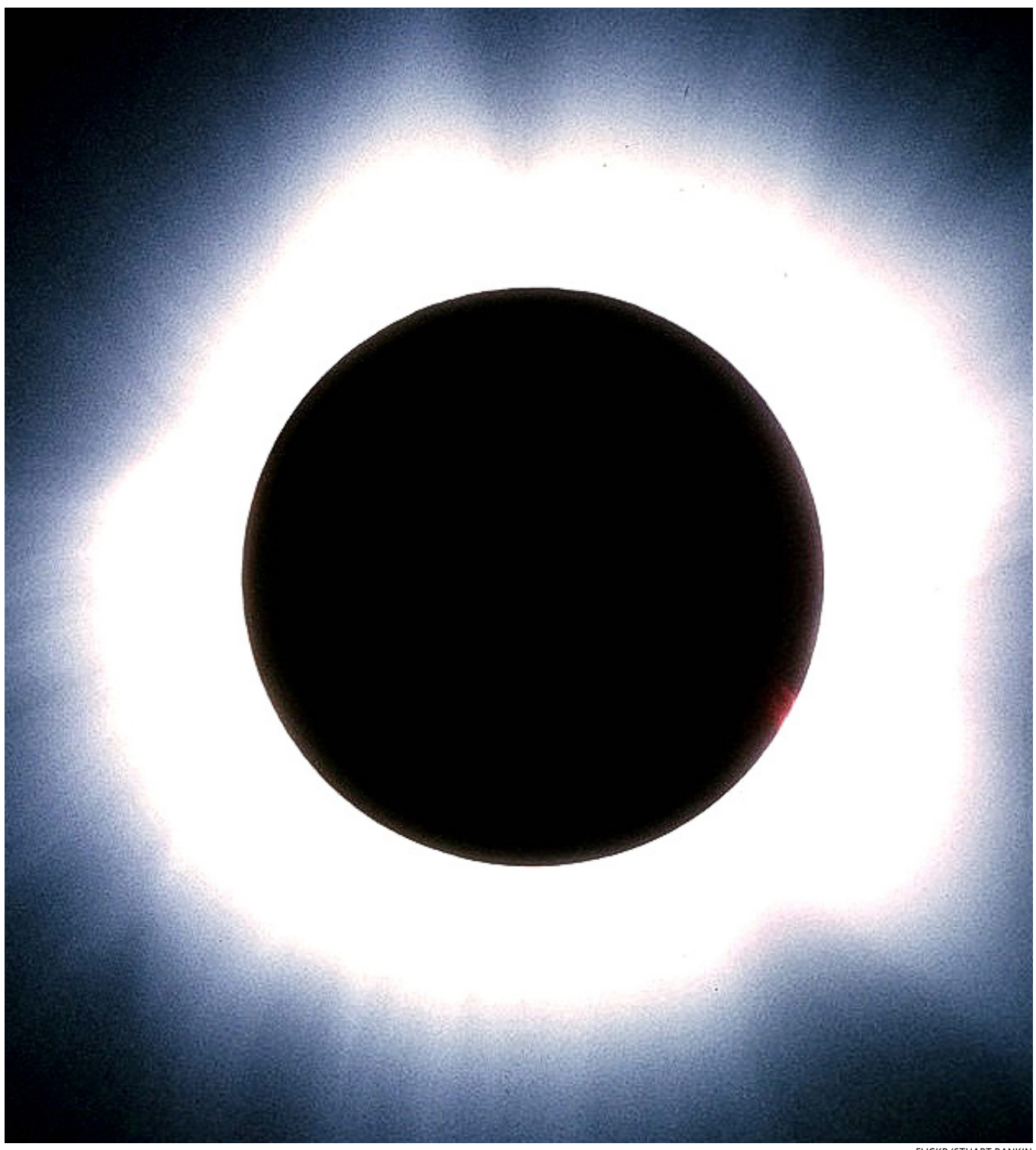
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# The Cullman Tribune

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FLICKR/STUART RANKIN

# Cullman Electric Co-op to host eclipse viewing party

**Will Hogue, W.C. Mann**
Tribune Staff

**CULLMAN** – Next Monday, August 21, starting at 12 p.m. the Cullman Electric Cooperative will host a solar eclipse viewing party at its Main Office at 1749 Eva Rd NE, Cullman.

The event, which started out as just a social media post about safety while viewing the eclipse, will be a gathering to share the rare occurrence of viewing a solar eclipse with the community.

"The eclipse will begin for us in Cullman around 1:30," said Bonnie Baty with the Cullman Electric Cooperative. "But we will begin around 12pm with a presentation on solar power and some information about the sun."

Then the children will get a chance to build a solar eclipse viewer during a hands-on activity.

The first 100 people to arrive to the event will receive free safety glasses, which allow the viewer to securely observe the sun. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own lunches and picnic on the lawn of the agency.

Said Baty, "The eclipse will be going on well after 1:30, and people are welcome to stay as long as they want."

The training room at the office building will be open for those who are averse to the heat.

The eclipse will begin almost exactly at noon, central time, when the first sliver of moon shadow becomes visible on the sun. It will reach maximum coverage for north Alabama viewers around 1:30 p.m.,when about 95 percent of the sun will be covered; and will conclude about 2:57 p.m.

Around Cullman, the midday sky will remain blue, but may darken to an early dawn/dusky hue during the height of the eclipse.

# Area economic and industrial development leaders honor Peggy Smith




W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

***Peggy Smith surrounded by members of the City Council, CEDA, and the Industrial Development Board***

**W.C. Mann**
craig@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – On Thursday evening a generation of movers and shakers in Cullman County business and industry got together at Terri Pines Country Club to honor former Cullman Area Economic Development Agency (CEDA) Director Peggy Smith: to celebrate her career, to commemorate her retirement, and (for someone as driven as Smith, wasn't it obvious?) to hear what's next. Hint: it's not really retirement. More on that later.

Leaders came out of the woodwork to honor Smith. Past and present executives of local industries, state and federal legislators, Cullman's Mayor and Council, CEDA, the Cullman Chamber of Commerce, and the Cullman Industrial Development Board were all present. Former Governor Jim Folsom, Jr. came; and Governor Kay Ivey sent a letter of congratulations, as did former Governor Bob Riley. Numerous local officials, along with Smith's family and friends, all celebrated her achievements.

Smith spoke at the dinner; but, » PAGE 4

# Local rock painters reaching around the world, other groups invited

**W.C. Mann**
craig@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – Kristy Conard, who heads up the local rock-painting/hunting group CullmanCityRocks, ran across an interesting item while visiting the page of Florida-based SanfordRocks:

"An unusual request from a soldier. Hope you can help.

**Send your rocks to:**
1LT Joe Hargrave
BTMC 86CSH,
Camp Buehring, APO, AE 09330

**His request**

Everyone has asked, "What can I send you? what do you need?" to which I reply, "Nothing, thank you." However, now is your chance to send me something WE need/want. Kuwait is hot, sandy, dull and brown. In an attempt to brighten the lives of Soldiers (and ourselves), we are creating a rock garden! We're asking that everyone send us a colorful rock! We need all colors, sizes, and shapes.

"You can paint them or not, add your name, location,...whatever you want. Feel free to share this post. Send your rocks to 1LT Joe Hargrave BTMC 86CSH, Camp Buehring, APO, AE 09930"

In comments on the original Facebook post, some members of SanfordRocks expressed concern that posting of the accompanying photo and address might jeopardize security » PAGE 4




CONTRIBUTED

***This photo from Kuwait accompanied the online rock request***

# Former Co. Commission Chairman Graves re-arrested for witness tampering, pleads mental defect

**Wendy Sack, W.C. Mann**
Tribune Staff

**CULLMAN** – Former Cullman County Commission Chairman James Graves, 74, of Vinemont, arrested and charged Wednesday, May 10 with felony first-degree sexual abuse of a minor, for which he was indicted on July 20, was arrested again Aug. 17, for tampering with a witness in the case.

The complaint states that Graves attempted to induce a witness to "testify falsely or unlawfully withhold testimony, or absent himself from an official proceeding to which he has been legally summoned."

According to the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), an investigation by the CCSO led to the discovery that Graves made contact with someone related to the sex abuse case. At that point, a statement from the CCSO said, investigators contacted the Cullman County District Attorney's Office and obtained a warrant of arrest for tampering with a witness.

"I would like to thank our investigators for their prompt and immediate work in this case. We will also continue to coordinate with the Cullman County District Attorney's Office to work toward revoking the suspect's previous bond on his last charge," said Sheriff Matt Gentry.

Witness tampering is a class B misdemeanor, and Graves is currently being held in the Cullman County Detention Center on a $6,000 bond.

On the morning of Friday, Aug. 18, Assistant District Attorney filed a motion to revoke his bond on the original charge, which would lead to him being held in the Cullman County Detention Center until trial.

Graves has been out on a $15,000 cash bond since May 12.

**Mental defense**

Following his indictment for the original charge, Graves pleaded not guilty and waived his right to an arraignment on July 26. Before his re-arrest, his attorneys entered a motion which reads:

"The Defendant wishes to amend the previous plea entered of Not Guilty and enter into a Plea of Not Guilty by Reason of Mental Disease or Defect."

The nature of the claimed condition was not specified.

**Judges recused, case reassigned**

Judge Gregory Nicholas, who was to preside over Graves's arraignment hearing, recused himself from the case, along with local judges Martha Williams, Kim Chaney and Rusty Turner.

The judges noted in their recusal orders that Graves is well known to the court, as a former county official; and that they wished "to avoid even the appearance of impropriety."

The Cullman judges requested Acting Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Lyn Stuart assign the case to another judge. On Aug. 11, retired Madison County Sterling A. Watson, Jr. was assigned to take charge of the case.

Graves was elected chairman of the Cullman County Commission in 2008 and served until he was defeated by current Chairman Kenneth Walker in 2012.

**The original arrest**

According to the CCSO, Graves allegedly sexually molested a minor on more than one occasion. A statement from the CCSO said the victim came forward after the last incident took place, in which the suspect allegedly forced the victim to perform a sexual act.

When Graves was interviewed by investigators, he allegedly confirmed the allegations were true. The CCSO says that following that interview, "there was no doubt a sexual crime had been committed by the suspect."

Due to the graphic nature of this crime, no further details are being released by the CCSO.

"The protection of our young people is one of our most important responsibilities as law enforcement officers.

"As soon as the victim came forward our investigators interviewed the suspect and we obtained a warrant after consulting with the DA's office due to the evidence being so overwhelming against the suspect," said Sheriff Matt Gentry on the day of the arrest. "I would like to thank our investigators for their prompt and immediate work in this case."



CCSO

***James Graves***

Later that same day, the Cullman County Republican Party announced that its executive committee voted to remove James Graves from its ranks.

**County GOP Chairman Waid Harbison released the following statement at that time:**

"We are saddened to have to take action to remove James Graves from the Cullman County Republican Party Executive Committee. James has been a strong community leader in the past, and we are all surprised at the recent developments; however, his actions do not reflect the morals or beliefs of the Republican party on a local or national level. The committee moved today to ensure that we protect strong, conservative principles, and to do what was right for the local party. We will always stand up and advocate for what is right, even if it means standing up to someone within our own party."

# CPD warns of rash of vehicle break-ins, 11 in past 2 weeks

**Wendy Sack**
wendy@cullmansense.com

**CULLMAN** – Cullman Police Department Capt. of Investigation, Becky Boyd, issued a statement today, warning city residents of a rash of vehicle break-ins that have occurred in the area in the past two weeks.

According to incident reports, there have been 11 reports of vehicle break-ins since Aug. 3. Boyd says that in each case, the vehicles were unlocked. The thief, or thieves, have made off with an assortment of items, including multiple firearms.

"We are asking that people be sure to lock their vehicle at all times," Boyd shared in her statement. "Valuables such as firearms, purses, wallets, cash and medications should never be left in a vehicle. If circumstances require the items are left in a vehicle, the vehicle needs to be secured.

"It is rare that a perpetrator actually uses force to gain entry to the vehicle. We actually have surveillance video showing a suspect in a recent theft walking around a neighborhood simply lifting door handles. The vehicles in the video were all locked and the suspect moved on."

The incidents have taken place all over town, namely Oak Drive Northeast, Third Avenue Northeast, Hayes Drive Northwest, Clover Road Southeast, Campbell Lane Southeast, Wishing Well Drive Northeast, Churchill Lane Southeast, Phelan Circle Southeast and Stadium Drive Northeast.

Boyd urges anyone with information on any of these thefts to contact the Cullman Police Department Investigation office at 256-775-7170. Sgt. David Nassetta is the lead investigator on these cases.




# *Coaching*

**By: Randy C. Hale**

***In honor of my grandfather and***

***all the coaches of my life***

I would climb that old pear tree and

shake those knotty skinny fruits down,

falling like ping pong balls to the ground.

"They make good preserves" he said which

was good enough for me to understand.

I often did chin-ups on one of the

lower limbs under his tutelage.

Just one more place in time where

my apprenticeship was refined.

The mentor is gone as well as the tree.

My middle age climbing and

chin ups are rare.

But the instruction to life is well

preserved, locked in to last from

the coaching of my past.

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## *BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF*

# The music lives on

**Bill King**
Tribune
Contributor



On more than one occasion, I have sat at a traffic light and realized that the people in the vehicle stopped beside me were laughing – at me! That may have been because of any number of things I might have been doing, and no, I won't list the possibilities. I will say that most often, it is because I am singing along to the radio or CD player. I don't think they were laughing at my singing, mainly because I don't think they heard me, but they may have found my facial expressions quite humorous.

Sometimes I play the steering wheel too while I sing. I don't play the drums, but I do play a pretty mean steering wheel. I have learned to not play near the horn, because I scare myself when it blows, plus the guy stopped in front of me does not realize what I'm doing and he often misinterprets my honk. Sometimes when that happens, I have had no difficulty interpreting his sign language.

I'm always glad to provide cheap entertainment and amusement for others. I've even been known to play one of my harmonicas while behind the wheel. That's much safer than texting while driving, which I don't do, because you don't have to look at a harmonica in order to play it.

It has been said that music is the background for life. It is quite common for me to have music playing wherever I am, but if I'm driving, I'm listening. Honestly, I don't always listen to music, but usually, I do.

Occasionally, in the mornings, I listen to Rick and Bubba or David Jeremiah. Sometimes, in the afternoon, I tune in to The Paul Finebaum Show.

Often the rants from certain callers on his show drive me to station surfing. This morning, before I left home, I looked through my CD collection to find a particular artist for my drive time. At the first traffic light I sang along to "Wichita Lineman" and "Galveston" at the second one. By the time I got to the office, "By the Time I Get to Phoenix," was playing. I sat there and listened to "Rhinestone Cowboy," "Gentle on My Mind," and "Try a Little Kindness." You may have recognized those as hit songs, recorded by Glen Campbell.

As you probably know, he lost his six-year long battle with Alzheimer's this week and we lost a music legend.

His music was a strong influence in my early days as a musician. He began his string of hit songs about the same time I began learning to play the six-string.

I owned many of his records back then. Records by certain artists were not easily found in my small hometown, so I ordered them by mail from Rumore's Record Rack, in Birmingham. For one dollar, I could get two songs, on a forty- five, sent right to my mailbox.

On his radio program, store owner and D.J. Joe Rumore, advertised "two for the price of one" Saturday specials.

I used to order those Glen Campbell records and then try to play and sing along with him. I pretended my thirty-dollar Truetone guitar was his molded bowl-back Ovation guitar.

Glen Campbell's passing brought back a flood of memories from my childhood and teenage years. Music was a big part of my life back then and since those days has become a major part of my ministry. Music is a God given gift for our enjoyment, as well as an integral part of our worship. Psalm 147:1 says, "It is good to sing praises to our God."

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

# Tribune Files from Yesteryear

## *Brought to you by Billy Ray Taylor Auto Sales*

**From The Files Of 1964**

**Miscellaneous News**

Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Smith, of Route Seven, Cullman, announce the engagement of their daughter, Helen, to Roy Holloway. The wedding will be an event of Saturday, February 21st, at 10:00 a.m., at the residence of Reverend Virgil Sizemore.

Mrs. Ken Runnels and family have returned to Phoenix, Arizona, to reside.

Recuperating at home is Mrs. Herman Woodard, after an operation.

Speaking of illness, Mrs. Charles Henke entered the Highland Baptist Hospital, yesterday.

While her husband is in South Carolina on business, Mrs. Bobby Davis (Ann Leeth) and Kelley are visiting relatives here.

Mrs. E.S. Jilek and Mrs. Roy Williams spent Monday in Birmingham.

Mrs. Bill Hauk, Senior is spending this week in Gulfport, Mississippi.

In Birmingham, on Friday, for an Eastern Star banquet, were Mrs. Jacob Umphrey and Mrs. Leo Hamrick.

Guests of Misses Annie and Evelyn Winn for the weekend were Mrs. J.T. Cahoon and Clyde Winn, of Atlanta.

Spending Saturday in Atlanta were Mr. and Mrs. Oba Belcher, Miss Virginia Brooks and Lee Boone.

**Hauks Honored On 41st Wedding Anniversary**

Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Hauk entertained, on Sunday, complimenting Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hauk, Senior, on their 41st wedding anniversary. The delicious dinner was served to Mr. and Mrs. Lelton Hale and Ella Mae, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hauk, Junior, Miss Betty Ann Hauk, John and Carol Hauk, the honored guests and hosts.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ziegenbein and Rex left on Tuesday, to return to their home in Norfolk, Nebraska, after spending a week here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Columbus V. McElroy.

**Here And There**

The Mission Book, "The West is Big" is to be taught at Panama Baptist Church, on February 23rd, 1953, by Mrs. Core Dyer, Associational Mission Study Chairman. The discussion will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Bill Hauk, Junior, spent last weekend, in South Alabama, on business.

Archie W. Tyre, age 84, died at the Cullman Hospital, on Tuesday and funeral services are being held at Liberty today.

Corporal Billy J. Howard, of Cullman, is at Camp Drum, New York, participating in Exercises Snow Storm, as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The Army's exercise is being staged to give troops winter warfare training with specialized equipment and clothing designed for extreme cold weather conditions. Included in the airborne phase of the program will be at least one parachute drop for the 82nd Division paratroopers.

**Guthery Rites Held**

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, at Bowman Chapel, for Luther H. Guthery, age 56, who died on February 14th.

Surviving are his widow; two sons, Horace and Wallace Guthery; three daughters, Mrs. Kitty Metz, Mrs. Fay Washington and Miss Carlene Guthery and eight grandchildren.

### Legal Notice

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

2003 Chev Silverado, VIN # 1GCEK14V13Z108834

This vehicle will be sold to pay storage and or repair fee at Smith's Body Shop and Wrecker Service, LLC, 11597 US Highway 278 East, Holly Pond, Alabama, 35083, on Friday, September 15, 2017, at 8:00 a.m.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

SASHA CAMPBELL EASTERWOOD
Mother of N. P. C.,
Petitioner.

Case No.: PC 2017-212

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE

TO: THE UNKNOWN FATHER OF N.P.C. WHOSE WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN

A PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA BY SASHA CAMPBELL EASTERWOOD. IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS NAME CHANGE, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE LAST NOTICE OF PUBLICATION. YOUR RESPONSE MUST BE FILED WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONER, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS IS SHOWN BELOW, AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, POST OFFICE BOX 970, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35056.

DONE THIS 31st DAY OF July, 2017.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

ANNETTE IRONS-PARKER
Attorney for Petitioner
PARKER AND PARKER, P.C.
215 Main Avenue SW
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256)775-4444

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF )
IRENE ZOLINDA KEBER, ) CASE NO.: PC-2017-127
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION

Letters of Testamentary having been granted to GARY JOSEPH DESLAURIER, Personal Representative of the Estate of IRENE ZOLINDA KEBER, deceased, on the 4th day of August, 2017, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge of said County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law, or the same will be barred.

DONE this 4th day of August, 2017.

GARY JOSEPH DESLAURIER
Personal Representative

Beverly Poston
Attorney for Petitioner
200 First Ave SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055

TO THE PUBLISHER OF: THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Please publish the above notice for three (3) consecutive weeks and provide a proof of publication affidavit to the Probate Judge of Cullman County, Alabama.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC 2017-219

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ESSIE MARIE ROWLAND, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED
BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Daniel Edge on the 4th day of August, 2017, by the Hon. Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Daniel Edge, Personal Representative

To the publisher of *The Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN
Judge of Probate

Steven C. Smith
Attorney for the Estate
Smith & Smith, LLP
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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
AUGUST 19, 2017

# Mayor Proclaims August 13-19, 2017, 'National Health Center Week' in Cullman

**Leanne West**
Office of Mayor Woody Jacobs

**CULLMAN** – On Thursday, August 17, 2017, Mayor Woody Jacobs officially proclaimed the week of August 13-19, 2017, "National Health Center Week" in the City of Cullman, celebrating community health centers.

Community health centers are non-profit, community-owned, and community-operated health care providers who provide access to care regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

Quality of Life Health Services, Inc., is one such community health center. QOLHS is a federaly qualified health center (FQHC) operating under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act.

QOLHS was founded in 1977 through the efforts of a young community health nurse, Dr. Roberta O. Watts, who was completing her studies in Ohio and witnessed remarkable improvements in health care for some of Ohio's poorest citizens thanks to a unique community-based health care model.

In the years since its inception, QOLHS has expanded to twenty-four locations in Alabama, including Cullman.

QOLHS has become well-known as a place where anyone in need of primary care can access that care, regardless of economic status.

Patients can obtain primary medical care as well as dental, vision, and prescription services, for a nominal fee.

In addition to health care services, QOLHS also educates and facilitates enrollment of eligible uninsured patients and helps guide area residents into affordable health insurance coverage through the federally-facilitated marketplace.

Quality of Life Health Services, and other community health centers, help to reduce inappropriate emergency department usage and unnecessary hospitalizations by providing essential services known to be effective in preventing and managing chronic illness.

They are at the forefront of health system transformation, and work hand-in-hand with other providers to create high-performing health systems throughout Alabama.

Accepting the proclamation on behalf of Quality of Life Health Services, Inc., was Jesca Roberts, Division Manager.

"We appreciate Qualify of Life Health Services and other community health centers for the wonderful health care services they provide for underserved and uninsured citizens in our community and throughout the state," said Mayor Jacobs.

"During 'National Health Center Week," I urge citizens to recognize the important contributions of community health centers in safeguarding health and improving quality of life."

For more information about Quality of Life Health Services, call (256) 775-0230 or visit their website at www.qolhs.org.

For more information on National Health Center Week, visit their website at www.healthcenterweek.org.



OFFICE OF MAYOR WOODY JACOBS

***Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs & Jesca Roberts, QOLHS Division Manager***

# Smith (from Front)

as some of her remarks were personal, she requested that her speech not be published. The Tribune honored her request, and chose instead to share a few samples of what others said about her during the evening.

**Alabama Secretary of Commerce Greg Canfield**
"When you hear the name Peggy Smith, you think automatically the first lady of economic development in the state of Alabama, because she has established herself early in her career, and planted a very strong flag for the Cullman area, for not only the city, but also the county. She sort of set the standard which other women in economic development across the state have aspired to.

"In that regard, she's been very good at setting and establishing herself as someone who mentored, but also led the way, led the charge to make Cullman and plant it firmly on the map for economic development, with repeated success. It's easy to say that repeatedly, year after year, Cullman and Cullman County have fared very well relative to the other 66 counties across the state. It's always been a leading county. It's a great testament to her success."

**CEDA Project Coordinator Susan Eller**
"I've worked with Peggy for several years. She'd kick my butt if I told you how long! But I've worked with her for several years and, over the years I've traveled some, doing our jobs; and it doesn't matter where I went in Cullman County, in the state of Alabama, or outside the state of Alabama; people knew who Peggy Smith was, because she was so well respected by all of her peers. They knew when she said something that she was going to do it, and that she would be successful at what she did.

"Personally to me, she's been a great friend. She's been a mentor, and I tell her all the time--which she blushes--I tell her that I would not be the person I am today if it wasn't for her, and her leadership and guidance."

**Industrial Development Board Executive Committee Chairman Mark Bussman**
"You could almost say, very easily, that all of the industrial development in Cullman subsequent to the Flying Fifties, King Edward, and that time frame (King Edward Cigar Company located in Cullman in 1955), Peggy Smith's had her hand in all of it, somehow. And not only industrial development, but long-range planning for the community, long-range planning for the county; and the list of accomplishments, you wouldn't even want to start.

"It's been a great run: we've located some wonderful industry here that are all good corporate citizens, and that is very important. So I think the legacy is economic development in today's time, and the quality of the industry we've located; it all goes back to Peggy identifying what we wanted to go after, then selling the community to the industrial prospect."

**New CEDA Director Dale Greer**
"It has been my great personal honor to work beside and learn from a true economic development professional: Peggy Smith. She's widely recognized as one of the best in America; not just in Alabama, not just in the southeast, but in the country. Her success on recruiting industries has been pretty remarkable. What the community's done with retention and growth of the companies, it's legendary.

"People come from throughout the southeast to talk to her about what is the magic of Cullman, how we've been successful in what we've done. She's always shared our best practices, even when a bunch of us told her not to, with people we were competing against. She was always willing to share her knowledge, her expertise, and it's been pretty special.

"The economic development professionals call her the queen, and it is a real genuine title. They mean no disrespect.

"They'll tell you; many of them are here in the room, that all say that. She set a standard for professionalism with ethics and dedication that few developers ever matched, and she did it at a time and in a profession that was dominated by men. Ellen McNair's here with her. The two of them from Montgomery set a standard for all of those, the first two women in history of the state to lead the Industrial Development Organization."

**Former Governor Bob Riley (by letter)**
"To say Peggy Smith is the Director of the Cullman Economic Development Agency is an accurate statement, and yet also wholly inaccurate, for you have been so much more. You have been the driving force behind an economic development powerhouse: one that transformed a city, a county, and a region.

"You have set the standard for which all other economic developers are judged, and likely always will be: bringing companies from all over the world to your home county, convincing them to take a chance on a small rural town in Alabama, whose name most of them, likely had never heard of. Yet they came, not because they believed in Cullman or her people, or her promise, but that they believed in Peggy Smith's commitment to the companies.

"You outworked every colleague in your field; never intimidated, never boastful, and never satisfied with the most recent win. To achieve that level of success for anyone would be impressive; to do so as a woman in a male-dominated field, my friend, is nothing short of extraordinary.

"My friend, you did not simply excel as an economic developer. You did not merely create jobs. You transformed a community, and you offered opportunities and jobs that made a true difference."

Albert Von Pelser on behalf of Rehau, and Brad Pepper on behalf of Topre America, both presented plaques to Smith, and announced that conference rooms in each of their facilities had been named in her honor. The City Council and Industrial Development Board presented her gifts of earrings and a necklace, which she modeled for guests before leaving the dinner.

**Cullman City Council President Garlan Gudger led the crowd in a toast to Smith. Among his words, he said:**
"There's a couple of age-old questions, such as 'What is the purpose of life? Why are we here?' I believe one of those reasons is to leave this world and your community a little better place than when you found it. Peggy has achieved this purpose ten times over. She strengthens us all, and makes us dig deeper to find the best of ourselves."

**Retirement...not quite**
The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce announced on Mar. 13, and Smith confirmed, that she will come on board as official campaign consultant for the Chamber's five year strategic plan "Converging for Success."

**According to the Chamber's website, Converging for Success is a five-year plan developed to focus on four key initiatives:**
- Community Development
- Existing Business Growth & Professional Business Sector Recruitment
- Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- Business & Community Advocacy.

In the Chamber's news release, President/CEO Leah Bolin stated, "In an ever-changing global economy, we feel very fortunate to have someone with Peggy's experience and knowledge leading the charge."

# Painters (from Front)

for soldiers at the base; but members from military families assured those concerned that sending out this request was safe.

"One military family member noted that the address did not denote a specific physical location, and that the base even had its own Facebook page, adding, "I feel they'd never endanger their military families."

Conard shared the request to her group's page, and hopes that other Cullman rock folks will join in.

"I saw this request," said Conard, "and thought it was a really neat way to not only spread kindness but give these soldiers something from home. I have requested others to paint some and I'll put the box together this week."

Megan Bear, of HancevilleRocks, said that her group plans to hold a painting party this Sunday especially to make rocks to send to the soldiers.

Conard plans to collect rocks through next Thursday, before packaging and sending. Anyone interested can contact Conard through the Facebook page "Cullmancityrocks" at https://www.facebook.com/groups/396084707451164/. Contact Megan Bear through the Facebook page "HancevilleRocks" at https://www.facebook.com/groups/467440523594329/. Individuals or groups may also package their own rocks, and send them to the address included in the request.

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## PLANT IT

# Passion Vine

**Loretta Gillespie**
Tribune Correspondent



If you are looking for a well mannered vine to cover a gazebo, arbor, trellis or other garden structure, then you might want to check out the Passion Vine, or May Pop vine. It's blooming now in a field near you, or you can pay $19.99 for it at most garden centers.

Naturalized to our area, this beautiful vine has such a stunning flower that legends have grown up around it.

The exotic looking Passionflower is reputed to have sedative effects and has been used in sedative products in Europe, but in 1978, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration prohibited its use in over-the-counter sedative preparations because it had not been proven safe and effective.

In 2011, the University of Maryland Medical Center reported that passionflower "... can trigger side effects and can interact with other herbs, supplements, or medications.

For these reasons, you should take herbs with care, under the supervision of a health care provider." So now we know why that happened!

Passionflower is classified as generally recognized as safe (GRAS) for use in foods in the US, and is "possibly safe when used orally and appropriately for short-term medicinal purposes," "possibly unsafe when used in excessive amounts," but unsafe when used orally during pregnancy since "... passionflower constituents show evidence of uterine stimulation."

The database suggests it is possibly effective for adjustment disorder with anxious mood, anxiety, and opiate withdrawal, but it "can cause dizziness, confusion, sedation, and ataxia" and there are some reports of more severe side effects including vasculitis and altered consciousness.

Do not try this at home! It might have disastrous side effects and probably tastes horrible!

Maypop (*P. incarnata*), a common species in the southeastern US. This is a subtropical representative of this mostly tropical family.

However, unlike the more tropical cousins, this particular species is hardy enough to withstand the cold down to −20 °C (−4 °F) before its roots die (it is native as far north as Pennsylvania and has been cultivated as far north as Boston and Chicago.)

The fruit is sweet, yellowish, and roughly the size of a chicken's egg; it enjoys some popularity as a native plant with edible fruit and few pests.

If you want a butterfly attractant, here is a wonderful selection of them that are wildly attracted to the Passion flower.

These fluids attract ants which will kill and eat many pests that they happen to find feeding on the passion flowers.

**The following lepidoptera larvae are known to feed on Passiflora:**

- Swift moth *(Cibyra serta)*
- Longwing butterflies *(Heliconiinae)*
- American Sara longwing *(Heliconius sara)*
- Asian leopard lacewing *(Cethosia cyane)*
- Postman butterfly *(Heliconius melpomene)* prefer *P. menispermifolia* and *P. oerstedii*
- Zebra longwing *(Heliconius charithonia)* feed on yellow passion flower, two-flowered passion flower *(P. biflora)*, and corky-stemmed passion flower *(P. suberosa)*
- Banded orange *(Dryadula phaetusa)* feed on *P. tetrastylis*
- Julia butterfly *(Dryas iulia)* feed on yellow passion flower and *P. affinis*
- Gulf fritillary *(Agraulis vanillae)* feed on stinking passion flower *(P. foetida)* and Maypop *(P. incarnata)*

**The Legend of the Passion Vine**

Legend has it that in 1620 a Jesuit priest in Peru came across the plant we now call the passion flower.

Enchanted with its beauty, that night he dreamed about the likeness of its floral parts to the elements of the Crucifixion or Passion of Christ.

The five petals and five sepals became the ten apostles (omitting Peter and Judas).

The three pistils became the nails of the cross; the purple corona (or filaments) formed the crown of thorns, and the stemmed ovary was the Lord's goblet.

Today, more than 400 species of passion flower are found throughout the world.

*Sources; Wikipedia, LegendsandFolklore.com*



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# Obituary Announcements: Aug. 19-20

**Mr. Spicer** passed away on Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at his residence. He was born, January 17, 1951 to Oscar Spicer and Willie Goodlett Spicer. He is preceded in death by his parents, brother, Daryl Spicer, sisters, Reba, Angie, Jule, Charlotte, and Fern Spicer. Survivors include his sons, Troy, Brock and David Lewis, daughter, Michelle Lewis, brothers, Harmon (Patricia) Spicer, Jimmy (Mary) Spicer, Alan Spicer, Aaron Spicer, sister, Bonnie Garza, and a host of grandchildren, nieces, nephews, family and friends. A Memorial service will be announced at a later date by the family.

**Memorial service for Willis Jerry Holmes**, age 85 of Cullman, will be from 2 p.m. Saturday, August 19, 2017 in the Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, Burial will follow at Shedd Cemetery, with Bro. Jerry Willcutt officiating. Cullman Funeral Home directing. Jerry was born on July 18, 1932 to the late Lewis K. & Grace Bradley Holmes; and passed away on Monday, August 14, 2017 at his residence. He is preceded in death by his parents, son, Tim Holmes; and one brother, L.C. Holmes. Survivors include his Wife of 54 years – Pauline Holder Holmes; 4 – Daughters – Teresa Culver, Lee Ann (Russell) Campbell, Tammy (David) Duckworth & Donna (Steve) Torbert; one Son – Roger Holder; one Sister – Linda Blankenship; 9 – Grandchildren; 7 – Great-Grandchildren. The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, prior to the service.

**Funeral service for Nolen W. Page**, age 85 of Crane Hill, will be from 2 p.m. Sunday, August 20, 2017 in the Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, Burial will follow at Mt. Hope Cemetery, with Bro. Gary Gates officiating. Cullman Funeral Home directing. Nolen was born in Mississippi on September 1, 1931 to the late Millard & Agnes Cox Page; and passed away on Friday August 18, 2017 at his residence. He was a veteran of the Korean War, serving in the US Army; a member of Mt. Hope Baptist Church; in his early years was a farmer and later retired from Drummond Coal Co. He is preceded in death by his parents,a brother, Gifford Page and a grandson, T.J. Tucker. Survivors include his Wife of 63 years – Nadine Eady Page; 4 – Daughters – Myra (Darrell) Fell, Teresa (Randy) Young, Anita (Ronald) Bailey & Sheila Page; 3 – Sisters – Geraldine Pruitt, Evelena (Lamar) Rutherford & Paulette (Jerry) Moss; 7 – Grandchildren – Tony (Ashley) Fell, Jamie Tucker, Kevin (Xiaoli) Young, Kara (Jared) Ibrahim, Shannon (Adam) Armstrong, Seth Bailey & Scotty Bailey; 8 – Great-Grandchildren – Sylvia Tucker, Andrew Tucker, Jonathan Fell, Patton Brook Fell, Zev Young, Izaiah Ibrahim, Baileigh Armstrong & Bryce Nolan Armstrong. The family will receive friends from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Sunday, prior to the service.

**Funeral service for Wendell Gene Mattox**, 85 of Bremen, will be Saturday, August 19, 2017 at 1 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with interment in Fairview Cemetery in Addison, Al. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Mattox passed away Tuesday, August 15 at Cullman County Long Term Care. He was born August 15, 1932 to parents Gordon "O.G." and Ada Lee Hampton Mattox. Mr. Mattox was a member of the Methodist Church of Addison and was very active in church activities as a young man. He was the president of the Methodist Youth Fellowship for three years prior to going in to military service. He joined the Air Force and spent 27 months in Japan and Korea during the Korean War, with a total of four years in the military. A little known fact, Mr. Mattox acquired a top secret crypto (encoded) clearance in communications, second only to the next clearance having to be signed by the President of the United States. After military service, Mr. Mattox married Daulene Murphree and worked at Hayes Aircraft in Birmingham for three and one-half years, then journeyed up north to Illinois where he worked for the Burlington Northern Railroad for 23 years. He was then divorced and moved to the mountains of Georgia where he was very active in church work, and sang in the choir for eight years. After acquiring a new truck and travel trailer, he traveled extensively for the next six years, spending time in and around Colorado Springs, Denver, and Aspen, Colorado, and Phoenix and Apache Jet, Arizona. He also traveled around Mobile, Alabama and Ft. Myers, Florida. He spent many summers in Alabama and Illinois. Finally settling down by Smith Lake, on the Cullman county side, close to Bremen, he and his nephew, Brad Mattox, built a race car and have been racing part time for four years, through 2004. Mr. Mattox spent a very active and enjoyable life, and will be sorely missed. He is preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Robert, Samuel, and Clifford Mattox; and three sisters, Ezra Mattox Davenport, Florence Mattox Johnson, and Vetron Mattox Wilmot. Survivors include his ex-wife, Daulene Murphree Mattox; three children, Deborah (Allen) Barlow, Michael Mattox, and Karron Mattox; four grandchildren, Chris, Spring, Steph, and Kriston; seven great-grandchildren; and a host of family and friends. Visitation will be Saturday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the funeral home prior to service.

**Velma Billodean "Dean" Morgan**, 84 of Addison, entered into rest on Friday August 18, 2017. She was born on October 14, 1932 in Winston County. Visitation will be held on Saturday, August 19, 2017 from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home, Addison, where funeral service will be held at 2pm. Brother Jeff Wiggins and Brother Tim Ayers will officiate. Burial will be in Sardis No. 2 Baptist Church Cemetery. Dean is survived by her sons, Ronald Morgan and his wife Sherry, and Randy Morgan; daughter, Betty Reynolds; brothers, Buel (Elouise) Cutcher and Dale Cutcher. She was Grandma Dean to 4 grandchildren, Ronny, Dana and Jody Morgan and Kyla Twilley; 7 great grandchildren, Blakely Reynolds, Cassidy and Jesse Patton, Stephanie Cleghorn, Isaiah Morgan, Austin and Levi Twilley; and 1 great great grandchild, Silas Cleghorn. She was preceded in death by her husband, Truman Morgan; parents, Josh and Edna Cutcher, grandsons, Bradley Reynolds and Jamie Morgan.

**F.M. Cook**, 91 passed away peacefully at his home in Cullman on August 17, 2017. He was born October 5, 1925 in Cullman. He was the son of John M. Cook Sr. and Luanna Screws Cook. Funeral Services will be at 3 p.m. on Sunday August 20, 2017 at Cullman First Baptist Church with entombment at Cullman Heritage Mausoleum. The body will lie in state at the church from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. prior to the service. Rev. Neal Hodo, Rev. Tim Aris and Rev. David Byrd will officiate. Moss Service Funeral Home in Cullman is in charge of the arrangements. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Saturday, August 19, 2017 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Mr. Cook was a loving husband, father and grandfather. His life consisted of working, attending church and spending time with his family. Mr. Cook was an Ordained Deacon for 52 years and an active member of Cullman First Baptist Church for the past 13 years. Mr. Cook's goal in life was to live to be 90 years old and sell a pair of shoes on his birthday. On October 5th, 2015 he reached that goal. Mr. Cook began his working career at age 20 as a sales clerk at David Lee's store in Cullman. He continued to work for David Lee's as store manager in Moulton, Scottsboro, Sylacauga and Jasper. Later he became District Supervisor over the stores in Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi. When the company closed, he was in charge of closing the stores. He continued working for Shoe City, Shoe World, and K-Mart in Jasper. When he moved back to Cullman, he went to work for Hibbett Sports selling shoes. As a result of his declining health, he retired at age 90 in 2015. Mr. Cook was preceded in death by his loving wife of 66 years, Evalene Umphrey Cook, parents, brother: Frank Cook, William M. Cook and John M. Cook, Jr.; sisters: Ila Mae Easterwood and Mattie Lou Hardin. He is survived by his daughter, Linda F. Allen of Cullman, granddaughter, Melissa Allen Ellis (Vincent) of Tuscaloosa, a host of nieces, nephews and friends. In lieu of flowers the family request donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association Alabama at One Perimeter Park South, Ste 100 North, Birmingham, Alabama 35243 or to Gideon's International. Please visit mossservicefh.com to leave condolences for the family. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

**Funeral service for Mrs. Melba Jo Waldrop Goodno**, age 83 of Holly Pond, will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 20, 2017 at Holly Pond Funeral Home, Kenneth Little officiating. Interment following in New Hope #2 Cemetery. Mrs. Goodno was born in Cullman County on August 16, 1934 to James S. Waldrop and Lula Nunn Waldrop. She was a loving mother and housewife in her home caring for those she loved the most. Mrs. Goodno is predeceased by her parents. Survivors include her husband, of 63 years, Henry Roy Goodno; son, Vernon R. (Mary Elizabeth) Goodno; and grandson, Jeremy Goodno. Visitation will be held from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Saturday evening at Holly Pond Funeral Home. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the family.

## Free Obituary Listings

**Have your funeral home contact us**

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*Complete obituaries may be found free of charge at CullmanSense.com/obituaries.*

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# 3 Holly Pond High School students attend STEM Institute

**Kelly Moore**
ORAU/ARC




CONTRIBUTED

***Back row: Earl F. Gohl, federal co-chair, Appalachian Regional Commission; Carter Smith; Andy Page, president/CEO ORAU; William Sexton; Sharee Riggs; Kelly Chasteen, ARC program manager for Alabama; Dexton Jones; Kaitlyn Griffin***

**OAK RIDGE, Tenn.** – High school students, middle school students and teachers soaked in math, science and technology for two weeks at a special hands-on institute in east Tennessee in July.

Three students from Holly Pond High School attended the 28th annual High School Summer and Math-Science-Technology Institute in Oak Ridge.

Gov. Kay Ivey nominated the students to attend this accelerated learning program.

They were selected based on their potential to excel in math and science and to continue in higher learning.

**The students who attended were:**

- Kaitlyn Griffin, daughter of Kalina Black and Scott Griffin
- Dexton Jones, son of Brundie Drune and Chris Drune
- William Sexton, son of Ricky Sexton

Griffin, Jones and Sexton were three of only 32 high school students who participated, along with 26 middle schoolers (one of which was Rylan Griffin of Holly Pond Middle School) and 16 teachers from across 10 Appalachian states to spend two weeks of their July summer break in high gear at a hands-on institute focused on math, science and technology.

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and ORAU hosted the 28th annual High School and Middle School Summer Math-Science-Technology Institutes, during which the students and teachers worked on cutting-edge science projects with mentors at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

# 6 local UA students pursued cooperative education this summer

**Richard LeComte**
University of Alabama

**TUSCALOOSA** – Close to 300 University of Alabama students received hands-on educational experience at more than 60 companies and organizations through UA's Cooperative Education Program during summer 2017.

**Local students who participated include:**

- Cameron Brock, of Logan, through Adtran
- Meghan Claburn, of Oneonta, through Alabama Power
- Joshua Ellard, of Cullman, through GAF
- Jeremy Hurst, of Hanceville, through Daikin
- Mitchell Naler, of Cullman, through Rheem Water Heaters
- William Phillips, of Oneonta, through Southern Research

In the Cooperative Education Program, students alternate periods of full-time study with periods of full-time employment.

This program offers work related to the academic major or career interests of each individual student.

The experience enhances the students' employment prospects after graduation.

While in school, students carry regular course schedules.

While on co-op, the students work with professionals in their fields who supervise their training and work.

At work, co-op students earn competitive salaries and may receive benefit packages in addition to valuable on-the-job experience.

Students maintain their full-time student status while at work and have priority registration status each semester through graduation.

# WSCC Public Service Announcement

## *Public invited to meet visiting accreditation review team from ACEN*

**Gail Crutchfield**
WSCC

**HANCEVILLE** – Wallace State Community College Department of Nursing Education wishes to announce that it will host a site review for continuing accreditation of its Associate Degree and Practical Nursing program by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

You are invited to meet the site visit team and share your comments about the program in person at a meeting scheduled at 4 p.m., on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at the Wallace State School of Nursing and Center for Science, room 219.

**Written comments are also welcome and should be submitted directly to:**
**Dr. Marsal Stoll, Chief Executive Officer**
Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing
3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850
Atlanta, GA 30326
**Or email:** mstoll@acenursing.org

All written comments should be by the ACEN by Oct. 6, 2017.

# 83rd annual Sandlin reunion held

**Patsy Sandlin Medlock**
Contributor

The 83rd Annual Sandlin Reunion was held on Saturday, Aug. 5, 2017, at the Cold Springs Community Center in Bremen. We were blessed to have 64 in attendance.

**Following is a list of the attendees:**

Helen Adair, of Hartselle; Delton Blalock, of Hanceville; Morris and Yvonne (Sandlin) Braly, of Decatur; Fred and Ruth Ann Clay, of Birmingham; Linda Aubrey Cowden and Jackson Cowden, of Remlap; Charles and Debbie Freeman, of Crane Hill; Margie Freeman, of Bremen; Anita and Bubba Glover, of Hayden; Denise Hardin, of Bremen; Connie Harper and Ed Olbey, of Hoover; David Hogan, of Danville; Darla Hogan Kelsoe, of Danville; Deborah Liveoak, of Madison; Sherry and Jake Lowery, of Decatur; Patsy (Sandlin) and Joe Medlock, of Birmingham; Berl Parker, of Bremen; Marion Parker, of Bremen; Rachel Parker-Roberts, of Hanceville; Jerry and Judy Peters, of Cleveland, Tennessee; Sue Sandlin Roth, of Bessemer; Billy and Betty Sandlin, of Boynton Beach, Florida; Dale Sandlin, of Hayden; Dottie Sandlin, of Hayden; Dwight and Debbie Sandlin, of Equality; Edward L. and Gail Sandlin, of Athens; Heath Sandlin and Jessie, of Hayden; Ollie and Peggy Sandlin, of Birmingham; Randy Sandlin, of Huntsville; Bob and Joy Sandlin, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky; Donna Smith and grandchildren: Dylan McCleskey, Houston McCleskey and Evan Smith, of Hartselle; Dan and Becky Stevens, of Cullman; Thelma Sandlin Thomas, of Hanceville; Joan Vitale, of Memphis, Tennessee; Mary Weisinger, of Mexia, Texas; Robert and Joyce White, of Killen; Elizabeth Stevens and children: Camila Miranda, Jaydence Caldwell and Rio Caldwell, of Chapin, South Carolina; Perry Stevens, of Pomana, South Carolina; Phyllis and David Speegle, of Bremen; Kayla Smith, of Hartselle; and Diane Sandlin Sparks, of West Blocton.

**MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE NOTICE**

Default having been made in the terms of that mortgage executed on January 16, 2015 by Robert Ray Atkinson and spouse Teresa E. Atkinson to EvaBank, which said mortgage is recorded in MTG 1753, Pages 172 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 September 8, 2017:

Commence at the southwest corner of the SW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 11, Township 9 South, Ranger 4 West; thence N 89°30'00" E 795.00 feet to an iron ½" capped rebar set and the point of beginning; thence N 01°02'47" E 222.39 feet to an iron ½" capped rebar set; thence S 88°39'56" E 181.44 feet to an iron ½" capped rebar set; thence S 01°02'47" W 216.58 feet to an iron ½" capped rebar set; thence S 89°30'00" W 181.50 feet back to the point of beginning. Lying in the SW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 11, Township 9 South, Ranger 4 West, Cullman County, Alabama.

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

EvaBank
Mortgagee
Dewayne N. Morris
Attorney for Mortgagee
2131 Third Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
The Cullman Tribune-August 19, 26, September 2, 2017

**IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**IN RE: THE ESTATE OF** )
**ROBERT MORRIS WARNKE,** ) **CASE NO.: PC-2017-232**
**Deceased.**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION**

Letters Testamentary having been granted to **George A. Warnke, Sr,** as Personal Representatives of the Estate of **ROBERT MORRIS WARNKE,** deceased, on the 14th day of August, 2017, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge of said County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law, or the same will be barred.

DONE this 14th day of August, 2017.

GEORGE A WARNKE, SR
Personal Representative

**Andria Richter**
Attorney for Petitioner
300 First Avenue, SE
Cullman, Al 35055

TO THE PUBLISHER OF: **THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE**

Please publish the above notice for three (3) consecutive weeks and provide a proof of publication affidavit to the Probate Judge of Cullman County, Alabama.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN JUDGE OF PROBATE

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
AUGUST 19, 2017

# Cullman County Farmers Federation donates to Children's of Alabama

**Mary Johnson**
ALFA Farmers

**CULLMAN COUNTY** – No one wants to see their child in a hospital bed. When this unfortunate circumstance becomes a reality, many Cullman County residents choose Children's of Alabama in Birmingham.

To show support and care for children and families who find themselves at the country's third-largest pediatric hospital, the Cullman County Farmers Federation donated $500 to Children's of Alabama.

In 2016 alone, Children's of Alabama logged 6,495 medical visits by pediatric patients from Cullman County. In total last year, there were 676,484 patient visits to the hospital's clinics with 15,784 patient admissions.

The fundraising effort was part of the Alabama Farmers Federation's Commodity Producers Conference, which took place in Birmingham Aug. 3-5. Donations were collected from county Federations across the state, from Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance employees and during the Alabama Farm Expo Aug. 5. At the closing banquet, the Federation presented Children's of Alabama with a check for $120,000.

Children's of Alabama is the state's only free-standing pediatric hospital. It includes the pediatric teaching hospital for the School of Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the state's only pediatric kidney dialysis program, one of the Southeast's largest burn units and one of the nation's only pediatric rheumatology programs.




ALFA FARMERS

***The Welcome Wagon for Kids fundraiser raised $120,000 from across the state. It was a part of the Alabama Farmers Federation's Commodity Producers Conference.***






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