known as Blue Bell) and later opened her own business, the Discount Store on Highway 31 in Hanceville. She ran the Discount Store as well as various other stores in the Gardendale and Cullman communities for 21 years. Mrs. Edwards is also well-known for selling floral arrangements and area rugs at the Cullman Flea Market for many years. She has owned the Dodge City Browser for the past 9 years. Mrs. Edwards is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Chester Edwards and her sister, Shelia Moon. She is survived by her brother, Melvin (Reba) Williams; sister, Linda (Jim) Kaple; nephews, Jamie Kaple, Brian (Monica) Williams and Paul Moon; nieces, Leah (Steve) Barnes, Laura Dunlap and Christa (Patrick) White and a host of great and great great nieces and nephews.

Bessie " JoAnn" Joan Ward, 82, of Double Springs, entered into rest March 12 at Hendrix Health and Rehab. Mrs. Ward was born on October 6, 1934, in Knoxville, Tennessee. Bessie worked at Haleyville Textile for over 20 years. She enjoyed playing Bingo and listening to gospel music. Bessie won the title of "Queen of Hearts" at Hendricks Health and Rehab. Funeral service held March 15 at Nichols Funeral Home in Haleyville; Brother Alvis Treece will officiated. Burial in Winston Memorial Cemetery. Bessie is survived by her daughters, Beverly Sharp and her husband Jerry, Frances Miller and her husband Windell; brothers, Ted Delk and his wife Gail, James Reagan; and sister, Pattie Reagan. Bessie was known as "Granny" to 11 grandchildren, Bee Jay Nix, Sue Ann Parker, Elizabeth Whitehead Ruff, Kathy Townsend, Joshua Townsend, Rexal Ward, Christy Ward McGee, Brandon Ward, Heath Ward, Tracie Harris Gann, Christopher Cummings and 19 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son, Mitchell Harris, mother, Goldie Holt Reagan; brothers, Bud Holt, Rodger Holt; sister, Betty Johnson; great grandson, Dustin Thomas and great granddaughters, the Townsend twins.

Funeral service for Dwight O'neal Beasley, 70 of Garden City, March 15 at Hanceville Funeral Home; burial in Garden City Cemetery. Mr. Beasley passed away March 12. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph and Floa Mardis Beasley and his brother, Tommy Beasley. He is survived by his wife, Sandra Beasley; sons, DeWayne Beasley and Chuck (Kim) Beasley; grandchildren, Jamie Beasley, Jeri Beasley and Justin (Stephanie) Bates; great grandchildren, Brylon Jones and Rylee Bates; brother, Gene (Fran) Beasley; sisters, Doris Hamby and Barbara (Gene) Sawyer and a host of nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

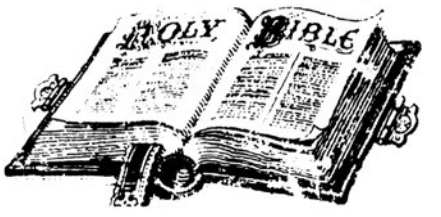
Deborah "Debbie" Lee Morris, 56, of Port Charlotte, Florida, formerly of Haleyville, entered into rest on March 8. She was born on April 17, 1960, in Alexandria, Virginia. Debbie attended Groveton High School. She cleaned houses and was a home caregiver. Debbie loved being with her family and friends, spending time at the beach, good movies, music and dancing, and was a great bowler. Visitation will be held on Friday, March 17, 2017 from 12-1pm, at Nichols Funeral Home in Haleyville, where services will be held at 1pm. Burial will follow in Concord Baptist Church Cemetery. Debbie is survived by her brother, David Garrett and his wife Karla; sister, Tammy Downey and her husband Carl; nephew, Kaleb Garrett; and nieces, Jesslyn and Jenna Downey. She was preceded in death by her father, Haskin Morris; mother, Etta Garrett; step father, Louie Garrett; sister, Susie Anderson and nephew, Troy Anderson.

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This week in Cullman history

This week in 1974, Stiefelmeyer's department store held a clothing sale for St. Patrick's Day. The sale lasted from March 14-16, and featured 10 percent off "on anything green or with green in it."

Compiled by Samantha Vest



TRIBUNE HISTORICAL PHOTO

Laney (from Front)

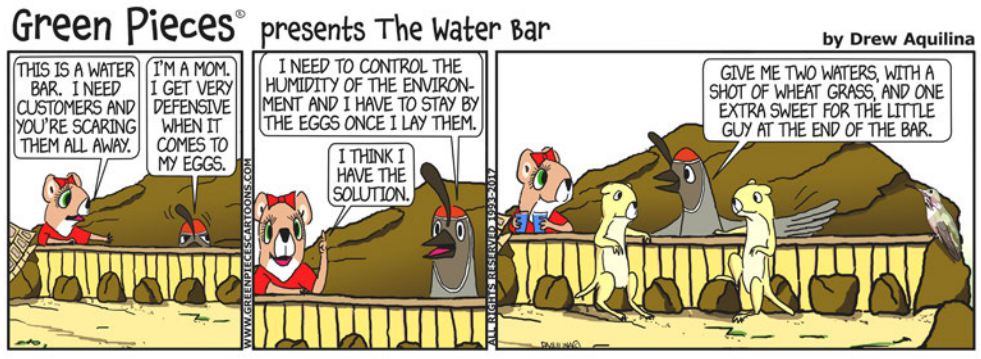
sheriff from January 1991-January 1995. He was also a poultry farmer.

Visitation will be Thursday, beginning at 6 p.m. at Cullman Funeral Home. Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in the Cullman Funeral Home chapel. Burial will be at Berlin Cemetery.

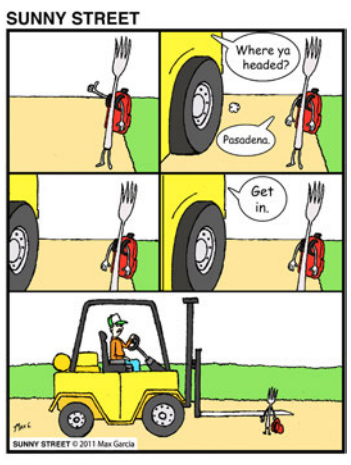
The Cullman County Sheriff's Office, as well as the Berlin Volunteer Fire Department, have lowered their flags to half-staff.

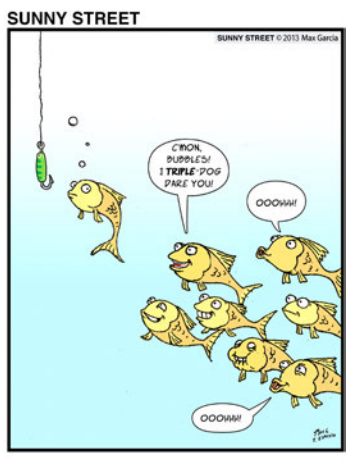
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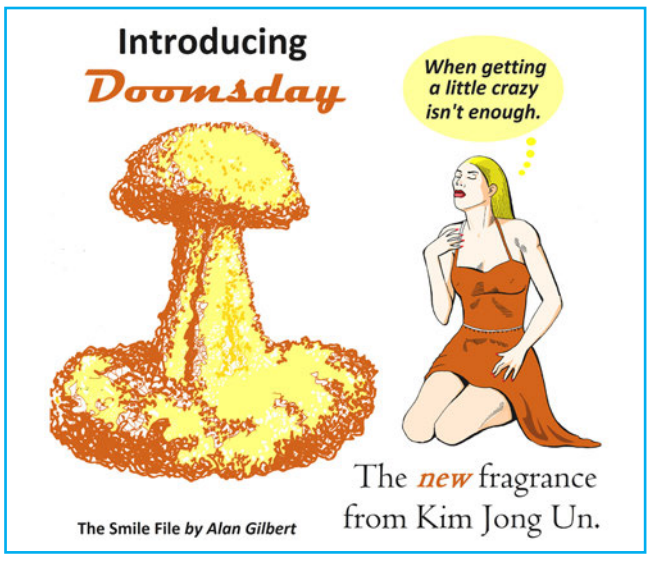
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Poet's Corner

I would like to feature another poem by Rita Aiken Moritz this week and is one of my all-time favorite poems. It reminds me of God's word that tells us that even a little sparrow does not die without His knowledge.

OF LIFE AND DEATH AND 'POSSUMS

I want happy endings, smiles and sunny skies,
and thinking things will all work out...
that even rain brings rainbows.
I want to see beauty in the world without
the ugliness I know is there.
So even as I contemplate
the truth that life will end for all of us,
I want to write of birds and butterflies
and make of death a pretty thing.
Yet still I know that 'Possums sometimes
fail to cross the road
and leave their babies sucking at an
empty teat, their hunger never sated.
Starvation rounds their bellies more than milk.
For nature claims what dues it will,
indifferent to gentle things, with no regard
for what we think is fair or right.
There must be more, my heart demands!
For God has gentle, loving hands.
So when I see ugliness, I must
turn to my God in faith and somehow trust
He sees and knows when 'possums
fall and has a reason for it all.

By: Rita Aiken Moritz Pell City Alabama
Submitted by: Randy C. Hale, randyhale62@yahoo.com
"Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall in the ground without your Father." **Matthew 10:29**

FOXGLOVES & FIREFLIES

A little thought with eyes

Loretta Gillespie
Tribune Correspondent

I have a friend who was revived after being coded, and later on her sister, who is a nurse, looked up the hospital records to see how long she was "gone." We were all shocked to learn that the official time was 22 minutes.

The night my mother died, that friend stayed up with me til almost 3 a.m., telling and retelling the story, which I'd heard many times, of what happened to her while she was "gone."

Here is the story...

"I was so free, no body, no weight at all, as if I were a little thought with eyes. I could see a light ahead of me, the most intense white, bright light I've ever seen, but strangely it didn't hurt my eyes to look into it. It was so peaceful, there was no sense of time or of space, there were no limits to anything anymore.

"I wanted to go into that light more than is imaginable, like nothing I can explain. I knew that in the light were people waiting for me, but I didn't see anybody. I didn't see anything but that light. And I wanted to be in it more than I've ever wanted anything.

"But, I started thinking about my children, (she had a 2-year-old daughter and a 6-month-old son) and as soon as thoughts of them entered my mind, I had to struggle with the 'decision' to 'come back.'

"It was like pushing my whole body into the neck of a coke bottle. I had to exert all my will to push.

"As soon as I had gotten back into that 'space' I could see the tops of the nurses and the doctor's heads.

"I could hear what they said to each other, and noticed what they were doing. I remember watching one of them leave the room for a few seconds, then come back.

"It was almost a resentful feeling, having to come back. I could feel that heaviness again, that awful weight that was my body and I was unhappy.

"But when that final 'push' was over, I felt myself gasping, and they all were surprised.

"I told them later what they had said and what I saw them doing, and they all said, 'You couldn't have seen that, you were imagining all that.' But, I knew I wasn't. I've never been so sure of anything.

At this point I stopped her and asked, "Now that its been so long, (about 20 years by that time) does all of that seem like a dream to you?" and she answered, "Oh, no, not at all, in fact, it seems like the most real thing that ever happened to me, and all this life, everything that's happened since, is like a dream, somewhere I'm just passing through.

"It was such a feeling of complete and utter peace, like nothing I can begin to describe. There was no pain, no sorrow, no encumbrance of any kind, until the point where I started to think about who would raise my children, then it was like a sledgehammer, and I had to force myself to turn away from that light.

"I could sense that in that light, that was where total peace would have been. I longed to go ahead, but I came back."

Now, you have to remember that I said when we had this conversation, 20 years had lapsed since she'd had this experience.

At the time it happened, in 1971, we'd never seen stories about "the light" or about this kind of "after-life" experience on TV. But I fully believed her when she told it to me for the first time, way back then.

I've known this friend all my life, and she isn't the type to make something like this up, I've never known her to tell a lie, or exaggerate or embellish anything.

That's the reason that her sister finally looked up the hospital records- to see how long she was out. 22 minutes... that was unheard of at the time.

Not long ago, she was speaking to a grief support group. She said, with tears in her eyes, even after all this time, "It was like I was finally coming home. I felt that I had been there before, that I belonged there. The only way I can really describe it is to say that it was a feeling of complete love."

Hearing that made me realize that Mother had made it into that light.

It was what gave me comfort, and I was so thankful for this friend's experience.

I knew that my Mother was not in pain, and that she was, like my friend said, "A little thought with eyes."

Now, every time someone I know passes away, I always think, "Oh, they made it into the light!"

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Shrek (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – After last year's "Beauty and the Beast," Cullman High School Theatre (CHST) chose to stick with the animation adaptation idea, but has taken a decidedly different twist on the fairy tale genre with "Shrek: The Musical." The production will run Mar. 23-25 in the Cullman High School auditorium.

"We have to choose things that are crowd pleasers with young kids," said CHST drama teacher Wayne Cook. "A lot of our funding comes from the money we make on our shows, and we have a lot of younger kids that come to the shows. We choose shows that are good for elementary and young kids. It's funny, probably the funniest show that I've ever been involved in. It was just a good match for our kids. We have to choose things that are appropriate for our community, things that are funny that kids will like, things that have a lot of parts. This has a lot of characters; we could cast a lot of people."

While the production does appeal to youngsters with entertaining silliness, it also (like the original motion picture) has its share of humor geared toward adults. Even that, though, stays pretty kid-friendly. Hilarious and witty at the same time, "Shrek: The Musical" may actually have something for everyone.

Shrek fans will get to relive some of their favorite film moments, but this is not simply the movie rehashed. Shrek still likes his privacy while secretly longing to be loved, Donkey is still a manic explosion just waiting to happen, Farquaad is still trying to compensate and Fiona is still obsessed with getting her happily-ever-after. There are minor modifications to the story, though; and of course, a lot of singing. If you're a fan, this is your opportunity to see the same Shrek without seeing the same old Shrek.

This production is a big-budget project for a high school. The CHST program is funded by money from a $20,000 arts grant from the Alabama State Board of Education, as well as numerous sponsors.

The principal cast includes students who are already making names for themselves. Rutland Turner, who plays Shrek, won an award at last fall's State Thrumbauer Theatre Festival for solo dramatic classical acting. Drew Fillinger, who could put on a one-man show as Donkey, won awards for musical theatre and solo dramatic acting, as well as being named to the All-State All Star Cast and All-State Choir. Justin Weygand, who plays Lord Farquaad, was awarded for duet musical theatre. Sarah Helms and Marie Bean fill out the principal cast as the two lead Fionas (Fans know why. The production, in fact, includes four different Fionas portrayed by six different actors; to find out why, you'll just have to come to the show!).

Counting cast, chorus, dancers, and stage and tech crews, more than 100 students are involved in the production. Cook directs the drama side with student director Ella Morring and stage manager Maddie Murphree (Both students are also state theatre award winners.), while CHS Choir Director Sarah Skinner directs music and dance choreography.

Skinner complimented her students, "The kids are so talented. They actually have risen above what I can even imagine, especially the leads. Rutland, Drew, Sarah and Justin have all just blown me away with how talented they are, and how much work they put in."

Cook wants Cullman to come out and see, not just a good show for a high school, but a good show, period.

"We hope the community will come out and support the theater," he said, "because this is a good thing for our community. Our goal is to really bring quality programming for the kids, so they can be involved in something that's high quality for high school. We want to be better than high school. We want people to come in and say, 'I can't believe that's high school.'"



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Sarah Skinner and Wayne Cook onstage in the Cullman High School Auditorium

At a glance

Shrek: The Musical

Cullman High School Theatre
Cullman High School Auditorium
March 23-25, 2017; shows at 7 p.m. each night
2 p.m. matinee, Saturday, March 25
Tickets available at the door: $10 adults, $5 students

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