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Yutaka gives back

Employees of Yutaka Technologies spent Friday cleaning Cullman's Good Samaritan Health Clinic as part of Honda's National Week of Service



PHOTOS COURTESY ANDREW CRYER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Andrew Cryer
andrew@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Yutaka Technologies took part in Honda's National Week of Service Friday afternoon, with 24 employees volunteering their time for the Cullman Good Samaritan Clinic. (Although Yutaka is a separate company, they are a supplier of Honda and support the company wherever possible.) Volunteers came in two shifts and painted interior walls and deep cleaned and pressure washed windows of the clinic to give back to the Cullman community.

Summer Perry, member of the human resources department at Yutaka, said, "We at Yutaka are honored to be able to serve and to get out of the plant and to give back to the city of Cullman."

Said Jolanda Hudson, executive director of Cullman Good Samaritan Clinic, "We are very honored and excited that that they selected Good Samaritan for them to give back to the community as we serve all Cullman County residents that are underserved with healthcare."







JOHNNY THORNTON/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The stock car that Gene Norman raced in for the final time three weeks ago in Arkadelphia

Funeral services held for Garden City Councilman Gene Norman

Johnny Thornton
johnny@cullmansense.com

HANCEVILLE – Funeral services were held Friday for Miles Eugene "Gene" Norman at Hanceville Funeral Home, with burial at Garden City cemetery.

Norman passed away Monday, June 12, 2017 of a reported heart attack. His burial took place on the day of his 47th birthday.

Norman was a member of the Garden City Town Council, with the fire department being one of his main responsibilities.

Norman was also well known in the sport of dirt track racing. He captured a series of championships in racing at dirt tracks such as Arkadelphia, Moulton, Talladega, Fort Payne and others.

Moulton Raceway reported Saturday's schedule will be a tribute to Norman.

A large crowd gathered at the chapel inside Hanceville Funeral Home Friday morning to pay their respects to Norman. Officiating the services were Scott Arnold and Stanley Dye. Arnold worked alongside Norman on the Garden City Town Council.

Among those expressing their deepest sympathy to Norman's family were Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry, Cullman County Probate Judge Tammy Brown, former Cullman County Superintendent Nancy Horton, former Hanceville teacher and coach Lane Horton and others.

The stock car that Norman raced at Arkadelphia three weeks ago was outside the funeral home in a tribute **»PAGE 2**

Return to the Great Smoky Mountains: Pigeon Forge

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

PIGEON FORGE – On Nov. 23, 2016, a fire started in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, on the edge of which sit Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge. By Dec. 12, the initial blaze had become a complex of fires that consumed more than 16,000 acres, killed 14 people, injured more than 130, and destroyed more than 2,400 structures in the park, through Gatlinburg, up to Pigeon Forge.

Almost seven months after the fire, I returned with my family to the region that has been our favorite vacation spot since before my children were born. And it's not just me. Less than five hours away from most people in the Cullman area, the Smoky Mountains and its towns are among the top trip destinations for area residents. I came back, not just for a vacation, but to see for myself and report on the effects of the fire and the region's recovery, starting in Pigeon Forge.

There I was welcomed by Leon Downey, the executive director of the Pigeon Forge Department of Tourism.

"We weren't affected at all," he began. "None of our businesses were damaged in any way, so we kept operating right through the fires. We lost 14 houses on the south end of town; other than that, none of our business community were affected at all by the fires."

When asked to compare tourism since the fire to the same time period last year, Downey responded, "That's not really a fair question, because we've had three years of record **»PAGE 4**



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

A panoramic view of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park along the south side of Gatlinburg shows evidence of substantial recovery in both the natural and man-made categories.



HEATHER MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

FOP representative Ronald Ultz presents the AED to Capt. J.P. White

CPD receives automated external defibrillator from Fraternal Order of Police

Heather Mann
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – The Cullman Police Department on Tuesday morning received an automated external defibrillator (AED) that will be placed in a CPD patroI vehicle and can be used in the event of a medical emergency.

The donation came from the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) as part of a grant from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. The FOP distributed the AEDs to state lodges that worked with local law enforcement to identify areas that were most in need of the devices.

An AED is a machine that measures heart rhythm and can send a shock to the heart to treat sudden cardiac arrest (Note: Despite what you see in movies and TV, it can only treat a heart that's out of rhythm. If the heart has stopped beating altogether, the only way to help is to use CPR to manually keep the blood moving). With police officers often the first on the scene, especially in rural areas, AEDs are becoming more and more important to have available.

Alabama State FOP President Wesley Knapp said that the donation will be a great benefit. "Our thanks go out to the FOP for creating this partnership that will have a direct positive impact on public safety," Knapp said. "Simply put, having AEDs in police cruisers will save lives."

At the Cullman Police Department Tuesday, the device was presented by FOP representative Ronald Ultz to Capt. J.P. White.

Said White, "On behalf of the Cullman Police Department, we're proud to get this equipment that could potentially save lives when we're out on patrol. A lot of times we are the first responders on the scene, and any time we can help save lives is a good thing. I'd like to thank Firehouse Subs and the Fraternal Order of Police. This could be very beneficial to the citizens of Cullman County."

Norman (from Front)

and to be included in the procession from the funeral home to Garden City cemetery.

Norman is survived by his wife, Karen, and their children Madison and Sam. Sam just graduated from Hanceville High School last month, with Norman able to be there for the ceremony.

Garden City First Baptist Church hosted a meal for the Norman family at the conclusion of the burial.

The council spoke with Karen Norman and asked in lieu of flowers, donations to be made to Gene Norman's son, so he can continue his racing career.

Contributions can be mailed to:
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MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on March 20, 2012 by Kay Baggett, unmarried woman, a/k/a Clarissa Kay Baggett, to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in Book MTG 1673, Page 219 in the Probate Office of Cullman County, Alabama, and default continuing, and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the following described property will be sold at public outcry, for cash, to the highest bidder, in front of the Courthouse door of said County, in Cullman, Alabama, during the legal hours of sale on June 27, 2017:

A tract of land being in the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 22, Township 11 South, Range 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama, described as commencing at an existing one-half inch rebar accepted as the Southeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter, thence along the South forty line North 88 degrees 52 minutes 14 seconds West 1325.40 feet to an existing one-half Inch rebar marking the Southwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter; thence along the West forty line North 02 degrees 16 minutes 47 seconds West 333.74 feet to an existing one-half inch rebar; thence North 88 degrees 52 minutes14 seconds East 462.48 feet to an one-half inch rebar being the point of beginning, thence continue North 88 degrees 52 minutes 14 seconds East 307.68 feet to an existing railroad spike in the center of County Road 388; thence along the center of said road the following chord. bearings and distances: North 10 degrees 07 minutes 41 seconds West 72.84 feet and North 13 degrees 46 minutes 42 seconds West 115.57 feet to an existing railroad spike being North 50 degrees 14 minutes 20 seconds West 791.88 feet from the accepted Southeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter; thence South 69 degrees 14 minutes 05 seconds West 310.00 feet to an existing one-half rebar; thence South 15 degrees 44 minutes 26 seconds East 83.22 feet to the point of beginning. LESS AND EXCEPT: All road rights of way and all other rights of way and easements of record.

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

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as part of the foreclosure process.

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Dewayne N. Morris
Attorney for Mortgagee
2131 Third Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
The Cullman Tribune-June 3, 10, 17, 2017

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Dr. Wayne Williams named principal of Cullman Christian School

Leeanna Smith
Contributor

Cullman Christian School is proud to announce the hiring of Dr. Wayne Williams as principal.

"I have worked for over 25 years in education, but my greatest passion has always been to work in Christian education," said Williams.

Williams began his elementary teaching career in the Huntsville City Schools system.

He has degrees from the University of Alabama in Huntsville (B.S.), Alabama A&M (M.A.), the University of Alabama at Birmingham (Ed.S.) and ultimately Samford University (Ed.D.). He was the principal of Helena Intermediate School for 12 years.

The Cullman Christian School board feels Williams has the perfect mix of enthusiasm, academic qualifications and experience to lead CCS to the next level. Most importantly, he plans to do so while keeping Christ foremost in everything we do.

"I feel a call on my life to work to make a difference in the lives of students through such a position," he said.

CCS Interim Principal Cheryl Parker and the faculty are looking forward to working with Dr. Williams in the upcoming school year!



LEEANNA SMITH

Dr. Wayne Williams

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From The Files Of 1900

The Polytechnic College will close Friday and the scholars will picnic at Blue Hole on Saturday.

Ice cream is now sold to People's Restaurant – ad.

Mrs. Judge Fuller and pretty little daughter, Gladys and Miss Caroline Schlosser visited Birmingham this week.

Oster and "Baby" McMinn returned home on Tuesday, from Memphis, Tennessee, where they have been attending school.

C.O. Adkins, W.G. Brown, R.E. Lee and A.J. Allgood spent several days fishing near Decatur this week.

A large crowd of Cullmanites are taking advantage of the excursion rates to Birmingham today. Round trip is 75 cents.

J.H. Ryan has purchased an interest in Mr. Julian's business and the firm is now styled as Julian and Ryan. They take first class photographs, repair bicycles, clocks, watches and jewelry.

Misses Carrie and Ada Brown, Mrs. Pearl Callahan, Berney Wilhite, R.M. Brown and Joe Hewlett were among those who attended the commencement exercises at Falkville last week.

From The Files Of 1950

The reserve champion steer in the Birmingham Fat Calf Show was exhibited by Kennon Wood.

Other local winners were: Asa Blalock, Dois Sims and Ralph Blalock.

County High Schools will graduate 428 seniors next week.

Holly Pond graduates include: Royce Bailey, Milford Black, Lewis Brown, Ezell Cornelius, O'Neal Daniel, Harrol Dismukes, Dane Estes, Earnestine Gable, Virginia Hart, Hershel Henderson and Guy Hunt, etc.

Louis J. McPherson, age 69, of Bangor, died on May 10th, in Gulfport, Mississippi, following an automobile accident.

The County-Wide 4-H Rally will be held at Cullman High on Saturday, May 20th.

Two arrests have been made in conjunction with four separate egg robberies from McAnnally Produce Company in Garden City, involving 113 cases of eggs.

Bud Lawrence, of Vinemont, had his tonsils removed on Saturday at Doctor Stitt's Clinic.

The fourth Sunday is the annual Decoration Day at Cave Springs.

Dannie Tilley and Wade Tucker, of Jones Chapel, have the mumps.

Isaac Whisenant, of Hulaco, is in the Guntersville Hospital receiving treatment for a punctured lung and breaks in both legs.

The Lee Franklins returned to Holly Pond from Chicago after attending the Southern Baptist Convention.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Dunkin have a new television, which is a popular community attraction at Holly Pond.

Mesdames Esther Bice, Willis Smith and Era Giles are in charge of decorating the cemetery at Duck River.

Mr. and Mrs. Sim J. Calvert (formerly Martha Jane Aaron), will celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary on May 26th.

Their children's names all start with an "E." The boys are Edgar, Ervin, Ellis, Emory and Everett.

The girls are Mrs. Essie Henry, Mrs. Ella Austin, Mrs. Ethel Giles and Miss Eva Calvert.

Mrs. J.W. Morgan was the Sunday winner of the orchid on the Kessler Good Neighbor program.

E.W. Walker, of Mountain View has purchased a new truck.

The annual all day singing will be held at Welti on Sunday, May 28th.

Everyone is urged to bring a well-filled lunch basket.

Ladies slips with lace trim only $1.00 at David Lee's. – ad.

Men's bathing trunks for $1.69 at Watson's. – ad.

Mrs. Owen Williams is the new president of Coterie.

Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Sullins have a new daughter, Margaret June, born on May 16th.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

The hardest working man I ever knew

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



He was the biggest man I knew - and the strongest too. He was a little over six feet tall, but I thought he was at least ten. His huge hands hung like ham hocks on the ends of his arms. He worked hard all of his life. He was thirteen when the great depression began. His family was poor, but they eked out a living on a farm in rural western Georgia. Once, while plowing "new ground" barefooted, he stepped on a scorpion.

As far as I can remember, work occupied the majority of his time. He wore khaki, or olive green, colored Dickies work pants and shirts every day, except Sundays. My two older brothers told me he used to fish with them, but he and I never shared such times.

My favorite memories with him were our trips in his trucks to coal mines, sand pits, lumber yards and brick and block companies. Most trips included Kentucky Fried Chicken and ice cream cones.

I always watched with fascination as tons of coal poured into the giant dump trailer of his eighteen-wheeler. For around the first thirteen years of my life, he owned and operated a business where he sold those things we hauled, plus my favorites-candy and soft drinks. After he closed the business, he drove his eighteen wheelers on long-hauls for a couple of years.

He taught me to drive in one of his smaller dump-trucks. I had to sit on the edge of the seat and stretch in order to reach the pedals. I don't remember why, but when I was probably thirteen, one of his dump-trucks had gotten stranded away from the business. There was no one there to go drive it back, so he asked, "Do you think you can drive on the highway?"

He said, "We'll stay on the back roads as much as possible."

We started out on State Highway 75 and then turned left onto a secondary road. I hardly slowed down before making the turn. I ran off the edge of the road, but somehow managed to regain control without wrecking. When we got back, he said, "You did good son, but you need to learn to make those turns on all four wheels (actually, I think that thing had ten).

Another thing he and I shared was a love of music. When I was about ten, for Christmas, he bought me my first guitar. I still have that old red Truetone flat-top.

I can't recall him singing, but he often whistled while he worked. He didn't play any kind of musical instrument, unless you count our portable record player that held a half dozen long plays. His collection included Flat and Scruggs, Hank Snow, Ray Price, Ernest Tubb, Roy Acuff, Bill Monroe, Sonny James, The Chuck Wagon Gang, and Webb Pierce.

Near the end of his life, he added an eight-track tape player in his International TranStar. While I listened at home to The Beatles "Long and Winding Road" on that old turntable and tried to play along, he drove the long and winding roads across America, alone, and listened to Charlie Pride on his tape player.

He didn't live long enough to see me reach adulthood, or get very good on that red guitar. If you still have your dad, go sit down and talk to him. In heaven, I hope to have my first true "man to man" discussion with mine.

I might even play for him, and he can whistle along. After all these many years, I still miss you Dad. Happy Father's Day!

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Cullman, Alabama, will hold a public hearing on July 17th, 2017 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the Lucille N. Galin Auditorium at City Hall, 204 Second Avenue NE, Cullman, Alabama 35055. At this time, anyone wishing to be heard in favor of or in opposition to the adoption of Ordinance No. 2017-12 (set forth in full below) will be given an opportunity to speak.

ORDINANCE NO. 2017 – 12

AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2004-03, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 2013-27, (SE-1 SPECIAL EVENTS DISTRICT)

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULLMAN, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Ordinance No. 2004-03, as Amended by Ordinance No. 2013-27, is hereby amended by deleting Section 3. D. 3.a. *Festhalle/Depot Park District.* in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

Section 3. D. 3.a. *Festhalle/Depot Park District:* The following boundaries or any portion thereof may be approved for use under the SE-1 District rules. The District shall be bounded on the South by the North side of 5th Street SE; bounded on the West by the East property line of the CSX Railroad from 5th Street SE to the parking and facilities housing the Cullman Police Department; and on the East by the West side of 2nd Avenue NE from 5th Street SE to the parking and facilities housing the Cullman Police Department.

All other sections of said Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Wesley M. Moore, City Clerk

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JUNE 17, 2017

Shooting enthusiasts, rejoice!



SUSAN ELLER/CULLMAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Aerial photo taken Thursday, June 15 by Susan Eller of the Cullman Economic Development Agency.

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Construction of Cullman Shooting Sports is coming right along. Facility Manager Doug Long says the company hopes to open the range this October.

When Cullman Shooting Sports opens its new state-of-the-art facility, it will likely be the only one of its kind in the country. Its 110-yard indoor rifle range will be the longest indoor gun range in the Southeast the longest, above-ground, public range in the nation (the current record-holding indoor above-ground range is 101 yards); and its equipment will allow activities from digital video game style shooting in a simulation room, to tactical live-fire exercises against programmable moving targets on the pistol and rifle ranges.

The range will be located at the intersection of Alabama Highways 157 and 69. See more at http://qrne.ws/range.

Mountains (from Front)

tourism. The last three years, Pigeon Forge has had over a billion dollars in tourism revenue. We've not had a down year since 2008."

Until now, that is. Downey continued, "Our numbers dropped significantly; visitation dropped immediately after the fire, with those devastating images that people saw. That's all they saw, then they didn't see anything afterwards.

"I met a family two weeks ago from Jackson, Mississippi (while visiting that state). They found out I work in Pigeon Forge, and they said, 'Oh, we love Pigeon Forge; is there anything left to see? We saw those devastating images--it looked like the whole place was burned down, and we haven't heard anything since then.'

"No matter how hard we work, it's going to take us a while to overcome the misperception. People have stayed away. Our numbers were down in January, February and March in almost all categories. In April, the numbers came back up for the first time this year."

Downey talked about an independent survey conducted in December, showing that 16 percent of people who had previously visited the area could not say that they would come back after the fires.

A local restaurant manager told me that her establishment's revenue is down about 30 percent below this time last year.

Even Dollywood, the anchor of Pigeon Forge tourism, has taken a hit.

Though she did not share specific numbers, park publicist Amber Davis admitted, "Visits to Dollywood are a little bit down this year."

In addition to the lingering perceptions about the fires, she also pointed to a higher than normal number of rain days that have hampered some of the park's numerous outdoor activities.

Dollywood itself suffered no damage, though several rental cabins owned by Dollywood subsidiary Smoky Mountain Cabins were destroyed. Twelve park staff families were among approximately 900 families who lost their homes to the blaze.

In response, Dolly Parton and the Dollywood Foundation created the "My People Fund" to help not only her employees, but all affected families and individuals.

"Dolly and her people here tried to figure out what we could do to help," explained Davis.

"They wanted to do something specific, and they decided that we needed to help those who have lost their homes; not people with vacation cabins, but those who lost their primary residence to the fire."

After a telethon and other fundraising efforts, the Dollywood Foundation committed to giving every family on the list $1,000 per month for six months.

At the recent conclusion of that program, the foundation discovered that its fundraising efforts had been more fruitful than expected; so the last set of checks to go out were for $5,000 instead of $1,000. Through the efforts of Dolly Parton and the Dollywood Foundation, every area family who lost its primary residence received $10,000 to start rebuilding.

Though it is suffering setbacks in the market, the people of Pigeon Forge are confident that all will be well; so much so that several new attractions have recently appeared or are actively under construction, including:

- Alcatraz East Crime Museum, which relocated to Pigeon Forge from Washington D.C.
- "Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Adventures" dinner show
- "Drop Line," a 200-foot freefall ride at Dollywood
- "Whistle Punk Chaser," a new junior roller coaster, also at Dollywood
- "Tailspin Racer," a new water slide at Splash Country water park
- "Pigeon Forge Snow," an indoor artificial snow park currently under construction

In addition to attractions, even more lodging is coming to the city with a recently-completed Hilton Garden Inn, along with two other hotels under the Hilton brand coming soon.

"That's one thing about Pigeon Forge," said Downey, "it's always changing; there's always something new and exciting to do here. Pigeon Forge is a small city; we only have about 6,000 residents that live here year-round, but we have over 15,000 lodging units. On any given day, we can have over 50,000 people in our city, most of them guests.

"We have over 80 attractions here, over 300 shopping venues, over 90 restaurants, and Dollywood, the most ticketed attraction in the state of Tennessee. And we have America's most visited national park six miles away. For people from 3 to 103, there's something to do at Pigeon Forge."

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Battleground's Camp Liberty expands, adds new courses

Andrew Cryer
andrew@cullmansense.com

BATTLEGROUND – Camp Liberty is now in its second year in Cullman County, after previously being in Marion, Alabama, and is expanding for those interested in a military-style experience, a secluded campsite or even a wedding.

Two new courses will be added to the Extreme Military Challenge (XMC) in this quickly approaching summer season at Camp Liberty- the Combat Engineer course and the Cadet Aviation Challenge. The courses are optional as each cadet tailors his or her own experience during the XMC.

XMC is for teenagers and gives them the opportunity to experience the military lifestyle through realistic and challenging programs. XMC has programs from 2 to 5 weeks long and provides training for more than 200 each summer. Not only are the courses expanding, but so is the camp's obstacle course, which will be in conjunction with the site's "Combat Town." Completion of "Combat Town" is expected by the fall of 2018 and will add an airsoft area to the site.

The site is owned by Col. Joe Land who has worked with cadet programs for more than 30 years. Land has taken what he knows to work and has applied it to his XMC program. "There's no other program like it," he said.

Camp Liberty is located at 15719 Alabama Highway 157 W. To learn more, visit www.camp-liberty.com and www.xmccamp.com.

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Bulldog Band's 'Show of Wheels' today

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com



FACEBOOK/HANCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BAND

The Hanceville High School band is raising money to buy new uniforms.

HANCEVILLE – The Hanceville High School Bulldog marching band is holding its inaugural auto show, the Show of Wheels, this weekend. The fundraiser will be Saturday, June 17 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the campus of Wallace State Community College.

The event is primarily to raise funds for the purchase of new uniforms, which Band Booster President Mark Long says will cost an estimated $33,000.

"We counted it up, and we're pretty sure the current uniforms are about 13 years old," Long said. "So they are certainly beginning to deteriorate."

Long and Hanceville High School Band Director Steven Porter each hope the event is a smashing success that the community comes out to support the kids.

"We in the city of Hanceville know this town gets hit up annually during fundraisers and having to buy things," Long said. "We wanted to do something where people didn't feel that they have to buy something."

In an effort to simplify things, the event will be day-of registration, and will feature a single overall Best in Show winner, voted on by members of the marching band themselves.

Registration costs $15, but the show is free to anyone who wants to walk through and see all the different sights.

"Bring anything with wheels," said Porter. Along with local band Downsouth, the Bulldog Band will be providing the live music. "We have a jazz band and a rock band, and they have a portfolio of pieces that they are ready to play at any time."

While he says there is no doubt that the Hanceville community supports the band and the local high school, Long hopes that people come out and use this opportunity to fund the band and the program.

"We are always in need of funds and monetary donations," Long said. "And if anyone wants to give more throughout the year in between events and things like that, they are more than welcome to."

The best way to give during non-fundraiser times is by calling Hanceville High School and asking to be put in touch with a member of the band boosters club.

There will be funnel cakes sold at the event to help support majorettes and color guard.

6 Good Hope anglers headed to nationals

Johnny Thornton
johnny@cullmansense.com



RENA SKINNER PUTMAN

Tucker Putman, left and Will Dickerson

EUFAULA – Good Hope's Tucker Putman and Will Dickerson punched their ticket to the Costa Bassmaster High School National Championship after a very respectable performance over the weekend in the Alabama B.A.S.S. Nation High School Championship tournament at Lake Eufaula.

The duo came in sixth in the individual boats category with 27 pounds, 3 ounces of live bass caught. They compiled 12 pounds, 80 ounces after the first round last Friday and improved their effort with 14 pounds, 23 ounces on Saturday.

That was good enough to get the Raider duo to the nationals the weekend of June 22-24 in Paris, Tennessee. Putman and Dickerson will be joined by Colton Williams and Chase Taylor, along with Hagen Speegle and Landon Graham. These two groups qualified for the nationals during the Southern Open at Lake Chickamauga.

Putman and Dickerson were two positions behind Cullman's top tandem of Lawson Graves and Cameron Glasscock. Graves and Glasscock collected 29 pounds, 45 ounces, helping the Bearcats win the state championship for the very first time.

Graves and Glasscock, along with Justin Lowery and James Cobbs will be taking their boats to the nationals as well, giving the local area five boats competing for top honors on Kentucky Lake.

Follow the Good Hope team on Facebook at www.facebook.com/goodhopefishingteam.

Find the Cullman team at www.facebook.com/cullman.fishing.

Local resident celebrates 92nd birthday

Teresa Mauldin
Contributor



TERESA MAULDIN

Vila Tyree celebrated her 92nd birthday on June 4th 2017. She has lived most of her life in the Helican community. Vila was a stay at home mother for several years, during which time she worked on the chicken farm.

She was a beloved lunchroom lady at Meek for five years, then she worked at Nicholson Files for five years. Vila taught Sunday School classes for all ages for over 50 years at Liberty Baptist Missionary Church.

She was married for 41 years to Dolphus Tyree. They had four children; Sandra and the late J.W Hicks, Steve and Glenda Tyree, the late Ricky Tyree(Linda) and Jayne and Michael Waldrep.

She has eleven grandchildren, twenty-two great grandchildren, and one great great grandchild with another on the way. Vila loved to sew for her family and community.

She also enjoyed spending time working in her flower bed and garden, and was very generous with her produce.

A host of her family and friends would like to wish her a Happy Birthday!

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JUNE 17, 2017

Cullman Christian School yearbook team wins national award

Leeanna Smith
Cullman Christian School

CULLMAN – Recently, Cullman Christian School became one of only four schools to win Jostens' National Yearbook Program of Excellence Award. Jostens, a producer of yearbooks, class rings and other academic memorabilia, created the award to recognize schools that excel in the creation and distribution of yearbooks.

Winners must meet the following criteria listed on the company's website:

• A Meaningful Book for All Students: A book that means something to all students and includes a vast majority of the student body.

• A Book in Every Student's Hands: Schools put so much time, effort and love into their yearbook. We want to help ensure that as many students as possible get to enjoy the masterpiece that's created.

• Effective Project Management: Meeting the yearbook deadlines is a very important part of the yearbook creation process, and ensures the delivery of books on time.

Members of the CCS yearbook team are Treasure Corley, Miracle Corley, Lacey Watts, Cameron Hudson, Abby Hogue, Kohler Lovett, Raina Henderson, Sky Miller, Anabelle Howze and Ella Murphree.

Leeanna Smith is the faculty advisor.



LEEANNA SMITH/CULLMAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Members of the CCS yearbook team with their award banner

Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries receives USDA grant to increase local foods in school cafeterias

Amy Belcher
ADAI

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) is pleased to announce they received a $100,000 support service grant which will positively impact school districts across the state. The ADAI organized state and community partners to create the Alabama Farm to School Collaborative, including the Alabama Department of Education, the Foodbank of North Alabama/Farm Food Collaborative, the Alabama Farmers Federation, Feeding the Gulf-Coast Food Bank, food hubs, Druid City Garden Project, and EAT South.

The goal of the Alabama Farm to School Collaborative is to encourage schools to serve fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables to students, implement hands-on education in school gardens, and provide nutrition and agriculture education. This is one of 65 projects spanning 42 states and Puerto Rico receiving support this year through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm to School Grant Program, an effort to better connect school cafeterias and students with local specialty crop farmers.

"Increasing the amount of local foods in America's schools is a win-win for everyone," USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue said. "Our children benefit from the fresh, local food served in their meals at school, and local economies are nourished, as well, when schools buy the food they provide close to home."

Specific projects funded by the USDA grant include improvements to an online farmer aggregation database, technical training for child nutrition directors to increase local food purchases, and state-wide Farm to School promotion. Funding will also be used to develop standards based curriculum that encourage students to eat fresh, nutritious produce and educate them about agriculture. The curriculum will include cooking lessons for locally grown vegetables using a cooking demonstration cart. The grant also aims to increase the number of farmers involved in the Farm to School program by providing farmers with food safety training and certification.

"The Alabama Farm to School Collaborative provides farmers an opportunity to develop relationships with the students in their local schools districts," commented Alabama Agriculture Commissioner John McMillan. "Not only do the students enjoy locally grown food, but now they can make a connection to the person who grew it for them."

For more information about the Alabama Farm to School Collaborative, please contact Andrea Carter be email at andrea.carter@agi.alabama.gov or call 334-240-7247.

OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS: JUNE 17-18

Mary Emma Sargent Hollis of Cullman passed away on June 13, 2017 at her residence at the age of 88. She was born on October 20, 1928 to Thomas O. and Willie Esther Smith Sargent. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband: William L. Hollis, 3 sisters and 3 brothers. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother devoted to her Lord Jesus Christ and her family. Her love for children led her to teach the little ones in Sunday School and VBS. She had a smile that would always warm your heart. She will be missed by all that knew her. Funeral services will be on Saturday, June 17, 2017 at 2 p.m. at New Prospect Baptist Church with Rev. Howard Wolfe officiating. Interment will be in the adjoining cemetery. Mrs. Hollis will lie in state for one hour prior to the service at the church. Survivors are: children: Elaine (Jerry) Johnson, Janice (Doug) Lowery, Thomas (Denise) Hollis, Charles (Lisa) Hollis, Wayne (Beverly) Hollis, James (Kim) Hollis, sister: Charlene Sargent Cleveland, 13 grandchildren, 15, great grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews.

Helen Theresa Borden Mather, 62 of Haleyville, entered into rest on June 14, 2017 at her residence. Mrs. Mather was born on July 23, 1954, in Haleyville. Helen was a member of Rock Creek Baptist Church. She attended Winston County High School. She worked at Haleyville Health Care for many years. Helen loved music and watching Joel Osteen. She was a great mother and grandmother. She loved all her children, grandchildren, family members, neighbors, and friends. The family will host a private service. Helen is survived by her sons, Tim Robins, William (Connie) Robins, Adam (Kim) Robins, Jessie Robins; brothers, Steve (Linda) Borden, Ricky (Shirley) Borden, Jerry (Anna Liza) Borden, Johnny Borden; sisters, Angie (Greg) Wiggins, Barbara (Wilson) Thrasher, and Sherry (Bryan) Ducote. She was "Maw" to 7 grandchildren, Cody Robins, Austin Robins, Acea Robins, Ally Robins, Kendra Roden, Kelsie Roden, and Kashlee Robins. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Stacey Robins; grandson, James Christopher Hill; parents, Clifford and Mozelle Borden; and grandparents, Dalton and Ruby Mayhall Carey and James and Isabelle Borden.

Memorial services for Carolyn Penny Stutler, 66 of Cullman, are incomplete and will be held at a later date. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Ms. Stutler passed away Monday, June 12, 2017 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. She was born November 28, 1950 to parents Stephen and Rosealie Craft Brisendine. She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Drema Peternite, and a brother, Steve Brisendine. Survivors include two sons, Stephen (Amanda) Buric and Jesse (Sabrina) Stutler; seven grandchildren, Julie (Cody) Hartzelle, Addrian Johnson, Megan Johnson, Justin Stutler, Victoria Broughman, Taylor Broughman, and B.J. Munsey; three great-grandchildren, Kadence Johnson, Isbella Johnson, and Tatum Griffin; one sister, Wanda Tovey; and a host of friends and family.

Nona Mae Edwards, 72 of Haleyville, entered into rest on Friday, June 16, 2017 at Haleyville Healthcare surrounded by loved ones. Funeral information will be listed at a later date. Nichols Funeral Home directing.

Funeral services for Tim Eugene Slaven, 59 of Cullman, will be 4 p.m. Saturday, June 17, 2017 at Moss-Service Chapel, Albert Pugh officiating. Burial will be at Cullman City Cemetery. Moss-Service Funeral Home directing. Tim passed away Wednesday at Grandview Medical Center. He was born January 18, 1958 in Chattanooga, TN to William and Margaret Parker Slaven. He was self-employed as an electrician. Survivors include his wife; Nan Slaven, daughters; Tyler Singleton, Meg (Byron) Smith, Mackenzie (Chase) Rockco, sisters; Rhonda (Keith) McCrary, Vickie (Tony) Harrison, brothers; Allen (Linda) Slaven, Bruce Slaven, mother; Larue Worley, grandchildren; Amelia and Callan Smith, numerous nieces and nephews. Visitation will be Saturday 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the funeral home.

Funeral services for Eunice Cordelia Knighten Duncan, 88 of Hanceville, will be 10 a.m. Saturday, June 17, 2017 at Moss-Service Chapel, Rev. Barbara Trussell officiating, burial will be at Kemp cemetery. Mrs. Duncan passed away Tuesday at her residence. She was born November 28, 1929 to James and Delia Harper. She was a homemaker. She is survived by a daughter; Linda (Robert) Wilsford, sister; Violet Morgan, five grandchildren, four great grandchildren.

Funeral Services for Kenneth M. Needham, age 69 of Guntersville, will be held at 11 am on Saturday, June 17, 2017 at Holly Pond Funeral Home, Carl Malin officiating. Interment to follow in Zion Grove Cemetery in Holly Pond, AL. Mr. Needham passed away at his residence on June 15, 2017 surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Blount County in 1948 to the late Elbert Leon Needham and Mildred Stancil Needham. He worked in construction for McInnis Construction and was a loving and caring father. Mr. Needham is predeceased by his parents; grandson, Killan Downs; brothers, Rayford Needham, Rayburn Needham, and Gerald Needham; and sister-in-law, Catherine Needham. Survivors include his wife, Linda Needham; son, Chris (Michelle) Needham; daughters, Tina (Scott Hanks) Green, Lindsey Downs, Lisa (Johnny) Maverick, and Lori (Neill) McInish; grandchildren, Brittany, Zachary, Haili, Hunter, Wayland, Ayden, Oakley, Olivia, and Carlyn; great grandchildren, Jacob Leon and Bentley; brother, Jackie (Starr) Needham; sister, Pam Malin; sister-in-law, Carolyn Needham; brother-in-law, Basil Malin; and a host of nieces and nephews. Pallbearers will be Neill IcInish, Steven Walker, Scott Hanks, Bobby Weaver, Ray Harbin, and Brayden Bailey. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the family.

Zula Liler Bush, 86, passed away June 14, 2017. Funeral services will be held Sunday, June 18, 2017 beginning at 2 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Ila Fay Clemons Hildreth

Ila Fay Clemons Hildreth, age 85, passed away on November 10, 2016. She was born on April 23, 1931, in Montevallo, to Leon Konrad and Cora Alice Tate Clemons.

Mrs. Hildreth and her family moved to Cullman in 1943. In 1949, she graduated from Cullman High School. She began her teaching career in Cullman County. Mrs. Hildreth married Wyman S. Hildreth in 1956 at the First Baptist Church in Cullman. She taught over 30 years in the state of Alabama. Mrs. Hildreth was an avid reader, enjoying traveling and working in her flower garden.

Survivors include: a daughter, Allyson Hildreth, of Montgomery; a son, Kyle and wife, Teresa Hildreth, of Auburn; six grandchildren, Rachel Gordon Thomas and husband, Dale and Rebekah Gordon, all of Montgomery and Elizabeth Hildreth, Matthew Hildreth, Leah Hildreth and Hannah Hildreth, all of Auburn; two great-grandsons, Aiden Thomas and Holden Thomas, both of Montgomery; two sisters, Doris Clemons Davis, of Longview, Texas and Betty Clemons Ward, of Tulsa, Oklahoma and a brother, Leighton and wife, Kay Clemons, of Kansas City, Missouri.

Mrs. Hildreth was predeceased by her parents, a daughter, Sabrina Hildreth Gordon, of Montgomery in 2006, two sisters, Alice Ray Baxter, of Fort Payne, Alabama in 2015 and Wilma Guthrie, of Jacksonville, Florida, in 2000.

A memorial service was on November 12, 2016, at Lakeview Baptist Church. Reverend Cliff Knight officiating. A private burial was held in Auburn Memorial Park Cemetery. Jeffcoat-Trant Funeral Home was in charge.

Free Obituary Listings

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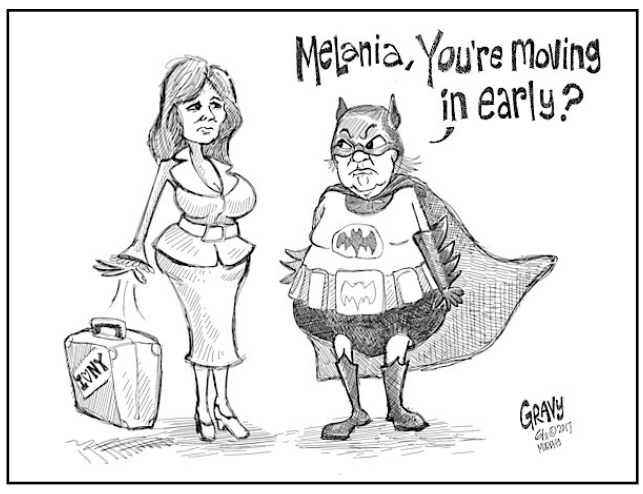
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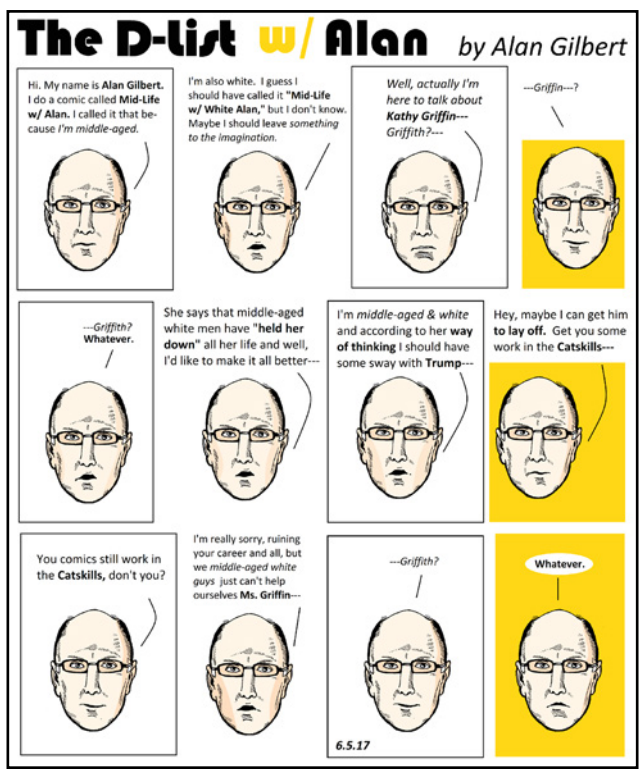
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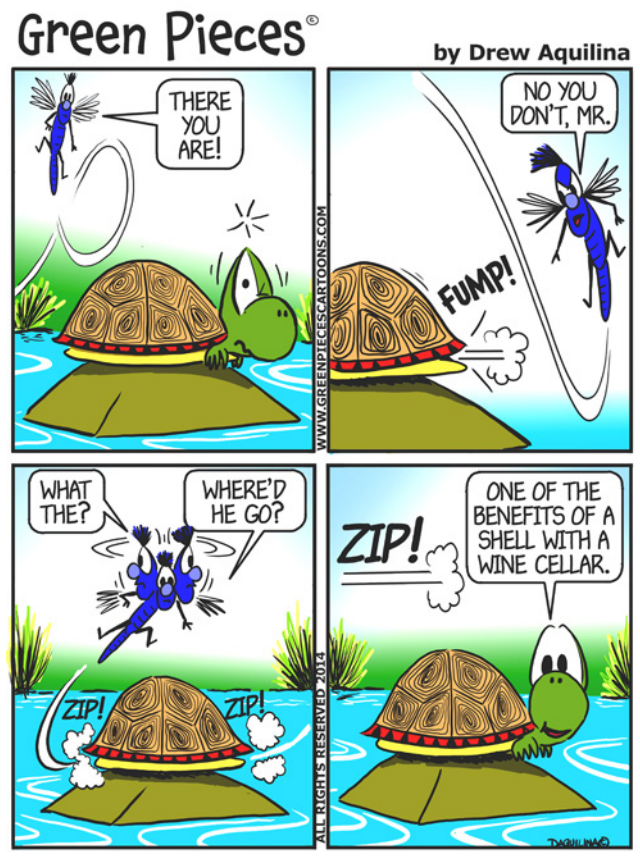
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Editorial Cartoons





Comic



Poet's Corner

My Love of Camo

By: April McCay

My love of camo, began as a little girl.
Because of a man in camo,
a man that changed our world.

My love for camo,
was wearing his army hat.
No way could I ever fill his shoes
but I was his Army brat.

My love for camo,
because of a man whose heart
speaks words never said.
I cannot imagine the battlefield
that may replay in his head.

My love for camo, my favorite color,
began with his sacrifice and for that I
am glad. A color created to protect,
a man in camo,
a man I'm proud to call my dad.

Thanks Dad, love April.
Happy Father's Day!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

On Brad Meeks

Editor's note: Below is a letter to the editor sent to The Tribune. The letter is a copy of a letter reader Emily Hayes addressed to Cullman County District Attorney C. Wilson Blaylock. This is an opinion piece and is the opinion of the author, Ms. Hayes. As of today, June 17, 2017, Brad Meeks has not been charged with any crime relating to the car crash that took the life of Curtis Wilson. The incident is still under investigation by the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency.

June 13, 2017
Mr. C. Wilson Blaylock
Cullman County District Attorney
500 2nd Ave SW #207
Cullman, AL 35055

My name is Emily Hayes. I lived in Cullman and graduated from Cullman High School. I was recently heartbroken to learn of the death of Curtis Wilson. I have had the pleasure of knowing his family for over a decade. His loss is one the Cullman community will grieve for quite some time. For in his short 15 years on this earth, he made an incredible impact on many lives. This was evident in the outpouring of community support for his family this past weekend at a benefit I was blessed to help host for the family of Curtis. Curtis was taken away from us too soon by the selfish act of Brad Meeks, who has a history of very poor decisions and behavior, which he has yet to be effectively punished as evidenced by him taking Curtis' life and in the process destroying an entire family.

I recently learned of the most current arrest of Brad Meeks for theft of property. I found out the information Monday June 12th, less than 24 hours following the benefit mentioned above. By all accounts, Mr. Meeks was under the influence when he took Curtis' life that night and this recent arrest shows that it is apparent that Mr. Meeks has a long and troubled history with substance abuse and with respect for his own being, not to mention the law. Mr. Meeks seems to have the ability to avoid responsibility for his egregious actions towards humanity. A brief look at his alarming arrest history below evidences this.

As a citizen of the state of Alabama, it troubles me that someone who has had as many DUI charges and other interactions with law enforcement as Mr. Meeks has not been placed in custody. It is clear he has violated his probation that stems from two felony charges that were pled down to misdemeanors. His most recent charge, occurred just a few weeks before the wreck that took Curt's life. One is left to think that if the authorities would have acted differently with respect to enforcement of the law, the wreck that took Curt from us might never have happened.

According to Alacourt, Mr. Meeks has been cited and charged with myriad of offenses including but not limited to the following:

- Running a red light
- Failure to stop at a stop sign
- Second-degree possession of marijuana
- Multiple speeding violations
- Unspecified driver's license issue
- Use or possession of drug paraphernalia
- Public intoxication
- Illegal possession of alcohol
- Leaving the scene of an accident
- Reckless driving
- Leaving the scene of an accident
- Public intoxication
- Use or possession of drug paraphernalia
- DUI-combined influence of alcohol and controlled substance
- DUI (in Spanish Fort, while in rehab)

It is apparent by the above list that Mr. Meeks lacks any kind of personal responsibility for his actions, because he has never had to suffer the consequences of such actions. His actions have ripped apart the lives of many others who have respect for, and follow the laws of this state and he has yet to be held accountable by our justice system for his actions.

By never having to suffer the consequences of his actions, he finds a way to go back into society without ever fully appreciating the severity of the crimes he has committed. He managed his way out of his rehab stint after a DUI charge just to rack up another DUI charge on his way back to rehab.

It is appalling, not only to me but to numerous others to know that this man has been given chance after chance, opportunity after opportunity to correct his behavior and his actions. However, he has proven that he has no respect for his own life let alone the lives of others. My concern is, when do you, as the district attorney of Cullman County, start to hold him accountable? Will you uphold the law and attempt to make it stop and not plead down the charges of a man who obviously needs to have the full weight of the justice system against him?

If it was your family member or someone you knew you may feel the urgency and need the family does to see that justice is served. Mr. Meeks seems to have no problem continuing to lead a life of disrespect. He seems to have more lives than a cat at dodging incarceration and the consequences of his actions, despite knowing and understanding the laws that we all live under. Is Mr. Meeks going to continue to be allowed to live under a different set of rules or can you put this pattern of his to an end? We are looking to you as the district attorney to not give him another chance. He has been given numerous chances in the past and what do we as a community have to show for it? We have a gravesite and a grieving community of young people whose faith in our justice system in extremely strained.

By copy of this letter, I am also voicing my concerns to the attorney general of the State of Alabama and to various news outlets.

Respectfully,
Emily Hayes

Electronic copies forwarded to Mr. Blaylock, District Attorney of Cullman County and Mr. Steve Marshall, State of Alabama Attorney General. Hard copies to follow.

FOXGLOVES & FIREFLIES

The garden of a young girl's dreams

Loretta Gillespie
Tribune Correspondent

From the time a little girl can pin a pillowcase to the back of her head and drag an orange cat down a make-believe aisle, she dreams of her wedding day.

If you think you might have a dream wedding in your garden, you might start thinking of planting for it now, even though it's light years away, the time flies and you want to be ready.

Wedding gardens take place in the gentler months, and many of them are held at night, when the air is cooler and candles and tiny white lights make the garden look magical. By filling your boarders and beds to overflowing with cascading ivy, ferns, flowering shrubs and blooms in every shade imaginable you can have a mature lavish garden when the big day finally arrives.

And if that day turns into night, think white garden!

If your wedding takes place in the spring, consider bridal wreath spirea (spiraea cantonienisis) also called "Reeve's Spirea" which is an old southern stand-by. A native of China and Japan, it is well adapted to most growing conditions in the South. With its mounding form and graceful weeping stems, it is perfect for a wedding. After all, as the name implies, it was used for many a bride's bouquet, its dense white flowers, along arching stems make a stunning presentation when used with ivy and asparagus fern (asparagus densiflorus "Sprengeri") adding a delicate look that with a touch of dignity and grace to any garden event. You can force it to re-bloom by pruning it after the flowers die back.

Also a spring flower, and a dependable bloomer, the evergreen clematis boasts a white flower similar to a honeysuckle bloom although larger and just as fragrant.

For a fall wedding, plant "sweet autumn" clematis (clematis paniculate), hardy from zones 7-9. This is a very vigorous grower, so give it room. It makes an excellent cover for an alter.

Candlelight ceremonies are heartwarming and provide a softness to which nothing else comes close. Don't think that you will lose the garden look because of the dark! By planting a white blooming garden, you have plants and flowers that are absolutely luminous. White oak leaf hydrangeas, roses, such as climbing white Iceberg, white mums, pansies, petunias, nicotiana (tobacco plant) begonias and impatiens and many others will light up the night for you. Be sure to use these in mass plantings so that they will show up to their best advantage.

Don't forget magnolia blossoms. Float these in a pond, fountain or a barrel filled with water. You might have to force the blooms not to close up by pouring a little bit of melted wax into the center; when it hardens place a tea candle in the center and you will have created an elegant arrangement.



LORETTA GILLESPIE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

A moonflower

For an enchanting arbor, pergola or trellis, plant moonflower (calonyction aculeatum) seeds in late spring or early summer. Moonflowers are a white cousin of the morning glory. This amazing vine will cover a structure in one season; its showy white, fragrant flowers open just as the sun sets, like time-lapse photography, filling the night with a clean, fresh scent like the laundry aisle at the grocery store. Each bloom lasts for only one night, but the vine will be filled with hundreds of them, each one at least as large as a coffee cup. If you want your wedding to be one of the most memorable, plant moonflowers with climbing roses over an arbor above the alter. People will be talking about this wedding for years!

Planning and planting these gardens in advance will give you and your guests a place to relax and enjoy for years to come; as it grows it just gets better.

And, one day, or night, as the case may be, strolling down that garden path will be the most beautiful bride anyone's ever seen. If you look closely enough, you might catch a glimpse of an orange cat amongst the ferns. And along the blossom strewn path, with eye level flowers hanging from the arbor and low branches of nearby trees, are moonflowers that absolutely glow in the dark. It will be just as enchanting as you've always dreamed it would be, with flowers that look as if they were put there by a gardening angel, just for her, and perhaps they were.

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