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KAYLA MEYER, HANCEVILLE ROCKS

Rocks ready to go in Hanceville

Rock hiding and hunting movement sweeping County

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN COUNTY – At various places around Cullman County this summer, kids of all ages are scouring parks, public flower beds and green spaces, and other places to catch an elusive prize. This time, though, it's not Pokémon Go; they're looking for things they can put their hands on.

Folks are searching for rocks. That's it: rocks. But not just any rocks; these rocks are painted, often with designs or images, and may contain a message or organization name. And they're all over the place. At least two groups, "Cullmancityrocks" and "Cullman Rocks," are based in Cullman; while Hanceville has its own "Hanceville Rocks." All three groups have Facebook pages where members post pictures of rocks they've found, or ones they're getting ready to hide.

The painted rock hunting movement seems to be the brainchild of Cape Cod, Massachusetts-based women's empowerment coach Megan Murphy. On her website http://thekindnessrocksproject.com she explained her intent:

"The Kindness Rocks Project was created to spread inspiration and a moment of kindness for unsuspecting recipients through random inspirational rocks dropped along the way.

"Now more than ever kindness can become a connecting force for good. Many people, including myself, are feeling a sense of overwhelm, unease and restlessness due to the current events taking place in our world today, and I believe that our united strength can be cultivated through simple random acts of kindness. Each of us can make a positive difference. Together we can make a positive IMPACT!

"Living near the ocean, I walk the beach daily. The beach is where many go when they seek insight or a peaceful place to think. Losing my parents at a young age meant losing my advisers, my sounding board, and my role models. During difficult or stressful moments in my life, I found myself looking for "signs" on my morning walk, such as a heart shaped rock or a piece of sea glass. I perceived these small beach treasures as "signs" or as a divine message and the random inspiration I needed to signify that things would be o.k."



EMILY ROBERSON, HANCEVILLE ROCKS

Krimson Mumford and her prize at Garden City Town Hall

The movement appears to have found its way to Cullman County via Kristy Conard, who started "Cullmanrocks" on Facebook, and changed it to "Cullmancityrocks" after the "Cullman » PAGE 7

MEMORIAL

Remembering Hanceville's Joann Walls

Friends share fond memories as service details announced



FACEBOOK

Joann Walls passed away on Friday, July 14, 2017.

W.C. Mann
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HANCEVILLE – Family members have announced that a memorial service for Joann Hartley Walls will be held this coming Saturday, July 22, at Hanceville First United Methodist Church, 704 Commercial St. in Hanceville. The service will begin at 2 p.m.

Walls' passing on Friday, July 14, impacted many people in Hanceville and surrounding communities for one reason: the life she lived for the last 84 years had already made its own impact.

Born Joann Hartley on Sept. 25, 1932 in Gadsden, she graduated from West End High School in Birmingham in 1950. She was married to Glenn Walls, and worked for Alabama Power for 37 years.

After her husband's passing, Walls moved to Hanceville, where she became active at Hanceville First United Methodist Church and worked at the Hanceville Library. She was constantly active in her new community, helping found the Hanceville Civitan Club, serving on Hanceville's City Council, and taking part in many charitable activities.

Among Walls' numerous achievements and places of service:

• Co-founder and charter member of Hanceville Civitan Club, » PAGE 2

PET OF THE WEEK

Tawny is searching for his forever home

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Ryan Whisenhunt from the Cullman County Animal Shelter introduces us to Tawny, a dog currently available for adoption.

"We believe Tawny is a greyhound/lab mix. He is approximately 1 year old. He loves to play with toys, loves to do agility, and loves to submit to his handler for direction.

"He is athletic, alert and smart. He has been here since May and we would love to see him adopted by a family who will love him, care for him and play with him.

"Tawny's adoption fee is only $25. He is ready to go home to his new family today. He is neutered, has a current rabies vaccination and is microchipped. The person who adopts him will be given a free limited day trial of pet insurance and will receive a free bag of dog food upon showing proof of receipt of adoption (they only pay tax)."

Visit Tawny at the shelter, 935 Convent Rd NE in Cullman, or call 256-734-5448 for more information.





CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Tawny is a 1-year-old male greyhound/lab mix.

Cullman Regional hosting emergency blood drive July 19

Mary Beth Sellers
Cullman Regional

CULLMAN – Cullman Regional is hosting an emergency blood frive on Wednesday, July 19 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. LifeSouth is in critical need of all blood types due to the local bank having less than a two-day blood supply readily available. Donations will be accepted on the LifeSouth Community Bloodmobile located at the main entrance of the hospital (1912 Alabama Highway 157).

Donors must be in good health, 17 or older (16 with written parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds and show a valid photo ID. All donors will receive a free T-shirt from LifeSouth and local coupons for free food.

For more information, visit www.lifesouth.org or call the local LifeSouth donor office at 256- 736-1594.

For a complete list of upcoming events at Cullman Regional, visit www.cullmanregional.com.

Walls (from Front)

1990
• Held numerous local and district Civitan offices, including terms as North Alabama District Governor in 1998 and 1999.
• As a Civitan officer, helped organize the Cullman County Christmas Parade in Hanceville, and served for several years as Chairperson
• Worked with People Against a Littered State (PALS), serving as Cullman County "Adopt-a-Mile" program Chairperson, 2001-12
• Councilwoman, Hanceville City Council, 2001-12
• Hanceville Library Board, 2001-04, 2008-16; Chairperson 2014-16
• Hanceville Mayor Pro Tem, 2008-12
• Cullman County Mental Health Board, 2002-13
• Helped found the Hanceville Historical Preservation Group, 2004; served as treasurer
• Member, Cullman County Republican Women; 4th vice president, 2014-15
• Member of the Hanceville Culture Club
• Active member of Hanceville First United Methodist Church, teaching children's and adult Sunday School classes and serving as church treasurer
• Volunteer with Hanceville Knapsacks for Kids
• The Joann Walls Center, a Hanceville shopping center, is named after her
• 2014 recipient of the Lucille Galin Public Service Award, given by the Cullman County Mayors and Commissioners Association to non-elected persons who make significant contributions to the community

Hanceville Mayor Kenneth Nail spoke to The Tribune about his relationship with Walls. "I served on the city council with Ms. Joann Walls, and she always loved Hanceville," he said. "Anything that was positive for Hanceville, Ms. Walls was for it. She loved the city employees, and loved the people of Hanceville. She was always one of the first to fight for the city employees, because she just cared about them.

"I'll tell you how close she was to our family: my mom got in bad health, and she went to Ms. Walls and said, 'I'm not going to be here much longer; when I'm gone, I want you to help Kenneth and watch after him.

"My mom wouldn't have just done that to anybody. That's how our family felt about Ms. Joann Walls.

"She loved me, but if I did something that wasn't in the best taste or if I said something on the spur of the moment, she was not shy to tell me about that. Of course, she told me in a loving manner, but she would tell me, or other council members.

"In the past, our council meetings could get a little heated. If I said something she didn't like, she'd say, 'Now, that's tacky.' If you got one 'tacky,' you knew you'd messed up. If you got two 'tackys,' ooh, that's bad. But if Ms. Walls ever said, 'Tacky, tacky, tacky,' boy, you knew you had just really messed up!

"She loved the Civitans; it was all about promoting good citizenship, about being positive; pulling people up, and not beating people down. If every citizen could care about the town half as much as what Joann Walls did, then we'd be in good shape.

"If you look in the dictionary for 'class,' there should be a picture of Ms. Joann Walls right after the definition. I can sit here all day and tell you great things about Ms. Walls, but if I had to narrow it down: a true patriot, a person that had true love for her city, classy, and a fine Christian woman."

Nail is preparing to issue a proclamation naming Saturday, July 22 as Joann Walls Day in Hanceville. After her death was announced, he ordered flags at Hanceville City Hall and other municipal buildings to be flown at half-staff for three days.

Sandy Waters, of the Hanceville Civitan Club and Hanceville First United Methodist Church, shared a few memories.

She said, "I knew Joann on many different levels: a sister in Christ, a fellow Civitan, a Knapsacks for Kids volunteer, and a friend. Joann loved people and her community. She was instrumental in starting the Cullman County Christmas parade which was sponsored by the Hanceville Civitans. She had an absolutely wonderful, optimistic outlook on life, always upbeat and positive, even when faced with challenges. She served on many different committees at HFUMC, and held various offices including treasurer. Our church, Civitans, and our community will truly miss this remarkable woman."

Walls was a Republican, but one of her best longtime friends is not only a Democrat, but a Democratic Party politician.

Former State Representative and possible future candidate James Fields spoke of Walls with a tremble in his voice, relating both memories and feelings. He began with a happy account of a road trip he took with his then 83-year old friend just last year.

"She and I made a journey to Norfolk, Virginia last year," said Fields. "She drove from her house to Chattanooga; and when we got on the way, she told me she had two rules: 'Don't tell me how fast I'm going, and don't tell me when to get over.'

"She said what she meant, and she meant what she said. She was always fashionably late, but she was always fashionable. You didn't get nothing by her.

"When we'd go places, I was always her son. When I visited her in the hospital or other places, I'd say, 'I'm her son, and I need to see my mother.' I think some people actually believed that, but I always went right on in.

"She was a staunch Republican, and I'm a staunch Democrat, but Joann Walls was a friend to James Fields. She'd do anything for me.

"You weren't going to talk about James Fields in front of her. When I ran, I heard she even told her Republican friends, 'I'm voting for James Fields.'

In 1999, following the death of Fields' wife Willie Mae Fields, Walls established a memorial scholarship in Willie Mae's name at Hanceville High School, providing a $500 grant for a graduating senior to take to the college of his or her choice.

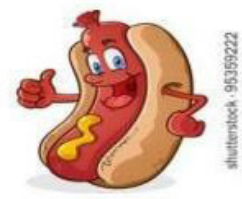
"She'd give you her last...," concluded Fields. "She had a kind spirit. She was polite, a sweet, sweet person. She's going to be missed."

City of Good Hope
6th Annual Back-to-School Bash
THURSDAY JULY 27, 2017
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Free T-shirts to Good Hope student's K-6th grade while they last. (Students must be present)
Free Hot Dog, Chips and Pepsi. Children 5 and under- will have their bounce house and wet slide on field #1. Children 6 and up will be on field #2 with big wet slides and slip n slide



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POLITICS

Shedd to community: I want your input

Andrew Cryer
Tribune Correspondent



ANDREW CRYER/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Rep. Randall Shedd speaks to an early-morning crowd at the Baileyton Senior Center on Saturday, July 15, 2017.

BAILEYTON – Rep. Randall Shedd, R-Fairview hosted a community meeting Saturday for his constituents in District 11. The gathering was hosted by the Town of Baileyton at the Baileyton Senior Center, organized by Shedd as a way to hear directly from citizens and to discuss his recent appointment as chairman of the new House Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development, a panel that will focus its attention on combatting pockets of poverty that exist across the state by addressing issues like broadband access, infrastructure and other factors contributing to impoverished areas.

Baileyton Mayor Johnny Dyar shared, "I cannot express how important meetings like this are. It brings our community together for a common goal."

Many local leaders were on-hand to hear what Shedd had to say, including community activist Ron Stone, other mayors and council members from across District 11, county commissioners and Cullman County Sherriff Matt Gentry.

"The importance of our meeting here today is what has already happened, where I can visit with you, listen to you and your ideas," Shedd told the crowd.

About how the structure of the rural and urban development committee will be different than other committees in Montgomery, he said, "We're going to have three subcommittees. This committee is researching and working to find out what we can do to address the deficiencies in development across the state. We're going to have an urban development committee, a rural development committee and a poverty prevention and reduction committee."

Some have questioned why a development committee is handling poverty, but Shedd put it quite clearly, saying, "We cannot afford poverty in Alabama any longer. We have to do something about it. It's the root cause of our prison overpopulation and it causes our Medicaid rolls to be more than what the state can afford.

"Those two items take the majority of our general fund budget... we just can't afford poverty."

Shedd said that trying to reduce poverty doesn't necessarily mean more government, "We're going to focus on what is the problem, what is the cause and we're going to focus on prevention."

About what his appointment means for his district, he said, "The important thing about a committee chair in the House of Representatives is that it puts us at the table. It puts you at the table when the decision is being made."

Shedd says he wants to hear from citizens directly, and not just those who live in District 11.

"If there's one thing that I've learned in my political career, it is that the best ideas that I've had come from you—the people that I represent. I'm asking you to think about it. I'm asking you to think about any issues that need to be addressed."

Good Hope back-to-school bash set for July 27

Will Hogue
will@cullmansense.com

GOOD HOPE – Yes, kids, the new school year will be here sooner rather than later. The City of Good Hope will host its sixth annual back-to-school bash on Thursday, July 27, from 5-7 p.m. at the municipal park.

The annual event was started by Good Hope Mayor Jerry Bartlett when he was a member of the Good Hope City Council.

"What I did six years ago was go around to local businesses and individuals who might be a donor, and say, 'Listen, we're not going to come around a bunch of times during the year, we're just going to make a Gold Sponsorship level for $1,000 once a year," Bartlett said.

"And that annual donation by local businesses and individuals makes the events like the back-to-school bash and the Christmas in the park event virtually free for the people of Good Hope."

The first 200 kindergarten through sixth-grade students to arrive in person at the July 27th event will get a back-to-school-bash T-shirt.

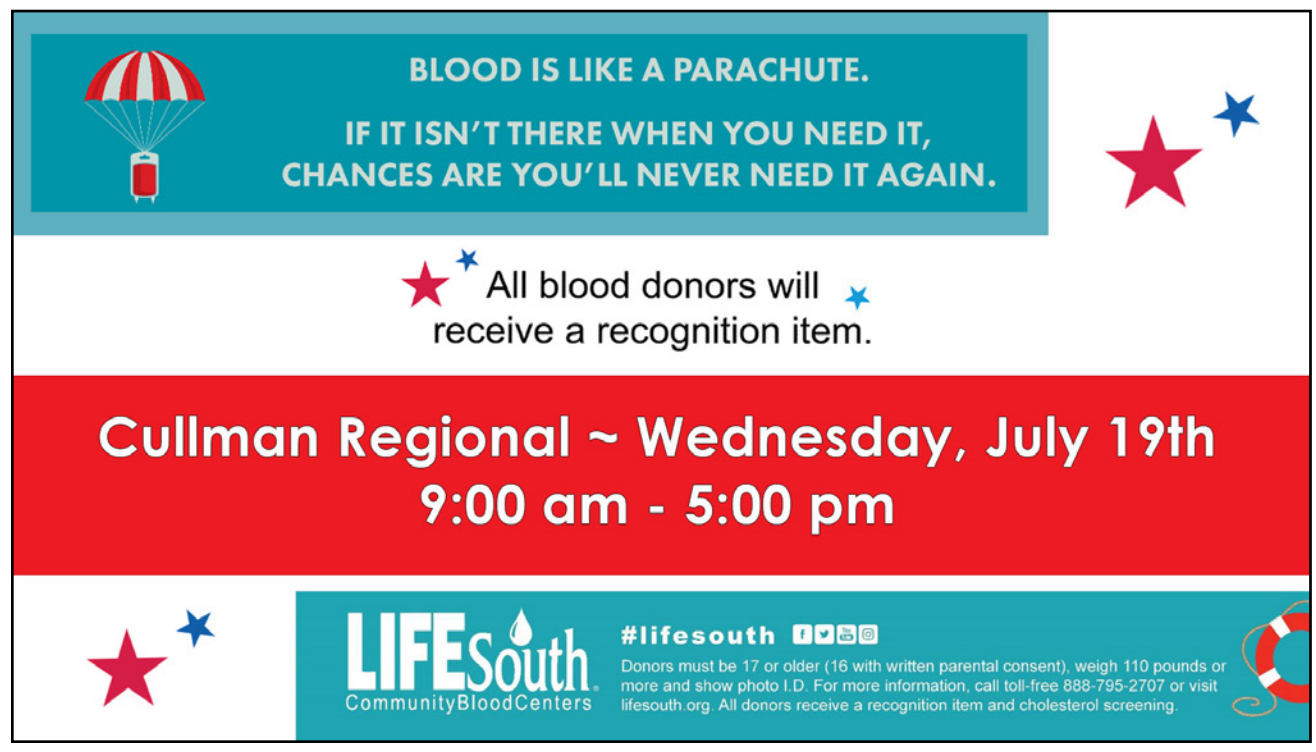
"The children must be present to receive the shirt, and they must attend Good Hope in kindergarten through sixth grade," Bartlett said.

There will be two separate areas of the event, dividing the younger kids from the older ones. Each side will have age-appropriate activities, such as games and slip n' slides.

"We also have three professional face-painters," Bartlett added.

"Community Service Coordinator Greg Brown and Councilman Maxie Jones will be grilling the burgers and hot dogs for those in attendance." There will also drinks and chips.

Bartlett says he anticipates around 200-300 students to attend the event, along with their parents and siblings.



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PREP SPORTS

7 local athletes competing in this week's AHSAA All-Star Sports Week

Johnny Thornton
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CULLMAN – Seven local high school athletes are participating in the 21st annual Alabama High School All-Star Sports Week this week.

The Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) all-star games and coaching conference will be held throughout the city of Montgomery all week.

Here is a listing of each all-star, sport and when they will play.

BASEBALL: Will Morrison of Cullman. Committed to Mississippi State, Morrison returns to the capital city after he pitched there in the spring during the Class 6A championship series.

A doubleheader will take place Tuesday at 4 p.m. at Riverwalk Stadium.

SOFTBALL: Kolby Holcombe of Holly Pond. The catcher for the Lady Broncos, who has committed to Samford University, takes her talent and skills as a backstop for the North.

A doubleheader will be Tuesday at 5 p.m. at Lagoon Park.

SOCCER: Miguel Tizapa of Cullman. The top scorer for the 6A state runners-up, Tizapa invades Montgomery in this mid-summer classic.

The game will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Emory Folmar Complex.

CROSS COUNTRY: Andrew Sweeney of St. Bernard. A valuable member from the state champion Saints in 2016, Sweeney is involved in the inaugural cross country competition for sports week.

The race will be Wednesday at 8 a.m. at Auburn University-Montgomery.

BASKETBALL: Christian Peterson of St. Bernard. Coming off a solid junior season with a 19 point per-game average, Peterson got invited to the classic to join forces of a very talented North lineup.

The game is 8 p.m. Wednesday at Auburn University-Montgomery.

VOLLEYBALL: Abbie Chambless of Addison. Chambless was the MVP in the 1A championship, helping Addison to the top of the classification. Chambless tunes up for her senior season with an all-star appearance.

The series will be at 4 p.m. Thursday at Auburn University-Montgomery.

FOOTBALL: Tristin Skinner of Cullman. Skinner is the kicker for Team North, coming off a good 2016 for the Bearcats in extra points, field goals and kickoffs that ended in the end zone on a regular basis.

The game is Thursday 7 p.m. at the Cramton Bowl.

Coaches participating in the weekly conference

A good list of collegiate coaches to serve as guest speakers highlights the week-long conference. Approximately 4,000 high school coaches in the sports of baseball, basketball, golf, football, cross country, track, tennis, wrestling and bowling will be on hand.

For softball, Wallace State Community College coach A.J. Daugherty will speak on Tuesday. Daugherty is coming off his first season, and his Lady Lions won the Alabama Community College Conference title.

In basketball, Avery Johnson of Alabama, Bruce Pearl of Auburn and Mark Fox of Georgia will provide an SEC atmosphere when they speak on Wednesday.

Former NFL coach Dan Reeves, who led the Denver Broncos and the Atlanta Falcons to Super Bowl berths, will be a guest speaker Thursday at the FCA Coaches Luncheon.

The Tribune will be in Montgomery all week to report on the all-star events, plus other items from sports week.



JOYCE NIX

Andrew Sweeney of St. Bernard is one of seven area high school athletes competing this week in Montgomery.

ENTERTAINMENT

Movie Review: 'War for the Planet of the Apes'

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent

Directed by Matt Reeves, "War for the Planet of the Apes" is the final entry into the trilogy of the modern Planet of the Apes films. Andy Serkis reprises his role as Caesar, the leader of the community of intelligent apes that we've been following since "Rise of the Planet of the Apes" in 2011.

The film follows Caesar on a quest for revenge against a human military colonel played by Woody Harrelson. These films have all focused on Caesar, but we've never gotten as deep into his psyche and emotions as we do in this film.

As the group makes its way across California, we learn how far the human race has fallen as a result of the virus introduced in "Rise of the Planet of the Apes" known as Simian Flu, the same virus that has been increasing the apes' intelligence.

The viruses' symptoms are used as a metaphor for how humanity and the apes are changing and shaking up the evolutionary chain that has existed until this point. The situation that all the characters are in allows the audience to imagine what they would do in the same circumstances and reflect on themselves.

Despite how cruel the antagonists of the film can be, the film does a great job of explaining everyone's motives so that even if you don't agree with what some of the characters are doing, you can clearly see why things are being done. Everyone is scared and in a desperate fight for survival, and all believe their actions are justified.

For those reasons, there are some very moving and disturbing moments in the movie that push the boundaries of a PG-13 rating, so this may not be a film for children despite the marketing campaign selling it as a fun action film.

As good as the performances from Serkis and Harrelson are, the standout performances of the film are from the apes, and the special effects used to create them.

The effects were impressive in the previous two films, but here they have perfected the technology used to create motion capture characters.

Because the ape characters look so incredible and convincing it makes it easier to get attached to them and care about them as characters and not just movie magic.

"War for the Planet of the Apes" is a powerful, deeply emotional film that can even make the audience uncomfortable at times. That is even more impressive when you remember that the characters you find yourself worrying for and rooting for are not human. This is one of the rare trilogies where the films seem to get better as they go and the third one finishes as the best of the three.

5/5 stars



CHERNIN ENTERTAINMENT

Official movie poster for "War for the Planet of the Apes"

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2017 FALL SEMESTER

West Point's new fire station and community shelter officially open for business

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

WEST POINT – After years of planning, the town of West Point finally got the fire station it wanted. Accompanied by representatives of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce and Cullman County dignitaries including Commissioners Garry Marchman and Kerry Watson, Sheriff Matt Gentry, Rep. Corey Harbison, R-Good Hope and West Point Mayor Kenneth Kilgo, Fire Chief Tim Martin and members of West Point Fire & Rescue cut the ribbon to open their new station and community shelter on Alabama Highway 157.

Martin talked about the station and the long road to its construction.

"We had a chance to build a new station in 2004," said Martin.

"Just like with this, the town was going to provide us with some land; but in looking at everything, the land just wasn't in the right location. We didn't want to make the mistake, just because we had some land, of building a station just to have one.

"It's been a long time coming. Construction's been going on for about a year. The design and planning's been six, eight, or 10 years; we been really trying to figure out what we want to do."

The new facility takes the place of the old station house located near West Point High School.

Asked what the new station and location will allow the fire department to do, the chief responded with a smile, "What won't it let us do? That's the thing. The department had outgrown that station years ago. This station will allow us to expand into the future. It will allow us to serve our members and community better during times of natural disasters. During this project, we thought back to the snow storm of '93, the ice storms of the mid 90s, the tornado outbreaks, about what we could not do over there.

"We wanted to be 100 percent self-sufficient at this location. In the event of a storm, we can house our personnel here, and we could accommodate other departments if we ever needed mass mutual aid to come to us. It's just going to help us do everything better."

Assistant Chief Roger Tew added, "We built it looking in the future. This station is built to handle the next 20 to 30 years. If at some point the Town of West Point wants to put full-time firemen in here, this station will handle it."

According to Tew, West Point Fire & Rescue currently has 20 member firefighters, three of whom are paid part-time weekday staff, and seven of whom are also certified as EMTs. The department averages more than 600 calls per year.

The new station house includes three long bays and two short bays with state-of-the-art exhaust venting systems, and two floors of living and office areas.

It currently houses two engines, two trucks, a modified ATV and a transportable "smoke house" trailer used to educate kids on how to escape from a smoke-filled building.

Upstairs bunkrooms can house large numbers of personnel, and four private bedrooms will allow the department to recruit live-in firefighters to man the station around the clock.

Multiple storage rooms will help crews keep gear organized, and a large wash room off the bay area will allow them to clean equipment and personal protective gear quickly and easily.

Both floors have full kitchens and dining areas. A saferoom on the first floor will shield fire crews in the event of a tornado, and a second shelter behind the building will be available for community residents.

Martin is impressed with his new station, and expressed gratitude to the many who helped make it a reality. "As fire chief, I can't say enough about our community and the support we have in this community, as long as I can remember. If it wasn't for our community and their help to us, this wouldn't be possible. The mayor of the town, the members of the fire department--you can't ask for any better.

"We try to set our standards high on certain things, but our members respond to it well. We're proud of this new facility, and we hope the community's proud of it. We're hoping that this new facility will be a recruitment tool on its own, inspire people to say, 'Hey, what does it take to become part of that?'"

Look for a full photo gallery on our Facebook page.

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Jonathan Echols, D.M.D., P.C. • Ashley Holladay, D.M.D.





Obituary Announcements: June 19-22

Graveside services for Lois Willene Creel Little will be held on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cullman City Cemetery, with Brian Witcher officiating. Mrs. Little passed away on Monday, July 17, 2017. Moss Service Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mrs. Little was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend to many. She graduated from Mortimer Jordan High School. She served as postmaster for Vinemont from 1972-1984. She attended First Baptist Church in Cullman. She loved to travel with her husband and two sisters and their spouses and they especially loved being together at the beach together. She was an avid reader, seamstress, photographer, artist and a member of the Nimble Thimble Quilt Guild. Willene lived a long and healthy life and she was especially proud of her three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, all of whom she adored. Her sweet personality, gentle spirit and love for family will last with all who knew her forever. Her peaceful passing brought rest for her mind, body and spirit. She is survived by husband of 71 years, Fred Jenkins Little, daughter, Elaine (Dr. Wayne B.) Fuller of Cullman; three grandchildren; Suzanne (Terry) Harbin, Jay (Melissa Silvey) Fuller, of Cullman, Jenny (Tyler Malke) Fuller of Birmingham; and three great-grandchildren; Casey, Elizabeth and Nicholas Harbin of Cullman, and many beloved nieces and nephews. Special thanks to Kindred Hospice and loving caregivers, Diane Carter and Dean Dyer. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Pilot Light Home, PO Box 221, Cullman, Alabama 35056. Please visit mossservicefh.com to leave condolences for the family. Moss Service Funeral Home Directing.

Funeral services for Ronald Wayne Bentley, 63 of Hanceville, are Wednesday, July 19 at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Hanceville; Philip Wigley and Jimmy Sawyer officiating; with interment in Hopewell Cemetery. Visitation on Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home. Mr. Bentley passed away on Saturday, July 15. He was preceded in death by his father, Gordon Preston Bentley and his stepfather, Albert Lee Allred. He is survived by his mother, Aleene Bentley Allred; brother, Donald (Pat) Bentley; sister, Barbara (Charles) Wilson; nieces and nephews, Derek (Lauren) Bentley, Kenny (Stephanie) Bentley, Sara Cagle and Kim (Terry) Searcy; great nieces and nephews, Katie Wherley, Drake Bentley, Kristen (John) Kee and Kaylee Searcy and a host of aunts, uncles, other family and friends.

Funeral services for Odell Bice, 80 of Cullman will be at 2 p.m., Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, Rev. Charles York officiating with interment in Cullman Memory Gardens. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mrs. Bice passed away July 11, 2017. She was born September 9, 1936 to Valentine and Theresa Chandler Leipert. She is preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Ervin, Joe, Alvie, Valentine Jr. Leipert; sister Erma Leipert Chasteen; husbands, Gordon Alldrege, James Young; grandson, Jeremy Walraven. Survivors include her husband, John Bice; daughter, Angela Hardin; grandson, Gary Hardin; brothers, Asple, Eugene, and James Leipert; sister, Estelle Leipert Rowe; six great grandchildren; five step-children; ten step-grandchildren; eight step-great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends. Visitation will be Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. before the service.

Memorial services for Angela Hardin, 61 of Cullman will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, Rev. Charles York officiating. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mrs. Hardin passed away July 13, 2017. She was born May 30, 1956 to Gordon Lee Alldrege and Odell Leipert Alldrege Bice. She is preceded in death by her parents; son, Jeremy Michael Walraven. Survivors include her husband of 33 years, Joseph Hardin; step-father, John Bice; son, Gary Lee (LaDonna) Hardin; daughter, Susan (Heath) Burgess; grandchildren, Hunner Creel, Gracy Kelton, Cheyenne Walraven, Ashley Huckaby, Chloe Burgess, Lilian Burgess; special dog companion, Jax; and a host of family and friends. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to UAB Burn Center. Visitation will be Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. before the service.

Dora Mae Stewart Brindley, 89, went home peacefully July 10, 2017 after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease at Bon Secours Nursing Home in St. Petersburg, FL. Visitation will be held on Saturday, July 22 at Nichols Funeral Home, Addison, AL from 10 a.m. until noon, where services will be at 12 p.m. She is survived by daughter and son-in-law, Frances and Robert Howell, Kenneth City, FL; son and daughter-in-law, David and Debi Brindley, Plantation, FL; five grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; four brothers, and two sisters. Dora was preceded in death by her loving husband of 54 years, Owen; younger daughter, Debbie; parents, Milous and Georgia Stewart; brothers, Wallace and Willis Stewart; and sister, Margaret Chambers.

Joann Walls, 84, of Hanceville passed away on Friday, July 14, 2017. She was born on September 25, 1932 in Gadsden to Harry Joseph Hartley and Evelyn Louise Moore Hartley. She is survived by her sister, Rose Marie Brittain and a niece, Lisa Ann (Wayne) Wilson. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday July 22, 2017 at 2 p.m. at Hanceville First United Methodist Church.

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Artists' Alley adds new flair to growing 2nd Fridays

W.C. Mann
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W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Local artist Laura Walker partnered with the Cullman Chamber to coordinate Artists' Alley.

CULLMAN – On Friday evening the Warehouse District was just coming to life as many folks' work days and weeks were winding down. A collaborative effort between the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce (CoC) and Cullman Parks and Recreation (CP&R), "2nd Fridays" brings together downtown merchants, the Farmers' Market, entertainers, car collectors, and others on the second Friday of each month June-Sept. for a lively street party.

CoC President Leah Bolin shared a little about the event. "We've had something similar to 2nd Fridays for about four years now, but we've really dubbed the new version of this, starting last year.

"Our goal was just to find something unique and fun that our stores and all our restaurants could participate in, and the spotlight's really on all of them. Then, surrounding them, we've added a lot of really fun things: the cruise-in cars, the kid zones, all the different music we've got going on, and artists."

Most merchants in the event area will stay open until late into the evening; the events run from 5-10 p.m., from the Festhalle all the way down First Avenue Southeast to U.S. Highway 278, and along side streets.

"Ultimately," said Bolin, "we would love to keep going all the way to Busy Bee, so that all of our merchants can participate and feel like they're part of the event."

New for 2017...

New to 2nd Fridays this year is Artists' Alley, an actual side street alley where local artists can display their wares for sale or event demonstrate their crafts right on the spot.

Bolin related, "We just brought this in this year. This has been a passion of mine since I've been at the chamber, to really work on our cultural arts venues here. We've got about two dozen booths; over half of those are very specific to the arts.

"Our ultimate goal is to take Artists' Alley, and stretch every single booth along both sides, to make it a true crawl as you go through. I know we'll reach that over time, and move our pop-up shops (non-art retail booths) on down to some different areas."

Local Artist Laura Walker worked with Bolin to coordinate Artists' Alley. She explained, "I do festivals for a living, and I really appreciate that they consulted an artist to know what should be done. (Bolin) has a whole crew that's really creative. We're all brainstorming; every suggestion I told her, she did. I'm hoping that will help make this a truly professional artists' alley.

"Cullman has some amazing artists; many of them have to have other full-time jobs, but they have the talent. I collect a lot of art from Cullman artists; I'm just so excited about the talent we have. I would love to see more Cullman artists take part."

To the Cullman community at large, Walker advised, "It's important to vote for the kind of town you want. You vote with your money, you vote with your presence.

"If you want a town that promotes original art and artists, then come here and buy from them."

With expanded street coverage and additions like Artists' Alley, 2nd Fridays seems to be enjoying steady growth with no end in sight. Bolin couldn't be happier.

"We're really excited about what's happened," she concluded. "Last month kind of blew everybody away, and we're anticipating another good month this month. I checked with our stores, as well as our artists, and all of them seemed to have some sales, as well as a lot of foot traffic.

"At the end of the day, it's more than a festival. It's helping the people of our community to be successful. And if that happens, then I'm one happy camper!"

Rocks (from Front)

Rocks" group appeared. She shared:

"I found out about these rock painting groups through Facebook. I'm from Florida, and some friends back home were painting and posting. I thought, 'What a cool idea.' I decided I'd try to start a group here; this was back in March. I slacked a little on getting it started, and in the meantime other groups in the area have started as well. Hanceville Rocks has 888 members. The second Cullman group created in June is called Cullman Rocks, and has over 1,000 members. My group is slowly growing and we are hoping to get it going more by the fall."

The city's other group, "Cullman Rocks," offers the following explanation on its page:

"This is a community-building group meant to inspire creativity in all ages and energize people to explore the beautiful area in which we live. All you have to do is find some rocks and some painting supplies and get creative! This is fun for ALL ages young and old.

"The goal is to get lots of people all across our communities painting so that there are lots of rocks to find out there. You might find yourself rediscovering parts of our community you haven't appreciated in a while."

The rules of the game are simple, as laid out on the "Hanceville Rocks" Facebook page:

- Get some rocks and paint them with any design and color desired. Painters are requested to keep things clean, since a lot of kids are hunting. If you are doing this for a group or organization, put its name on the back.
- Hide your rocks in public places: city parks, public gardens and flower beds; just about anywhere. Avoid private property, and don't hide rocks too close to streets or driveways.
- Go hunting for other rocks. When you find one with a group name on it, photograph it and post to the group's Facebook page, then re-hide it somewhere else. If you really like that rock, feel free to take it but replace it with one of your own. (Take one, make one!)

There aren't winners and losers; it's all just for fun. For painters, there's the joy of creativity, and for hunters the thrill of discovery. The movement is even drawing some unexpected fans, like Hanceville Mayor Kenneth Nail, who was among the first to join Hanceville Rocks. The City has even created its own official rock with the city seal; kids who find and return the rock to city hall get a $10 prize.

Nail shared, "Megan Bear called me and said, 'Mayor, what do you think of this idea?' I think it's a wonderful idea. I've heard of it in other places in south Alabama, but I'd not heard of it here. I said, 'If I'm involved with it, what I want is for it to be positive and fun. This is a great, positive little thing for kids to do. We're excited about it."

Mayor Nail cautioned parents to be watchful when kids are rock hunting in grassy or wooded areas, noting that the summer season is also prime snake season.

Conard plans for the movement to continue growing, and it's living up to expectations; the "Cullmancityrocks" page gained more than 300 new members just this past weekend. She and Megan Bear of "Hanceville Rocks" hope to hold a rock-painting event in Cullman during the month of August. She looks forward to hiding and hunting with her daughter Jessa Parker, and to seeing pictures of her rocks appear on the "Cullmancityrocks" page.

"I love the whole concept of it," Conard shared. "Last summer we hunted Pokémon all over Cullman; this summer we are doing something a little different. Painting rocks together as a family is a great way to spend some quality time together, then you get to get some exercise and get out and hide them and hunt for others' rocks! We put 'Cullmanrocks' (now 'Cullmancityrocks') on the back of all our rocks. We ask that you take a picture when you find it and post to our Facebook page. You're welcome to take it home with you, but please paint some and keep the project going! My group's motto is 'Enjoy the simple things!' You'll find a rock somewhere at Sportsman Lake with that painted on it! Happy hunting to anyone who'd like to join us!"

For more information or to get involved, visit:

"Cullmancityrocks" - www.facebook.com/groups/396084707451164

"Cullman Rocks" - www.facebook.com/groups/258959644584827

"Hanceville Rocks" - www.facebook.com/groups/467440523594329

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-OR-

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JULY 18, 2017

36 area youth graduate sheriff's leadership academy

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Friday, 36 area students completed the Sheriff's Youth Leadership Academy (SYLA), a five-day intensive course sponsored by the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO).

During the week, they met at 5:45 each morning for physical training (PT), followed by a variety of classes and hands-on experiences, including:

- Meeting and hearing the stories of World War II veterans, including Cullman's Roy Drinkard.
- Team-building ropes and obstacle courses
- Climbing, rappelling and ziplining
- Shooting on the CCSO gun range, and experiencing shoot/don't shoot scenarios with a firearm simulator
- Working side-by-side with CCSO deputies to experience law enforcement emergency response tactics
- Visiting the County Detention Center

In its second year, SYLA made a leap from 12 students to 36, with at least two students from the first class returning.

Sheriff Matt Gentry addressed the students and their families at the graduation ceremony.

"I want to thank all of these young leaders for the ambition to give up a week of their time to come and be with us," he began. "We live in a time and a day that is uncertain; we live in a time and a day when there's a lot of negativity. We see a lot of bad things, and one of the things we talked about this week was making the good outweigh the bad. And it gives me hope, when I look and we have 36 young leaders in our community that one day may be the sheriff, may be the president over Wallace State Community College. They're going to be doctors and lawyers, and do all kind of great things in this world. It gives me hope that we could have a President of the United States sitting in here today."

Gentry talked about the difference between looking out for oneself and having the vision to make a positive impact on others. He expressed hope in the sense of teamwork he saw in the students. He set forth honor, courage and integrity--the three words found in the CCSO seal--as three tests that should be applied to all the students' future decisions.

Wallace State Community College President Dr. Vicki Karolewics was the night's keynote speaker, and shared Lee Iacocca's "nine C's of leadership" with the students: curiosity, creativity, communication, character, courage, conviction, charisma, competence and common sense.

The 36 students were assigned to one of four teams for the week. Each team had an adult coach, either from the CCSO or Cullman Area Workforce Solutions at Wallace State.

"Team Eddleman"

- **Coach - career counselor Jennifer Eddleman**
- **Captain - Bryson Fletcher**
- Klowy Jade Barrett
- R.J. Bynum
- Blake Christopher Burman
- Peyton Oliver Dunn
- Elijah Noah Edge
- Karli Grace Mitchell
- Breaunah Jean Smith
- Tyler Matthew WIlliams

"Team Farnsworth"

- **Coach - career counselor Lisa Farnsworth**
- **Captain - Tori Partridge**
- Brandon Hunter Bishop
- Aaron Gene Brown
- Ally Elizabeth Farnsworth
- Emma Grace Farnsworth
- Zachary Seth Hightower
- Jesse Ryan Mayo
- Daniel Ryan Ratliff
- Lillian Sophia Roman
- Leah Grace Tarvin
- Brittany Erin Thomas

"Team Lawson"

- **Coach - Deputy Jeff Lawson**
- **Captain - Truman Lee Boyd**
- Bridgette Cathryne Duke
- Garret Dyle
- Fulton Joseph Gil
- Dylan Austin Harper
- Stacy Elaine Harris
- Michelle Herrick
- Lucas Gage Suits

"Team Whaley"

- **Coach - Deputy Chad Whaley**
- **Captain - Zacharia Thomas/Andrew Williams (changed due to necessary absence)**
- Cheyenne Lynn Harper
- Maggie Elizabeth Holloway
- Luke Allen Marti
- Briana Danielle Nicholson
- Alesia Marie Taylor
- Lacey Alexius Watts
- Alexis Tierra White



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

SYLA team captains: Bryson Fletcher, Truman Boyd, Tori Partridge, Andrew Williams

The Tribune spoke with the team captains about their experiences.

• **Bryson Fletcher** - "This week has given me more realism in law enforcement, and helped me realize that our officers in the county put on that uniform and put their lives in jeopardy for us."

Favorite experiences: rappelling, ropes course

• **Truman Boyd** - "This week really opened up my eyes, because you always hear about police officers risking their lives; but when it comes down to it, they actually do. And it's not just the police officers in uniform that make the CCSO run; it's people at the jail also. There's many parts that play into it. I was able to learn about all this stuff, and have more appreciation for it."

Favorite experience: hearing the WWII veterans talk about their service

• **Tori Partridge** - "Getting to form a relationship with all the officers has really been priceless, getting know all the people who serve and protect us every day, Then, just watching the leadership of all of us here grow has been amazing. We come in as strangers, but grow as a team, and watch everybody's leadership potential grow."

Favorite experience: ropes course

• **Andrew Williams** - "I can agree with everything they've said; and for me personally, I've been fascinated by everything we did this week. I learned more from that, and experienced things I've never done before."

Favorite experiences: shooting, rappelling

After the ceremony, Lt. Rex Sorrow, who headed up this year's SYLA, shared, "Just for me, my perspective is that it's just a huge honor to be a small part of the sheriff's vision. It's a great program. Students came out, not knowing what to expect, and in the end, I think they were very pleased with what we did, some of the activities we were involved in, and some of the things we put them through. Nobody complained about anything. Everybody came out smiling and had a good time."

For more information about CCSO programs, including the Citizens' Academy, coming later this summer, visit www.cullmansheriff.org.

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