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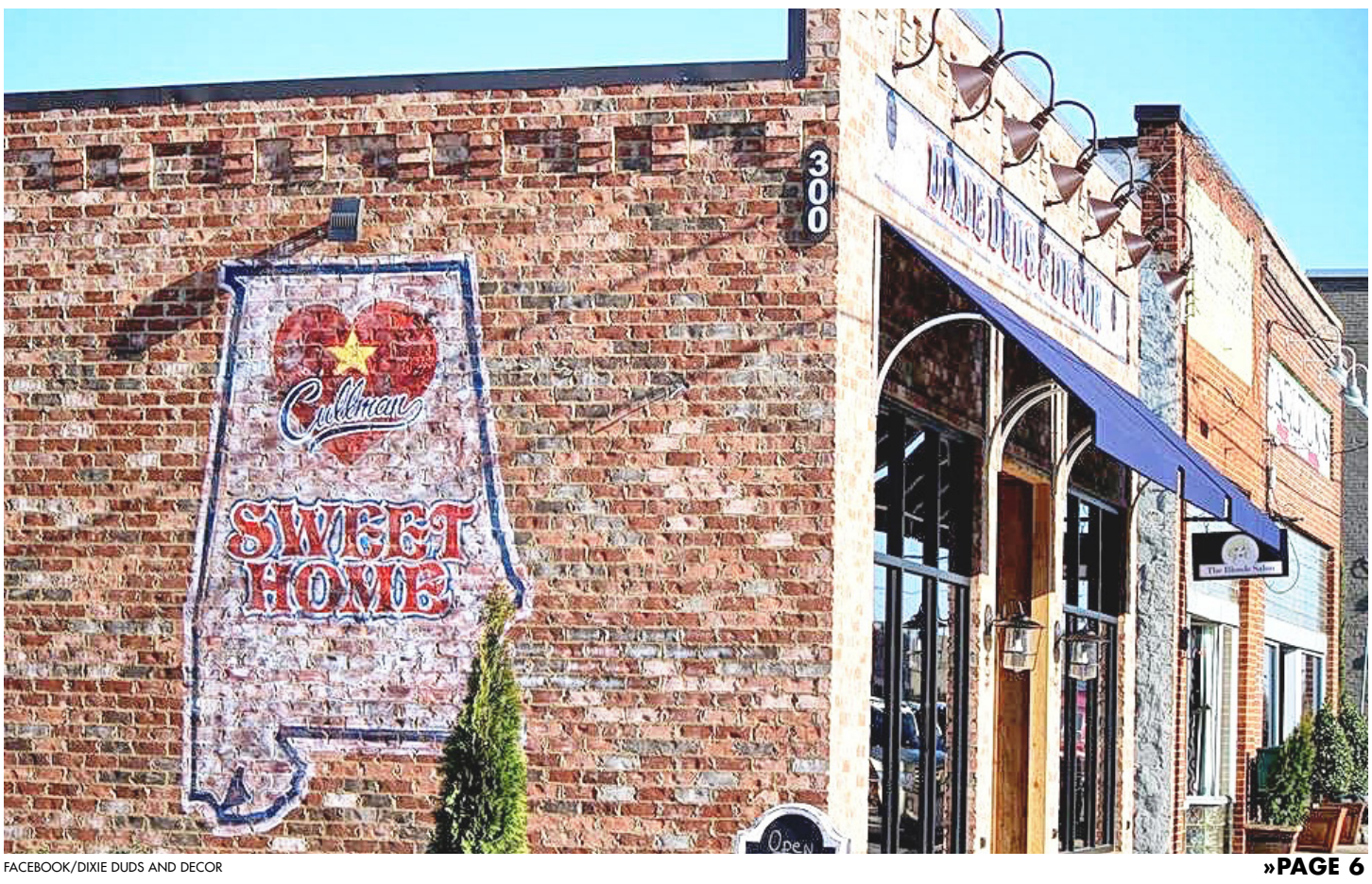
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The Cullman Tribune

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An evening of classic cars with Dixie Duds downtown



FACEBOOK/DIXIE DUDS AND DECOR

»PAGE 6

CPD reports 52 arrests over 2-day Rock the South event

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmansense.com



HANNAH WARD/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CULLMAN – All in all, the Cullman Police Department is happy after this weekend's 2-day Rock the South festival. A total of 52 arrests were made, and close to 200 people were ejected, according to Incident Commander, Lt. Jeff Warnke.

"When you think about it, in one night, we had double the population of the city of Cullman inside Heritage Park, plus the lightning and storms and evacuation, with close to 70,000 people," said Warnke. "I think all in all, it went well. When you consider there were close to 70,000 people there over two nights, and there were only 52 arrests, that's less than one-tenth of a percent."

The CPD had "all hands on deck," said Warnke, and they were aided by the Cullman County Sheriff's Office, who sent about 40 deputies, approximately 16 Alabama State Troopers, members of the Hanceville Police Department and a number of Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control enforcement officers. Also on-hand were four juvenile probation officers. In total, close to 140 law enforcement personnel worked the event.

"We are deeply indebted to all of them for assisting us," said Warnke. "There's no way we could handle it by ourselves."

Warnke says that of the 52 arrests, ABC officers made 23. "Every one of the arrests we made were related to alcohol," he said.

Charges included an array of alcohol-related offenses, including public

»PAGE 7

Cullman hosting Dept. of Homeland Security human trafficking training event

W.C. Mann
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CULLMAN – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security defines human trafficking as "a form of modern-day slavery, and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit human beings for some type of labor or commercial sex purpose. Every year, millions of men, women, and children worldwide—including in the United States—are victims of human trafficking. Victims are often lured with false promises of well-paying jobs or are manipulated by people they trust, but instead are forced or coerced into prostitution, domestic servitude, farm or factory labor, or other types of forced labor."

If you think such things are not an issue in Alabama, the buckle of the Bible Belt, one simple statistic should change your mind: the portion of Interstate 20 that runs from Birmingham to Atlanta is the No. 1 corridor for human sex trafficking in the United States. Even closer to home, according to Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force Chairperson Kathy Wilson, at least one case was under active investigation here as this story was being written.

Wilson and the county task force are stepping up to help combat the problem, not just here, but across the region. From June 12-15, Cullman will host two training seminars at the Cullman County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement officers from all over, and even outside, the state. Once they complete the course, these officers will be able to return home and begin training other officers within their own departments in the tasks of human trafficking detection and investigation.

According to Wilson, "We are conducting the training at the Sheriff's Office new training center. Law enforcement agencies are sending officers from all

»PAGE 2

Good Samaritans: Lowe's employee and CPD go above and beyond to aid stranded Rock the South fan

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Much has been said about the problems that the rain caused at Rock the South (RTS) and area businesses Saturday, but in at least one case the minor disaster created an opportunity for some local folks to put their best feet forward.

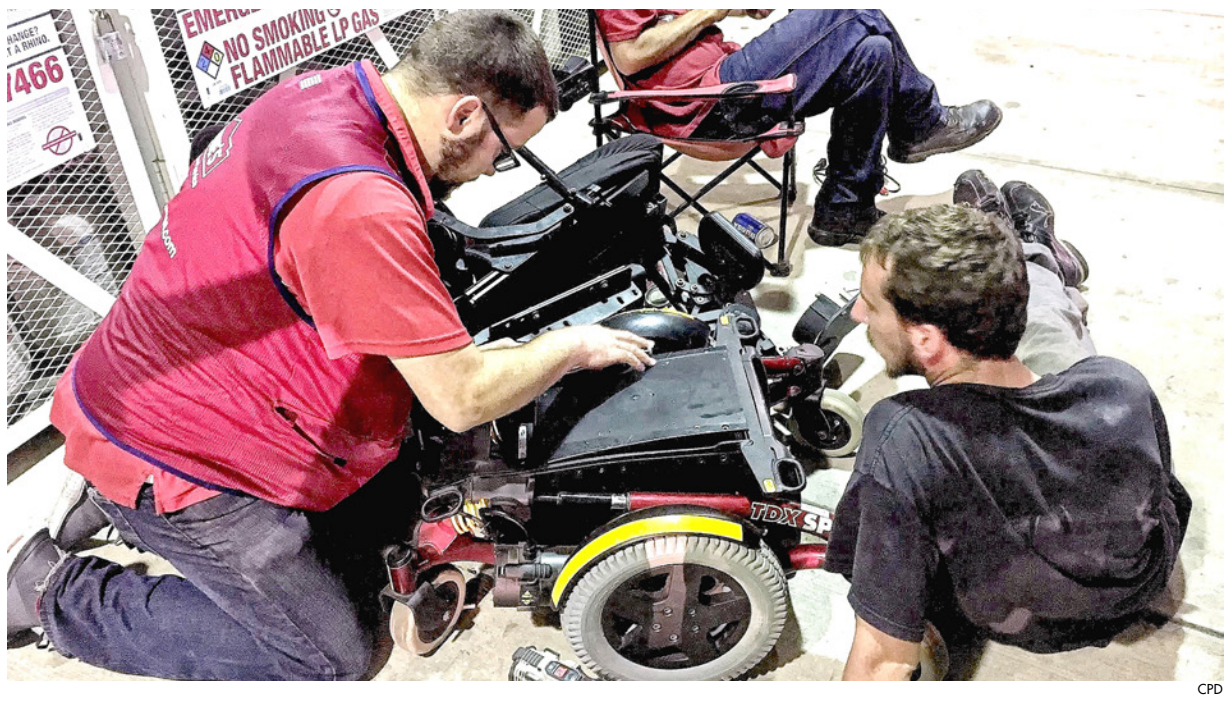
Cullman Police Department (CPD) Chief Kenny Culpepper noted that local businesses were pushed beyond capacity during the rain delay at RTS, and he commended the businesses located around Heritage Park, saying, "The rain did create some incidents and did inconvenience customers, but the businesses really stepped up to help give Rock the South fans shelter. It speaks well of them."

In particular, Culpepper noted an incident at Lowe's involving a paraplegic RTS fan who was stranded by a broken down electric wheelchair.

CPD Captain of Investigation Becky Boyd, who was part of the RTS detail, related the following:

"Two gentleman were stranded on Saturday night in front of Lowe's. One was a paraplegic confined to a wheelchair. The battery was dead and they had no way to charge it. Employees at Lowe's removed the battery and officers carried it to AutoZone in an attempt to charge it. They were unable to do so. We were able to load the wheelchair onto a CPD truck and transport both gentlemen to

»PAGE 6



CPD

Lowe's Associate Jeremy McKenzie works on a stranded RTS fan's electric wheelchair.

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
June 6, 2017

Q&A with Rock the South founder Shane Quick

Noah Galilee
noah@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – This year's record-setting Rock the South event is in the books, following a weekend of packed with crowds, wild weather and superstar performances from the likes of country megastars Luke Bryan and Sam Hunt. The Tribune checked in the festival founder Shane Quick, to get his thoughts on this year's Biggest Party in the South.

Did the festival meet your expectations this year, as far as growth?
We created Rock the South in 2012 after the devastating tornadoes to help rebuild Cullman and remind everyone that we're stronger together. Every year, RTS has grown, and every year we've been able to give more back to local charities that make our community an amazing place to live. This year we hosted nearly 60,000 people over the weekend—more than any other year! Because of that, we were able to raise nearly $100,000 for local charities and organizations. That's the goal. We want to have a lot of fun together, enjoy southern charm and make a positive impact.

What was the total number of concert goers this year?
There were 30,000 per night. Sixty thousand over both nights.

With weather a factor this year and a couple years prior, do you feel you all were better prepared for the storm evacuation?
Though weather paused some of our festivities, we are thankful to say every single artist played. Thanks to our amazing city workers and emergency management services, we were able to properly notify attendees of the lightning storms and give them ample time to take shelter in their vehicles.

Will RTS be renewing its contract with the City of Cullman? Or is that still in negotiations?
We're already working closely with the City of Cullman's amazing leadership, Mayor Woody Jacobs and the council, on how we can make RTS 2018 the best festival yet. We cannot wait to introduce some of our biggest headliners from the music industry!

A lot of flak was given regarding local vendors not being involved this year. What would you say to those who felt local vendors were left out?
We were founded six years ago to help the city of Cullman. We love this city, and the festival allows us to not only raise funds for people who make it such an incredible place to live, but to invite people to enjoy its true, small-town Alabama charm from all over the U.S. This year, we hosted people from 43 states and six countries! We work with local vendors from the city and across the state to offer that Southern charm and serve them to the best of our abilities. As we've grown, we have incorporated other great Alabaman classics from across the state to best serve the tens of thousands we host, but our focus is always to prosper Cullman. This year, we gave nearly $100,000 to local charities and organizations and have given nearly $600,000 since we started. The majority of the festival staff was local as well.

Clean-up efforts were underway Sunday. Some are complaining about field conditions due to the rain. What would you like the public to know regarding the soccer fields and softball fields?
Our clean-up team of nearly 100 people is working diligently to return Heritage Park to the beautiful green space we all love. We are working alongside turf specialists who work with SEC football as well as our parks and recreation office to make it even better than it was, as we have for the past five Rock the South festivals.



CONTRIBUTED
Shane Quick

If you had to sum up this year's event in one phrase, what would it be?
We're grateful to live in Cullman, and it's a privilege to get to bring world-class musicians to our backyard, show off our city to people from across the globe and raise thousands for local charities.

Anything else you'd like to add?
We were excited to work (with) World Vision this year to create a text-in system where people are sent a text listing ways to help during a natural disaster or major tragedy.

Hanceville's Knapsacks for Kids program reflects on busy school year

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – The school year has officially come to a close, and the staffers and volunteers with Hanceville's Knapsacks for Kids program are reflecting back on the year they've had.

Each Friday of the school year, HKK distributed to approximately 50 area students backpacks containing a weekend's worth of nutrition. See our overview of the organization at http://qrne.ws/knapsacks.

Program representative Nancy Horton shared the following with The Tribune.

The program served an average of 43 students per week for 32 weeks though the 2016-17 school year, serving the elementary, middle and high schools. That comes out to approximately 1,376 knapsacks packed and delivered.

In addition to the regular weekly packages, volunteers sent extra items and treats home with the kids at Christmas and Easter, and at the end of the school year.

Numerous organizations participated in packing activities, so no one would have to shoulder too much of the load alone. Volunteers came from Hopewell Baptist Church, Hanceville First Methodist, Stouts Mountain Baptist, Trinity Lutheran, First Baptist Hanceville, Northside Church of Christ, Center Hill Baptist, Garden City Church of God, Pleasant Grove Methodist, Hanceville Civitan Club, Hanceville Culture Club, Highway 91 Homemakers Club and Perkeys Tax Service.

According to Horton, the program also benefited from several individual donors. Drivers Lynn Kelso and Bobby Jackson picked up packages from the packing station at the Hanceville Civic Center and delivered them to the schools.

As for plans for next year, "We hope to serve more students as the need arises," said Horton.

"We held a wrap-up meeting the last of May with representatives from each organization. We discussed any changes that needed to be made, highlights of the year, and thanked all who had participated and donated. We will meet again the first of August and begin serving students the end of August, after the students are identified who qualify for the program."

Any person or group interested in helping out next year can contact Nancy Horton at 256-309-1936 or Sandy Waters at 256-339-0634.

Horton shared, "It is an honor to work with such a dedicated, caring group of individuals. This effort would not be possible without the volunteers who pack each week as well as the generous donations of the community and churches. Thanks go out to the operational managers- Retha Tinney, Amy Gable, Sabrina Ryan, Lisa Robinson, Lynda Brown, Lynn Kelso and Sandy Waters- for the many hours given to this effort. Also, many thanks to the school counselors for all they do to identify the students with needs and to distribute the food each week."



LYNDA BROWN
Volunteers loaded items into large zip-top freezer bags to be placed in knapsacks.

Training (from Front)

over the state, even as far as Florida.

The training consists of two-day sessions with a maximum of 30 officers, so we will train 60 officers over the four-day period. We had a huge response and each class filled up within a week after sending the info out.

"This training gives each officer the materials and knowledge to go back to their department and train the other officers. They are given access to DHS locked materials to provide their departments."

On Thursday, June 15, the task force will offer a brief class to the public, that will touch on ways to protect citizens' families and communities from trafficking activities.

To make sure all of this training is top-notch, Wilson has spared no expense, recruiting one of the top authorities on this issue in the country.

"Scott Santoro with the Department of Homeland Security will conduct the training. He is the trainer that does all the training for the department nationwide! We were able to secure his training by funding made possible by (Cullman County) District Attorney Wilson Blaylock and Judge Kim Chaney. Cullman Savings Bank also made a donation, along with Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry." Santoro is the senior training advisor for the department's Blue Campaign, which brings together multiple governmental and non-governmental resources to promote awareness, protect victims, and bring offenders to justice.

The public class at a glance

Cullman County Human Trafficking Task Force public awareness and training class
Led by U.S. Department of Homeland Security Senior Training Advisor Scott Santorum
Thursday, June 15, from 6-7 p.m.
This event is free to the public.
Cullman County Sheriff's Office Training Center (next door to the Sheriff's Office and jail)

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U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks has harsh words for Democrats at area Republican breakfast

Brooks will challenge Sen. Luther Strange for his seat in the upcoming special election

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman County Republican Party held its monthly breakfast meeting at the Cullman Elks Club Saturday morning, welcoming speakers from the Cullman County Commission, as well as the region's state and federal legislative delegations. The keynote speaker was U.S. Rep. Morris "Mo" Brooks of north Alabama's 5th Congressional District, who is seeking the U.S. Senate seat currently occupied by Sen. Luther Strange, in this fall's special election. The primary is set for Aug. 15, with the election set for Dec. 12.

"Right now, the Senate is the primary stumbling block to us making constructive improvements to the challenges that we face," Brooks told The Tribune before the meeting.

"Over the last session of Congress, the House worked hard and sent over 500 constructive bills that the Senate didn't even bother to vote on. Right now, the Senate, because our Republicans refuse to restrict the abilities of the Democrats, have ceded to the Democrats the ability to block all of our legislation with the exception of one per year that can get through the Senate on a majority vote by an arcane process known as budget reconciliation. The senators who should be fighting to reverse some of the bad policies of previous administrations have allowed the Democrats, a minority in the United States Senate, to kill all the things that we try to push to improve our country."

Before Brooks addressed the meeting, local party chairman Waid Harbison invited a few others to address the audience. James Bolin announced his candidacy for the District 9 State House seat that Ed Henry will vacate next year.

Next came County Commissioners Kerry Watson and Garry Marchman. Watson spoke briefly about the commission's efforts to repair and repave roads, taking time also to compliment County employees and the County budget, which he says has been in the black for three years. Marchman focused on the need to develop technology and recruit industry to the county, in order to fund County projects.

Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview and Sen. Paul Bussman, R-Cullman gave updates on legislative activities in Montgomery.

According to Shedd, "I thought the most important thing we could do this time was to restore the public's confidence, after all the things our state government has been through in the last couple of years, with the former speaker and the governor's situation and all that. I think we've gone a long way toward restoring the people's confidence; we have a great speaker of the house now, and I think Gov. Ivey's doing a great job correcting the ship of state. Hopefully, people's confidence will be restored before very long."

He then talked about legislative accomplishments, pointing to pro-life and pro-military/veteran legislation, while blaming Democrats for filibusters and stalling actions that have prevented more from being done.

Bussman said, "We got both budgets passed; we got a tremendous education budget this time. The general fund survived again, on life support, but it did. We got the redistricting done again."

The senator went on to talk about how the Republicans in the state legislature were able to shut down the efforts of what he called "the largest lobbying group" (though he did not name the group) to influence lawmaking, saying it "got run over like a Mack truck."

State Rep. Will Ainsworth, R-Guntersville announced his candidacy for lieutenant governor.

"We've got to have ethics again," Ainsworth said. "I signed the impeachment articles of the governor, because I saw what went on there. I've introduced a term limits bill, and believe we need new blood in office. I introduced recall legislation that would hold elected officials in check."

Ainsworth went on to talk about the need for improvements in public education, including technology initiatives, industry partnerships in career technology, and reviving the reading initiative begun under former Gov. Bob Riley. He also touched on the need to recruit industries to the state.

When Brooks took the floor, he shared information about himself and his career before settling into a presentation on what he considers to be the most crucial problem facing the country today: rising national debt.

"This one is the biggest threat to your country, and there's not a close second," said Brooks. "At 2023, they're (the Congressional Budget Office) telling us, if we don't change our financial path, that we're going to embark on a series of trillion dollar deficits, quite frankly, until the United States of America, your country, goes into a debilitating insolvency and bankruptcy.

"A lot of people, particularly on the Democrat side, they don't get it. They think all we have to do is just print more and more money, and that'll take care of it. That is false, that is dangerous, but that is the argument they use."

He argued that uncontrolled national debt could bankrupt the United States within the next generation, creating a situation that would detrimentally affect national defense, public services like education, employment rates and even public health. Citing other examples of national economic collapse like Venezuela, where 75 percent of the adult population weighs 19 pounds less than before the collapse, Brooks explained that a national economic crisis would find its way down to individual citizens in dangerous ways.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks talks about the American economy.

"They can't get the food and they can't get the calories to sustain their body weight," said Brooks.

"Their people are, slowly but surely, starving. That is what happens when you go through a national insolvency and bankruptcy.

"We're getting all these warnings from people we pay a whole lot of money to, and y'all know in your hearts and in your heads that this is wrong, what's going on. Basically, what is happening in Washington D.C. is, in order to live the high life today, we are stealing from our kids and our grandkids, and their future tomorrow."

Brooks said that he supports legislation that supports free enterprise for economic growth, since such growth produces more tax revenue for the government without having to raise taxes. He also supports limits on foreign aid.

"It's nice to be generous to the rest of the world," he stated, "but we've got to look at our own house first. If our own house burns to the ground, we're not going to be in a position to help anybody."

Additionally, Brooks advocated cuts to what he termed "wealth transfer programs" that he said currently cost the government around $800 billion per year, and support of programs that put people to work.

He also said that he supports President Trump's efforts to get strategic allies around the world to shoulder more of the cost of military spending. Lastly, he promoted strong controls on both legal and illegal immigration, to make sure that American-born workers have every opportunity to find good jobs.

The candidate concluded a question and answer session by sharing his view that the Affordable Healthcare Act should be repealed, but that the recently recommended Republican replacement failed to provide a viable alternative.

He said he supported the idea of sending healthcare funds to the individual states, where their legislatures would decide how funds would be spent locally, and said that the federal government's role in the health insurance industry should be primarily the promotion of free market competition that typically drives quality up and costs down.

Cullman Regional hosting Advancements in Wound Care seminar

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CULLMAN – Cullman Regional has invested in enhanced, specialized care for the community through the Cullman Regional Center for Wound Healing. The hospital will host an Advancements in Would Care seminar lunch-and-learn seminar on Thursday, June 15 in Cullman Regional's Colonel Cullmann Room in the Community Education Center in Professional Office Building 2.

Cullman Regional Center for Wound Healing Clinical Coordinator Jill Keeton, RN and Hyperbaric Safety Director Megan Isbell will provide information on wound care options and advancements such as hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

The program will begin at 11:30 a.m.

The cost is $5 for Healthy Life members and $8 for others.

Call 256-735-5600 to register.

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Learn what you can do to protect your family and community from Human Trafficking

Presenter: Scott Santoro

Scott provides training for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. He is the senior training advisor for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign.

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
June 6, 2017

Annual farm tour invites kids to meet what they eat

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CULLMAN – On June 14-15, the North Alabama Agriplex will again offer its original summer educational program Touring Farms for Kids.

Director Rachel Dawsey talked about the upcoming event, "Children will learn about farming in Cullman County and North Alabama. Cullman, Alabama is one of our top agriculture counties, and we like to showcase these rich traditions for our participants. We try to vary the tour every year, because we have repeat attenders, but there are some old favorites that we always include, such as the Festhalle Farmers Market where children get vouchers to spend at the market to buy local foods.

"This year we are focusing on Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and will focus on conservation on the farm. We will visit a cotton gin and learn about growing and processing cotton.

"We will visit Waterworks Environmental Education Center in Hartselle focusing on water conservation, and we will visit other farms and agriculture sites.

"The tour is for ages 7 to 13. It is a drop-off camp but if parents want to attend, they can register and pay to do so. We do not start until age 7 because it is a long, active day of touring and children younger than seven do not seem to have the stamina.

"Children can come from Cullman County or beyond. We have had out of state children visiting grandparents that attend the camp for a little Alabama farm culture."

The two-day program can take up to 35 children. The cost is $25, which includes a North Alabama summer programs T-shirt, snacks and lunches featuring local foods, transportation on the Wallace State Community College tour bus, $5 of market money to spend at the Festhalle, and more.

"Children definitely get their money's worth," said Dawsey.

Touring Farms for Kids was the first project that the North Alabama Agriplex Board hosted, starting in 2000.

The program has benefited over the years from the work of several people, including Dr. Tom (Big Doc) Williamson, Tim Scott, Jamie and Billy Troutman, Cherrie Haney, Arnold Caylor, Dewb Widner, Clay Borden, Travis Kress, Will Harding and Rachel Dawsey.

This year's sponsors include Regions Bank, Wal-Mart, the Cullman Industrial Development Board, Cullman County Farmers' Federation and Wallace State Community College.

Dawsey shared, "I was in Charlottesville, Virginia last weekend and saw an advertisement for a Farm Tour there called 'Meet Your Eats.'

"I think this could be a good title for this tour. Participants will see first-hand where their food and fiber come from.

"They will meet the farmers and learn the importance of buying locally and supporting Alabama agriculture. We will have fun as we learn!"

At a glance
Touring Farms for Kids
June 14-15
Hosted by the North Alabama Agriplex
Pre-registration required, $25 per participant. Parents welcome.

For more information or registration, contact the Agriplex at 256-297-1044 or email cullmanag@gmail.com. On Facebook, visit https://www.facebook.com/events/130018080886635.

Special Edition of News from the Pond

Jimmie Dean Carnell
Tribune Contributor



Good morning Tribune readers and families. Springtime has turned into summertime. When it turned warmer, I was remembering when I was a high school graduate, it was also rather warm. Of course, we didn't have air-conditioning like today. Graduation exercises were held at the individual school gyms, or on the football fields. We are so grateful for the wonderful facilities and staff at Wallace State as a venue for graduations and so many other regional activities.

We at the First Baptist Church in Holly Pond have lost one of our good members recently.

Mrs. Patsy "Pat" Phillips' funeral services were held on Friday, May 19 at Holly Pond Funeral Home.

Mrs. Pat was the daughter of the late Jesse and Belle Barnett. She was the wife of one of the deacons at our church, Jan Phillips.

They lived across the road from the Duck River Church, where she was buried.

She died in a Birmingham Hospital with part of her family with her.

In addition to her husband, Jan, Pat was the mother, grandmother and aunt of a considerable number of people. Jan and Pat have eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

She is also survived by two sisters, Joyce Gail Hatley and Barbara Harris, brothers-in-law, Escol Duke and Andy Harris and two sisters-in- law, Elna Barnett and Pamela Phillips.

One of her sisters-in-law, Pamela Phillips, was a sitter for my mother, Mrs. Bessie Carnell, up until her death.



Dr. Lynn Jetton, Civitan president, congratulates Holly Pond High School senior Ashton Beasley, Holly Pond Civitan $1,000 scholarship recipient.



Miss Jimmie Dean Carnell presented the J.O. Carnell Good Citizenship Award to Dawson Foust at the recent Awards Ceremony at Holly Pond High School.



PHOTOS COURTESY JIMMIE DEAN CARNELL

Holly Pond Civitans recognized the achievements of outstanding youth at their recent meeting. They are Ashton Beasley, Casey Brown, Dawson Foust, Andrew Shaw, Camilla Chambers, Reid Hollis, Sydni Benefield, Abigail Kusz, Taylor Simmons and Andrew McCaffrey.

Mother was very appreciative of Pam and her loving care, as was I. She has remained a good and faithful friend down through the years.

I would again like to say congratulations to the graduates in Bronco land.

Best of luck as you move into the next phase of your life. Of course, I was like a proud grandmother when the Holly Pond Civitan Club awards were announced at recent ceremonies.

Winners were presented a certificate and the first-place winners read their essays to the group.

The winners recognized by the Holly Pond Civitan Club were:

- Ashton Beasley, $1,000 scholarship
- Sarah Finley and Parker Sellers, attendees for the National Leadership Forum in Searcy, Arkansas
- Sydni Benefield and Reid Hollis, High School Good Citizens
- Camilla Chambers and Casey Brown, Middle School Good Citizens
- Andrew Shaw, Dawson Foust, Sierra Blackwood, High School Essay Contest winners
- Andrey McCaffrey, Taylor Simmons, Abigail Kusz, Middle School Essay Contest winners

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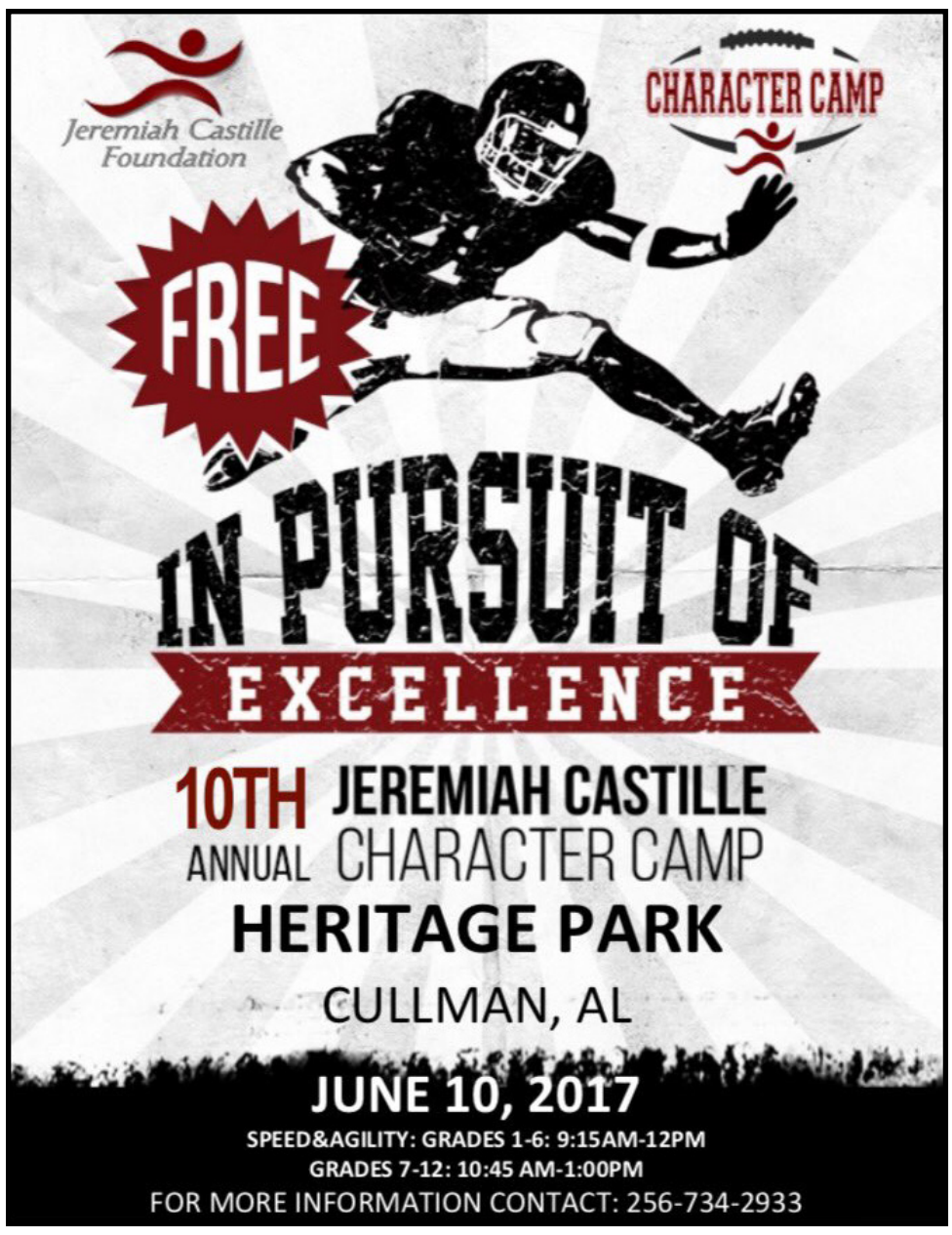






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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
June 6, 2017

Movie review: 'Wonder Woman' best movie from DC extended universe so far

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent

"Wonder Woman," directed by Patty Jenkins, is the origin story for one of DC Comics' flagship characters, Wonder Woman. Starring Gal Gadot as the titular character, the movie follows Diana (Wonder Woman) as she grows up on the island of Themyscira amongst her fellow Amazonian warriors. When she crosses paths with Steve Trevor, played by Chris Pine, she is compelled to leave the island with him after she learns of World War I taking place in Europe.

Once the pair have left Themyscira, the script injects a lot of humor between Diana and Steve Trevor. The two actors portraying them have good chemistry with one another making it the first film in the DC extended universe that feels fun and light.

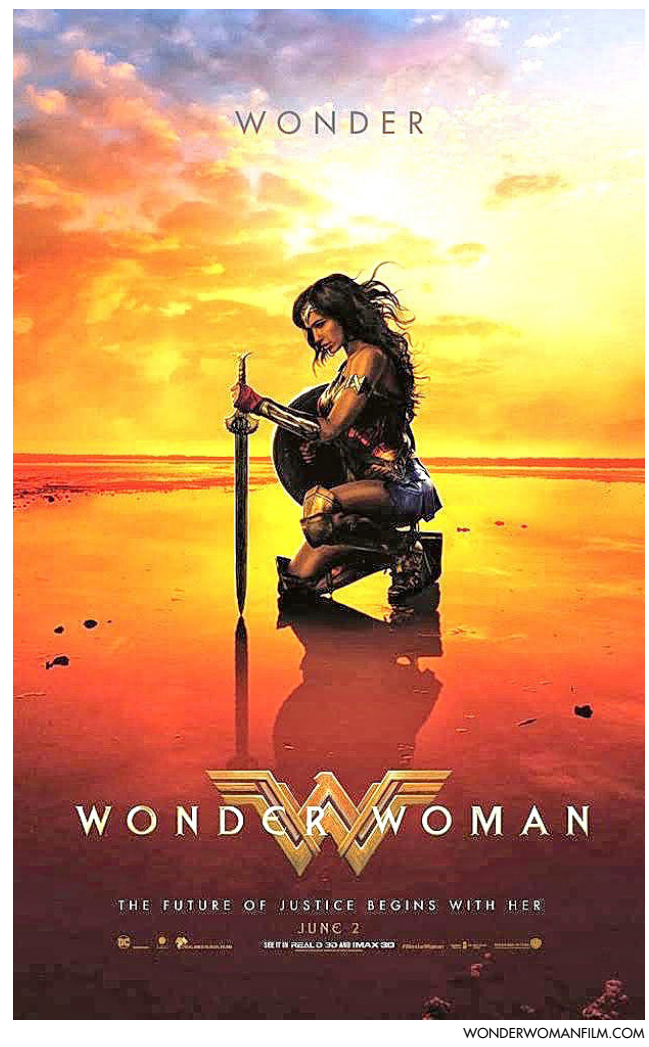
This is also the first DC film to really embrace some of the more fantastical elements of its source material. The film isn't overly concerned with taking itself too seriously and just wants the audience to have fun.

Between Steve Trevor staying on Themyscira and Diana walking around London, the film makes good use of fish out of water humor before the action really begins.

Once the two of them reach the front lines of the war, the film becomes a nearly non-stop summer action flick with only a few moments of downtime sprinkled in. Wonder Woman's abilities are put on full display as she tears through several action set pieces at lightning pace.

The film also has a message it wants to get across about the nature of humanity that ties directly into the film's main antagonist. The third act suffers a small flaw nearly all super hero films suffer as the final battle becomes a massive green screen and CGI blowout similar to the one seen in "Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice". However, "Wonder Woman" does have an interesting villain which makes the battle more engaging than some others like it.

Overall, "Wonder Woman" is a very solid comic book film with humor, exciting action and good characters played by good actors. For those reasons, it is easy to say that this is the best movie the DC extended universe has given us so far. 4/5 stars.



WONDERWOMANFILM.COM

Walker Stalker Con: Zombies overtake Nashville

Josh McBrayer
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NASHVILLE – What do you get when you combine thousands of passionate fans and zombies? Walker Stalker Con.

For the second year in a row, droves of fans descended on Nashville for a chance to meet their favorite cast members from the AMC hit television series, "The Walking Dead." Stars on-hand included Jeffrey Dean Morgan, who plays main antagonist Negan and Norman Reedus, who plays the popular character Daryl.

Fans lined up in front of the Music City Center in Nashville chomping at the bit, not unlike the zombies on the show, for their chance to enter the convention hall and spend a weekend surrounded by the walking Dead.

"Walking Dead fans are nothing but a big ball of love," actor Chad Coleman, who played character Tyrese, told The Cullman Tribune in an interview at his booth.

"I love that it is like family. The show demographic is from 3 to 83. You get the whole family and that is unusual."

Coleman could have not spoken truer words. Throughout the convention hall, there were babies outfitted in Walking Dead gear or dressed up like characters from the show, and grandmothers in Daryl shirts hoping to meet Norman Reedus and everyone in between.

The convention hall floor was shoulder-to-shoulder with people perusing merchandise and waiting in line to meet their favorite stars. The actors' booths started on the far wall of the convention hall and wrapped all the way around to the photo op booth.

Actors ranged from characters who have died on the show, like Emily Kinney who played Beth and Scott Wilson who played her father Herschel, to characters who are still going strong such as Carl who is played by Chandler Riggs and Morgan who is played by Lennie James.

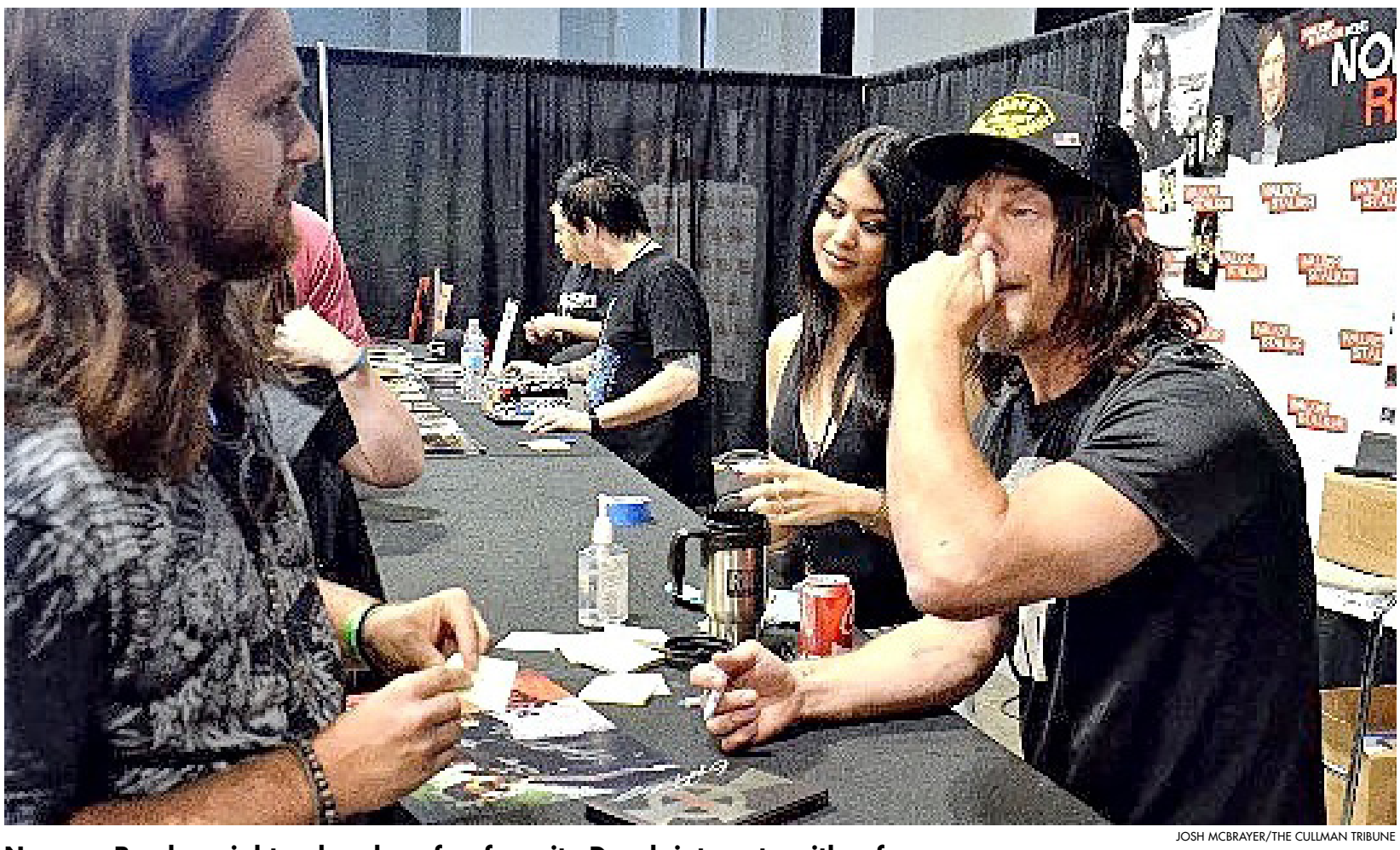
For many, what made the Walker Stalker Con experience unlike any other convention was that actors actually took their time with the fans and interacted, instead of herding them through just to make a buck.

"They value the fans so strongly," Walker Stalker Con President Jackie Prutsman said.

"When you approach a cast member for an autograph or a selfie at their booth, they genuinely seem interested in how your day is and thankful that you're a fan of the show and this is unlike any other experience at any other horror or sci-fi convention," said one fan.

"From the shaking of hands are giving a hug to a female fan to answering questions about the show, the actors are more than happy to interact with each and every person."

Along with the chance to meet favorite cast members, throughout the weekend there were two different stages where fans could hear the cast members talk about their experiences on the show and what it's like to be part of "The Walking Dead" community. They also took questions from the audience for a more intimate fan experience.



JOSH MCBRAYER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Norman Reedus, right, who plays fan-favorite Daryl, interacts with a fan.

Cars (from Front)

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – One of downtown Cullman's newest merchants, Dixie Duds and Décor, is hosting a classic auto show to benefit Desperation Church. This Saturday, June 10 from 1-7 p.m., the Dixie Duds & Decor Car and Bike Show will take place at 300 Second St. SE.

The afternoon and evening will include classic cars, trucks and motorcycles, along with discounts, giveaways, live music, raffles and a 50/50 cash drawing. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Registration for the car show is $15 now or $20 on the day of the event. Vendor space is available.

"We were unpacking boxes and things and getting ready for the opening of the shop, and I thought that having an event would be a good way to connect with the community, and get our name out there easily," said Westin Martinez, who says he helps owner Melia Mead with anything she needs done around the shop. "Yeah, while doing inventory I had the idea for an auto show. I attend Desperation church, so we decided to donate the funds there."

While Cullman is home to several annual auto shows, this will be unique, as it is one of the few not held in a municipality, but in downtown Cullman, near Dixie Duds and Décor's brick-and-mortar location.

Martinez is still finalizing several of the extraneous features of the event, such as vendors and live music, but one thing is for sure, if the weather is nice, car collectors and lovers will show up to the event.

"We had our eyes out for scheduling issues with other events and auto shows around the area," Martinez said. "We scheduled the event on this day so we don't conflict with others' events. We don't want to compete with more established events since this is our first year."

Martinez said he and Mead want this event to be an annual occurrence, but getting something like this off the ground can be a little challenging.

While there will be a fee for those who want to enter their vehicles into the car show, there is no fee for people walking by and checking out the scene.

"We will have special sales in Dixie Duds and Décor for the day of the event, and there is a $20 day-of charge for auto registration, along with a raffle which you can buy tickets to enter, but other than that, it's basically just spend whatever you want to," Martinez said.

The goal of the event for Martinez and Mead is to attract a lot of foot traffic, to the auto show and the store, to get feedback for next year's event, to bring it back even better.

Find Dixie Duds and Décor on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DixieDuds.

Samaritans (from Front)

Smith Lake Campground, which is where they were staying.

"It took three officers to load and unload the wheelchair. The officers involved were myself, Officer John Anderson, Officer Zach Lathem and Officer Brandon Patterson. Officer Phillip Botelho carried the battery to Auto Zone in an attempt to charge it."

Boyd did not have the names of those who received assistance, nor of any Lowe's staff. After a call to the store, Lowe's Manager Zach Sadler contacted The Tribune about his store's role in the incident.

According to Sadler, Lowe's Associate Jeremy McKenzie disassembled the wheelchair to get to the battery, which was then taken for charging. While working on the chair, McKenzie noticed that several screws on various components were stripped or otherwise damaged. Using screws from the store's own inventory, he reassembled the man's wheelchair better than it had been when it came in.

"We do have an amazing staff," said Sadler. "We're proud that we have employees who will step up to help. I'm sure Jeremy didn't do it to get any credit; he just saw a need and was glad to help."

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Arrests (from Front)

intoxication, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, minor in possession/ consumption of alcoholic beverages and possession of a forged instrument (fake IDs). There were also two marijuana charges.

The most serious incident of the weekend involved an adult male, age 19, and a juvenile female.

"Officers observed an illicit sexual act between and an adult male and an underage female," said Warnke. "They immediately acted upon that. They took the male into custody and the female met with one of the juvenile probation officers on the scene. Her parents picked her up."

Police reports identify the male as Dakota A. Saint of Lexington. He was charged with second-degree sodomy, public intoxication, indecent exposure and second-degree possession of a forged instrument.

Warnke could not comment on whether the acts involved in the incident were consensual in nature. "The investigation is ongoing," he said.



CPD

Dakota A. Saint

Cullman Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution looking for members



KEN BROWN

The Cullman Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution is building its membership by adding new members interested in learning of their family history and the participation of their ancestors in the American Revolution. Jim Rooker (right) of Cold Springs is shown here being welcomed into the organization by Chapter President Ken Brown at a recent meeting. Those interested in the society are welcome to visit the chapter at its next meeting on Monday evening, July 28 at 7 p.m. at the Cullman VFW Post (112 Veterans Drive in Cullman) or to call Brown at 256-507-1121.

Submitted by Ken Brown

OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS JUNE 4-8

Funeral services for John Allen Speegle, 55 of Cullman, held June 4 at Lake Catoma Baptist Church, Bro. Robert Crawford and Kevin Hurt officiated. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Speegle passed away May 31 at his residence. He was born May 1, 1962 to Billy Gene and Margratte Juanita West Speegle. He was the interim Music Director at Lake Catoma Baptist Church and a machinist at Profab. He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Karen Speegle; daughter, Destani Speegle; brother, Russell (Kitty) Speegle; sister, Deborah (Chris) Bladow; and a host of family and friends.

Carl Perry Alverson, 89, passed away June 3, 2017. Funeral service will be held Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 2:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, in Cullman. Moss Service Funeral Home directing. Visitation will be Tuesday, June 6, 2017 from 1 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church.

Funeral service for Mary Wanda James, 79 of Good Hope, will be at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 in the Chapel of Cullman Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Good Hope Cemetery with Bro. Perry Knight and Bro. Butch Sharpton officiating. Cullman Funeral Home directing. Mrs. James was born on January 14, 1938; passed away on June 5, 2017 at her home. She was a woman who loved her husband and family and was a faithful member of Southside Baptist Church. Preceded in death by her parents, Luther W. Mize and Mildred Fairdale Harbison Mize. Survivors include her Husband of 61 years – Reaford Marvin James; Daughter – Elaine (Ronnie) Clay; 2 – Sons – Don (Melinda) James & Dennis (Mary Pat) James; 4 – Grandchildren – Heather (Michael) Vaught, Kimberly (Byron) Butler, Molly James & Patrick James; 3 – Great-Grandchildren – Harper Butler, Landon Vaught & Lily Vaught. The family will receive friends for visitation at the funeral home on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. The family request donations be made in Wanda's name to Comfort Care Hospice in Lieu-of-Flowers.

Rondal Curtis Mize, 79, passed away June 3, 2017. Funeral service will be held Thursday, June 08, 2017 at 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church. Moss Service Funeral Home directing. Visitation will be held Wednesday, June 7, 2017 from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home.

Sada Oria Davis of Cullman Alabama passed away on June 3, 2017 at her residence at the age of 91. She was born in Cullman on September 4, 1925 to Robert Franklin and Elzada Haynes. She is preceded in death by her husband: K.V. Davis, sisters: Maybelle Johnston, Orella Nesmith, brother: Silas Haynes. Funeral services will be on Thursday, June 8, 2017 at Moss Funeral Home Chapel at 2 p.m. with Pastors' Frank McKinzey and Dale Banks officiating. Interment will be in Fairview First Baptist Church Cemetery. Survivors are: Daughters: Sherry (Joe) Hutchens, Edith (Tommy) Parker, Brother: Ernie (Betty) Haynes, Grandchildren: David (Erin) Hutchens, Beth (Marcos) Gonzalez, Michael Hutchens, Chris Hutchens, Shane Parker, great grandchildren: Jacob and Caius Gonzalez. Visitation will be on Thursday from 11 a.m. until service time at Moss Funeral Home.

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Colony hosting fashion show to benefit senior center

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

COLONY – The Town of Colony is hosting a fashion show for area senior citizens this Saturday, June 10, at the Colony Educational Complex.

According to show coordinator Ethel Alexander, the event will be named "Transiting through the Times: from the Cotton Sack to the Clothes Rack."

The show will also feature live music and other local talent, along with arts and crafts vendors from the Colony area. Proceeds will benefit the Colony Senior Center.

At a glance
Colony Senior Center Fashion Show
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ETHEL ALEXANDER

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
June 6, 2017

West Point girls go 2-0 in Falkville; Good Hope has highs and lows

Johnny Thornton
johnny@cullmansense.com

FALKVILLE – West Point girls' basketball coach John Welborn could compare Monday's performances of Lexi Shadix and Olivia Ball to how Kevin Durant and Steph Curry of the Golden State Warriors did in game two of the NBA Finals on Sunday night.

Both raised their level of play tremendously and West Point left Falkville's Tom Drake Gymnasium 2-0 during a Monday play day, taking down Danville 63-42 and getting by Colbert County 58-53.

Things didn't turn out quite the way the Good Hope Lady Raiders wanted in their first play day of June. Good Hope was able to sandwich a 41-16 victory over Whitesburg Baptist, in between a 40-19 loss to Colbert County and a 45-23 setback to DAR.

Unstoppable was pretty much the case for Shadix in the first half of the Danville game. The freshman racked up 27 points by intermission, taking control of the team, with West Point on top at the break, 37-16.

Shadix hit seven field goals, two treys and seven free throws in the period. Shadix scored on six of the final seven possessions for the Lady Warriors with West Point using a 22-8 run in the final 8:00 to gain control of the contest.

Danville slowed up Shadix to start the second half. Her first basket didn't come until the 13:20 mark with West Point leading 43-28 and trying to slow down a Lady Hawks' run.

Shadix's final basket was a jumper with 3:20 to play as West Point led 54-37. She ended the contest scoring 35 points. Point guard Brooke Brownfield buried a trey to move the margin to 57-37 with 2:37 remaining. Eighth grader Riley Jones had the final two baskets in a span of a minute with West Point getting a season high in points in their third play day assignment for the month.

Taking on Class 3A power Colbert County an hour after playing Danville, West Point went toe to toe with the Lady Indians. Colbert County surged ahead at the break by the score of 27-25.

Then it was time for Ball to pick up her phase of the game and give support to Shadix, who was shut out in the opening half by the Colbert County defense.

Ball scored eight points quickly to open the half with a trey putting them on top at 35-32. Shadix tallied a basket seconds later and the West Point margin was at 37-32 with 16:00 to play.

A shot from Shadix raised the West Point lead to 45-36, the largest, with 12:25 showing on the clock. Back came Colbert County, led by its talented senior, Chelsea Leach. Leach and company ignited an 11-2 run and tied the score at 47-47 with 5:54 to go.

Free throws by Makenzie Carter snapped the deadlock and a short rage shot from Ball pushed the West Point lead to 51-47 with 4:58 remaining.

A 3-point play by Ball at the 1:19 mark extended the advantage to 56-50. Then 11 seconds later, Ball had her final basket and the score was 58-50. Colbert County's Leach scored from downtown with 25 seconds left, but time ran out on the Lady Indians.

Ball and Shadix combined for 14 points apiece in the second half. Ball led the Lady Warriors with 19 total to 14 for Shadix. Carter scored seven and was a factor in many defensive rebounds during the second half, especially when the game went into crunch time.

Micah Oldacre and Brownfield provided five points each from the backcourt with West Point off to a 3-1 start. The Lady Warriors have a 5 p.m. assignment with Locust Fork and a 7 p.m. battle vs. Cold Springs Tuesday at Jim Boyd Gymnasium.

A 1-2 day for Good Hope

Good Hope woke up from a sluggish performance against Colbert County to put away Whitesburg Baptist from Huntsville, keyed by an 11-2 run to close out the first half.

Center Kate Kent started strong for Amanda Swann's Lady Raiders. Kent had five consecutive field goals with Good Hope out to an early 10-2 lead.

Whitesburg started to cover Kent in the post and the offense went through a five-minute drought. The Lady Warriors were able to take advantage and get back in the game, trailing 10-7.



JOHNNY THORNTON/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Good Hope's Leyton Seal (red jersey) at the line against Whitesburg Baptist

But a huge shot in the paint from Alexus Buckelew allowed Good Hope to move the lead to 18-7 by the 5:00 mark. The half ended with the Lady Raiders leading 23-9.

Kent and point guard Savanna Derrick scored early in the final half, extending the lead to 27-9. A basket from Abby Neighbors with 5:40 remaining lifted Good Hope to a 33-14 cushion.

Buckelew netted her second field goal, this one with 4:18 to go and the lead for the Lady Raiders was at 35-14.

Good Hope is an experienced team after a strong late season run in the playoffs got the Lady Raiders to the 4A Northwest Regional at Wallace State.

Kent, Derrick, Erika Woodall, Leyton Seal, Chrissi Smith, Amber Sterling and Charis Peek are eager to take the momentum from the postseason into full season when the regular schedule tips off in early November.

Good Hope had a solid start in the game with DAR, before the offense began to show signs of inconsistency. DAR outscored Good Hope 9-2 in the final 5:00 of the first half, overcoming a deficit and taking a 20-15 advantage at intermission.

The offense was never able to find the rhythm it needed. Good shots were taken by Good Hope, but the ball was not going into the basket.

The Lady Raiders did not score in the final 9:00 after a 3-point play from Derrick closed the margin to 34-23.

DAR produced an 11-0 run, joining West Point as a 2-0 participant on the Falkville High School campus. Good Hope's 1-2 record was the same as Colbert County's.



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