The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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ALL IN THE FAMILY

WWII and Korean War veteran's car goes to local veteran in need

Gift arranged by the United Way of Cullman County and Saving Forgotten Warriors



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Veteran Rodney Sherrell receives the keys to his Cadillac. L-R: Alex Chaney, Sammie Danford, Rodney Sherrell, Yolanda Sherrell, Jeremy Hogan

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CULLMAN – After the passing of local WWII and Korean War veteran Robert F. Palfrey, Sr., his family decided to do a little good with his little-used automobile. They contacted United Way of Cullman County (UWCC) Executive Director Sammie Danford who knew just what to do.

Palfrey, Sr. served in WWII and the Korean War, Danford told The Tribune in an email. He was also the owner of a 2004 Cadillac, in very good condition (49,000 miles) and the family wanted to find a good home for it. Danford knows the family through church, and they asked her if she knew of someone in need of a vehicle. "I, in turn, got in touch with Saving Forgotten Warriors, who knew someone that would definitely be a great recipient," Danford said.

Palfrey, Sr.'s daughter Marcia "Marci" Jacob donated the 2004 Cadillac SLS.

Jacob wrote of her father, and of the family's decision. "A veteran of WW II and Korea, he instilled in us, my two brothers, Bobby and Doug, the values of hard work, honesty, love of country and most of all love of God. Although we did not always agree with him, we always admired him for living what he preached! He was a fantastic daddy! When he died a couple of months ago at the age of 93, we pondered what to do with his car. None of the family really needed it and we wanted to do something with it to honor him.

"Sammie is a good friend and when I mentioned our desire to her, she had the perfect solution! My brothers and I have no doubt he would be very pleased his well-cared-for car would go to another veteran!"

The recipient of Palfrey, Sr.'s Cadillac is Rodney Allen Sherrell, who served as a cannon crewman in the U.S. Army from 1991 to 1994, stationed at Ft. Benning, Georgia. Other than his time in service, he is a lifelong resident of West Point, where he worked as a welder.

In Sept. 2016, Sherrell suffered a stroke which left him partially paralyzed on his right side. The event also affected his speech, cognitive abilities and fine motor skills. After a month of rehab at UAB Hospital, he began outpatient rehab at the V.A. Hospital in Birmingham.

The family lost its only car a while back in an accident. Since that time, the Sherrells have had to arrange for rides to and from doctor and rehab appointments in Birmingham, and have been limited in their ability to attend events at their kids' school. The gift will help make them an independent family once again. Sherrell is not currently able to drive, so his wife Yolanda Sherrell will handle that responsibility.

Jeremy Hogan, founder of Saving » PAGE 8

WSCC SPORTS

Wallace State volleyball earns two conference road wins;

WSCC cross country competes in Montevallo

Russell Moore
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State's volleyball team picked up a pair of conference road wins over the weekend, beating Coastal Alabama – South and Coast Alabama – Brewton.

The Lions (10-5, 3-0 Alabama Community College Conference) extended their ACCC winning streak to 45 matches – a stretch spanning four regular seasons.

Wallace State prevailed over Coastal Alabama – South, 25-22, 25-22, 24-26, 25-19, in their opening match and added a 25-23, 25-8, 25-14 victory over Coastal Alabama-Brewton.

Against the Sun Chiefs, freshman Alex Wiggins had 17 kills and 12 digs for Wallace State, Abby Borden collected 46 assists, Emily Wilson had 20 digs and Kaylee Maddox added 10 kills and four digs.

Morgan Kyles finished with 10 digs for the Lions, Courtlyn Barber contributed 17 digs and eight kills, Maya Jones added seven kills and Lexie Riggins had eight kills and three digs.

Against Coastal Alabama –Brewton, Wiggins finished with 11 kills and a pair of digs, Borden had 25 assists, Wilson had 10 digs, Riggins contributed nine kills and Maddox added nine kills and five digs.

Wallace State hosts its first home conference matches on Wednesday, welcoming Southern Union and Gadsden State to Tom Drake Coliseum. The first match is set for 3 p.m. The Lions also host Lawson State on Thursday at 6 p.m.

Wallace State Cross Country

Wallace State's cross country teams competed in the Falcon Classic at the University of Montevallo over the weekend.

The men's team finished » PAGE 8

A bridge to hope

The Bridge offers help to teens struggling with addiction

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CULLMAN – Tucked away in an inconspicuous corner of Cullman is a little office, full of people, with a big mission. The Bridge Cullman is an outpatient addiction treatment center that provides therapy and support for adolescents ages 12 to 18 diagnosed with chemical abuse or dependency, and for their families. Cullman is home to one of several outpatient centers for the Gadsden-based provider, which also offers residential services at facilities around the state.

The Bridge takes kids through self or parental referrals, as well as referrals from physicians, hospitals, mental health centers, judges, juvenile probation officers and others. The staff has working partnerships with the Cullman County Family Court, Juvenile Probation Office, Department of Human Resources, and both city and county school systems.

Kids entering the program are given an initial placement assessment that helps the staff create an individualized approach to treatment. That treatment can take the form of group, individual and family therapy, as well as the development of coping strategies and relapse prevention skills. The qualified staff can also perform psychological assessments, and performs drug screens on participants. When necessary, they can refer kids to other services, and will even help older youth with career and education planning.

Once in the program, kids can be involved in activities at The Bridge from 90 days to more than a year, depending on the particular student's needs. Around 90 percent of those who enroll in the program successfully graduate.

The Tribune sat down with Cullman's Program Manager Grace Potter, and therapists Lisa Burgess and Angela Shadden to find out more.

The kids

The "typical" Bridge youth client is around 15 to 16 years of age, and routinely uses marijuana along with at least one other substance like alcohol, methamphetamine or prescription drugs, or even heroin (the second most common drug used by The Bridge's teen clients).

"In high school," said Burgess, "it used to be a big thing to steal your dad's cigarettes » PAGE 6



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

L-R: Lisa Burgess, Program Manager Grace Potter, Angela Shadden

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

Poultry & Egg Association honors Danny Farr, awards funds to schools and organizations

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W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

2017 Poultry & Egg Association Hall of Fame inductee Danny Farr, with wife Geraldine Farr and family

CULLMAN – On Saturday evening, the Cullman County Poultry & Egg Association held its annual meeting and dinner at the Cullman Civic Center, where Danny Farr was recognized as the association's 2017 Hall of Fame inductee.

A Holly Pond graduate who grew up on the farm, Farr earned a bachelor's degree from St. Bernard College and a master's from UAB, both in education.

He served a short stint in the Army, and taught at Welti and Hanceville, retiring in 1995.

Along the way, he and his wife Geraldine got into poultry farming, building their first chicken houses in 1987 and expanding their operation in 1994.

They retired from poultry farming in 2015, but have stayed active in the Association. Farr currently serves as secretary/treasurer.

The annual meeting, which has taken place for more than 30 years, provides poultry farmers an informal opportunity for fellowship, while raising funds for distribution to organizations across the county.

The association presented $500 donations to nine area service groups Saturday night:

- American Red Cross - Helen Carroll
- Cullman Area Mental Health Authority - Chris Van Dyke
- Cullman Autism and Special Needs Support Group - Sarah Bates
- Cullman Caring for Kids - Jesselyn Shewbart and Angie Jarrett
- Pilot Light Home - Peggy Harris
- Project Lifesaver - Lt. Jeffery Warnke and Peggy Day
- The Link of Cullman - Dawn Owens
- Hospice of Cullman County - representative not present
- Victim Services of Cullman, Inc. Harbor Haus - representative not present

In a new move this year, the association also presented $500 to the agriscience program of each county and city public high school:

- Cold Springs - Justin Cornelius
- Cullman - David Benefield
- Fairview - Justin Miller
- Good Hope - David Bice
- Hanceville - Michael Chandler
- Holly Pond - Rusty Roden
- Vinemont - Travis Eskew
- West Point - Ethan Lake

Association Co-President Phillip Garrison talked about why all these poultry farmers were getting together.

"Cullman County is the largest poultry-growing county in the world. Cullman, Alabama is ranked number three in the United States, as far as poultry production.

Basically, all this is to celebrate and to recognize, and to enjoy some fellowship with a meal.

"And we always have a Gator (ATV) drawdown, let people buy a ticket, and the money always goes to charitable organizations.

"We've always had a meeting this time of year, just to get to see everybody and enjoy the time, and get to give back a little bit to the community that we have earned and worked hard for.

"Poultry has been a big industry in this county for many, many years.

"It has done a lot for our county and city, because without the county the city don't make it, without the city the county don't make it.

"It takes one to grow it and one to sell it!"

And what was on the menu for the evening? What else? Chicken.

Said Garrison, "We are the best supporters of our industry.

"We all love it! If you didn't, you wouldn't stay in it.

"It's really wholesome food that is more likely about one of the healthiest foods to eat.

"It's all good. Eat more chicken!"



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An afternoon with author Delos Hughes

Loretta Gillespie
Tribune Correspondent



CULLMAN – On Sunday, even though it took place in the midst of a pop-up storm, a crowd of people showed up for what turned out to be quite an interesting lecture and book signing by Dr. Delos Hughes, professor of politics (emeritus) at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. Hughes collected photographs and histories on the courthouses in all 67 Alabama counties and wrote a book about them which is full of historic information.

The title of Hughes's book is, "Historic Alabama Courthouses: A Century of their Images and Stories "

Hughes presented his book and a presentation, depicting the various architectural attributes of many of the historic courthouses in the state, including Cullman's former courthouse.

Published by NewSouth Books, the beautifully bound, 155-page volume includes a courthouse, either present or past, from each of Alabama's 67 counties, and in the case of Cullman County, both past and present courthouses are depicted. The visual archive of these monumental buildings is a treasure for history buffs, students of architecture, and lovers of beautiful memorable buildings.

"We learned about the style and architecture popular for county courthouses during the New South period," said Drew Green, who helped to plan and host the event at the Cullman County Museum. "We also learned some interesting information about Cullman County's courthouses. For example, many of the courthouses were designed by architects from other states, including New Orleans, New York and Atlanta; however, Cullman's courthouses were designed by local architects. W.A. Schlosser was the architect for our impressive 1912 courthouse."



DREW GREEN

Author, Dr. Delos Hughes, right, speaks to a guest at Sunday's book signing and discussion event at the Cullman County Museum.

Hughes was very complimentary of the visit and the venue.

"I was very pleased with the turnout in Cullman," said Hughes. "The facility was very accommodating and everything was really done right."

Those interested may purchase the book from a favorite local or online retailer, or from NewSouth Books, 334-834-3556, http://qrne.ws/hughes.

Sheriff's Office hosting firearms safety class Sept. 25

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN COUNTY – Next Monday, the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) will be hold a firearms safety class. The event will be a classroom-only night, and will be held on Sept. 25 at 6 p.m. at the CCSO.

According to the Cullman County Sheriff's Office, the class will focus on safely handling a weapon, proper technique for shooting a weapon, cleaning a weapon and getting familiar with a weapon.

Those who would like a hands-on experience will be able to sign up to attend a safety course at the shooting range, which will take place on Saturday, Sept. 30 at 8 a.m.

"We here at the Cullman County Sheriff's Office are advocates of our citizens having the knowledge and training they need to protect themselves" said Sheriff Matt Gentry.

"I would add that we want them to also know how to handle the weapon safely and with this free training they are able to gain valuable knowledge in both these areas."

To register, email Capt. Mark Persall at mpersall@cullmansheriff.org or Bradley Williams at bwilliams@cullmansheriff.org. Both can also be reached at 256-734-0342.

Registration is not mandatory, but is encouraged to give CCSO deputies an idea of class size.

Citizens attending are reminded to not bring a gun or ammunition to the Monday night class, as it is the classroom-only portion of the training.

3 Cullman-area students named to UA Dean's, President's Lists for Summer 2017

Richard LeComte
University of Alabama

TUSCALOOSA – A total of 417 students enrolled during the 2017 summer semester at The University of Alabama were named to the Dean's List with academic records of 3.5 (or above) or the President's List with academic records of 4.0 (all As).

Cullman-area students who were recognized are:

- Breanna G. Haymon, of Arab, President's List
- Brittany Alex Morgan, of Arab, President's List
- Jordan S. Van Gundy, of Cullman, Dean's List

The UA Dean's and President's Lists recognize full-time undergraduate students.

The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

Cullman County jurisdiction has been selected to receive an award under Phase 34 of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) based upon the available statistics. Congress has appropriated $120,000,000 to supplement and expand emergency food and shelter programs. Your jurisdiction's award is based upon your jurisdiction's total number of unemployed as compared to the total number of unemployed in all qualifying jurisdictions.
Local Board of EFSP is charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high need areas around the country. The Local Board 0072 of Cullman County is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds made available through the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program, Phase 34.Under the terms of the grant from the national EFSP Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must : 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive federal funds 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and or shelter program, and 6) if they are private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board of Directors. Qualifying agencies interested in applying to the Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact Donna Jacobs at 256-775-2600 or email vsoced@vsoccullman.org for an application. The deadline for applications to be received is Sept 29, 2017.

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SEPTEMBER 19, 2017



AERIAL ENVISION

Sign of the season

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CULLMAN – A harbinger of autumn, the annual Cullman County Fair parade marched through town Saturday to the cheers of hundreds of local families.

Inching down Highway 31 in the heart of downtown, masses of colorful, decked-out floats from all manner of clubs, businesses and organizations were interspersed with the real stars of the show: beauty queens and area marching bands.

And of course, there was candy. So much candy, with no shortage of excited children scrambling to fill their bags.

The fair parade not only signals the changing of the seasons, but also the beginning of the fair itself.

The Cullman County Fair begins this Thursday, Sept. 21 and runs through Sept. 30. See a full calendar of events at https://cullmanfair.com/calendar. Below are some of the highlights.

Thursday, Sept. 21
• 5 p.m. Opening Ceremony
• 7 p.m. Tiny Fair Princess and Petite Fair Princess Pageant in the Coca-Cola Theater



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Friday, Sept. 22
• 5 p.m. King/Queen of the Kitchen announced
• 7:30 p.m. WKUL Talent Show in the Coca-Cola Theater

Monday, Sept. 25
• noon-5 p.m. Student Day (free admission for all Cullman city and county students)

Tuesday, Sept. 26
• 7 p.m. Miss Cullman County Fair Queen 2017 Pageant in the Coca-Cola Theater

Wednesday, Sept. 27
10 a.m.-1 p.m. Senior Citizens Day (free admission for all Cullman city and county senior citizens)

Thursday, Sept. 28
7 p.m. Little, Junior and Teen Princess Pageant in the Coca-Cola Theater



WENDY SACK/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



WENDY SACK/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Tools of last resort: citizens' academy on the firing range

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CULLMAN – Law enforcement officers today have numerous tools at their disposal with which to deal with criminals. First, they are well-trained in techniques of communication and negotiation, to prevent confrontations from becoming violent when possible. Then they learn unarmed defense and control methods based in various martial arts.

When things escalate far enough, officers may use pepper spray, telescoping steel batons (the modern version of the classic nightstick/billy club), and the taser (which can immobilize a subject with a non-lethal electric charge).

Whatever else an American law enforcement officer may know or carry, one thing has remained a staple from the first days until now: firearms.

With all the new goodies, the conditions under which a gun can be used have become more strictly defined and firearms have become tools of absolute last resort, but they still remain in the place on the belt that the officer can most easily reach with his or her strong hand.

On Saturday, students in the Cullman County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) Citizens' Academy went to the range with sheriff's deputies, to get hands-on with common law enforcement firearms. FBI-certified firearms instructor Sgt. David Nunn and other deputies walked students through gun safety procedures, shooting stances, and aiming and firing instructions.

Then they took the students to the line in small groups for one-on-one supervised range time with a common duty pistol, a typical tactical carbine used by SWAT and special response teams, and even a fully-automatic submachine gun.

Some were nervous, some were eager, but everyone seemed to walk away smiling.

For the gearheads

Students got to try out three law enforcement firearms:

Glock G17 pistol: a lightweight nine-millimeter (9mm) pistol built on a polymer frame. It fires from a high-capacity 17-round magazine.

Made in Austria (Those sold in the U.S. are assembled in Smyrna, Georgia from Austrian parts.) and sold internationally, it is considered to be the most common currently-used law enforcement handgun in the world.

Glocks are known to be reliable, simple to learn, reasonably accurate, and easy to disassemble for cleaning and maintenance. CCSO patrol deputies carry the G17's big brother, a .45 automatic designated G21.

AR-15 tactical carbine: a compact rifle based on the U.S. military M-4 carbine, a smaller version of the M-16 assault rifle.

Like its military counterpart, the police AR fires a 5.56mm / .223 caliber rifle cartridge from 20 or 30-round magazines, and has accessory rails for attaching scopes, lights, lasers and other goodies.

It also has a buttstock whose length can be adjusted to suit the user. Those used by the CCSO have Eotech holographic sights, tactical lights, and vertical foregrips; some have bipods.

Unlike the M-4 and M-16, the CCSO's ARs are semi-automatic, not capable of fully automatic or burst fire.

Heckler and Koch (H&K) UMP: a compact modular submachine gun with a lightweight polymer receiver; with the exchange of a few components, it can be configured to use ammunition in three common law enforcement calibers: 9mm, .40 S&W, and .45 ACP.

Those used by the CCSO are chambered in .45, like its duty pistols. By use of a four-position selector (including "safe") the UMP can fire single shots, two shot bursts or fully automatic at a rate of up to 10 rounds per second. The CCSO often mounts suppressors/silencers on its UMPs.

The CCSO offers firearms safety and self-defense classes to the public. For more information, visit www.cullmansheriff.org or call 256-734-0342.



PHOTOS COURTESY W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



Sheriff Matt Gentry talks about the use of firearms by law enforcement officers as instructor Sgt. David Nunn gets ready to bring students to the line.

Holly Pond's Edgar Orona graduates from U.S. Air Force basic training

U.S. Air Force Reserve Airman First Class Edgar Orona recently graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Orona completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Orona graduated from Holly Pond High School in 2013.

He is the son of Armida Sifuentes of Holly Pond.

He is also the brother of Kiara Orona and Vanessa Orona.

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Bridge (from Front)

and smoke them at school. Now, the tobacco's nothing. Now, it's marijuana."

Many come from single parent families; too many have backgrounds of neglect or abuse. Most come to The Bridge by way of court referral after they've been arrested. Only about 10 percent will enroll in time for the staff to try and prevent run-ins with the law.

Potter said, "A lot of these kids are sexually abused or physically abused; they're neglected. We've got girls in here that have been raped because of drugs.

"We've got young boys here that have been severely beaten and tortured by stepfathers, and the stories would just make you cringe.

"And these kids are here. They're our kids; this is our community, our children. Every single one of them came from this community. They go to all these schools.

"Half our kids here have been suicidal or had suicidal ideations. They're cutters. These kids are not just your typical, normal child that woke up one morning and started using drugs or alcohol. That's why we call it the family disease.

"When I counseled in the jail, I saw over a hundred inmates over there. They were murderers, rapists, baby killers; you name it: the federal inmates, the crazies.

One thing I realized: every single one of those--and I'm not defending them--but every single one of them had a story to tell about their childhood."

All three staffers agreed that, in their experience, kids get most of their abusable substances from a source within their families: beer in the refrigerator, liquor in the cabinet or unsecured prescriptions in the medicine cabinet. In some cases, especially with alcohol and marijuana, relatives in the immediate or extended family intentionally supply the youth.

Potter went on to describe kids who have suffered horrific treatment at the hands of family members, and kids who consistently arrive at the Bridge office hungry, because they do not have enough to eat at home.

Through donated groceries, the staff often feeds its clients, and they participated in the federally-funded summer feeding program at West Elementary School last summer.

"We don't want any kid to come here and be hungry," said Potter.

"Even though we're not in that business to feed them, we've made it our business. We keep chips and snacks back there for them, cookies, peanut butter and jelly. We make sure water is here. Occasionally, we'll do pizza out of our own pocket; of course, that makes their night!"

Not a child problem, but a family problem

Potter explained how The Bridge equips families to help their kids:

"We just started this Family Recovery. The judge is even ordering parents to come to this, if they have a child here. And the reason we have it every Monday from 5 to 6, without the kids--it's just for the parents--they have to understand: it's a family disease, and they need to be aware of what's going on with their child every single minute.

"If your child comes home from school, and they're making Fs, something's wrong, especially if they're capable of making good grades. But parents don't want to face that issue. We've had them tell us, 'Our kids don't use drugs.'"

Burgess added, "It's very despairing for me when the parents are using drugs, or possibly incarcerated, and now they're having issues with their kids.

"And it's like they're going to bring them here for 20 minutes, and we're going to fix everything in 20 minutes."

The Bridge's staff faces occasional discouragement from parents who choose to withdraw their kids from the program early, often because their kids have begun to show improvement and the parents no longer wish to be inconvenienced by the extensive time commitment involved.

In the case of court referrals, early withdrawal from the program is not an option. The 10 percent who do not graduate come from those who voluntarily enrolled, or were enrolled by their parents.

Keeping kids out of jail

"These kids," said Potter, "we don't want them to wind up in the detention center, the Cullman County jail. I don't. I don't want our kids going there, but, unfortunately, that's where some of our kids have gone."

Shadden shared, "We provide them with coping skills, learning boundaries and when to say no and how to say no. We do a relapse prevention plan, so they don't relapse.

"We talk to them about protective factors, like being in the right social support, and also making sure that they have a sense of purpose."

Looking for resources

Potter and her staff take every opportunity to network with others in the area, taking part in community events such as the Cullman County Fair and Relay for Life, and The Bridge also networks actively with a number of area and regional entities for everything from food to assistance with fundraising, from guest speakers to program referrals, and all-important volunteers.

The list includes, among many others:

- Cullman Area Mental Health Authority/Mental Healthcare of Cullman
- Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center START Program
- Cullman County Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Matt Gentry
- Cullman County Department of Human Resources
- County judges: Kim Chaney, Rusty Turner
- Wallace State Community College
- Juvenile probation officers
- Recovering Women's Outreach
- Cullman County Schools
- CCBOE Cullman Area Resource Education Counselor Scott Carpenter
- Good Hope High School Assistant Principal Amy Speegle
- Holly Pond High School Counselor Karen Rowell
- West Elementary School
- Turnaround Counseling
- Tyson Foods
- Panera Bread
- Cracker Barrel
- The Link of Cullman County
- Local ministers

Potter said, "We're nonprofit, so we try and get as much help as we can here, but people don't know about us. The community's just not aware, or they don't want to talk about it."

How you can help

As a nonprofit, The Bridge lives on donations, especially for those things it supplies to its kids. As the Thanksgiving and Christmas season approaches, people who want to help the organization can do so by doing something special for the kids.

Ideas that were presented to The Tribune included:

- Food cards for kids to purchase food at a local grocery store and take home with them
- Gift cards for kids to have a little spending money before Christmas
- Holiday meals
- Pizza parties
- Surprise Christmas stockings stuffed with little treats
- Clothing and shoes
- Coats, sweaters and jackets - many kids don't have one
- Small Christmas trees and decorations - some kids won't have one in their home, otherwise
- Snack food items, water and sodas except energy/sports drinks

The Bridge has vehicles available, and can pick up some bulkier items like Christmas trees.

For parents who are worried about their kids

If parents are concerned about changes in their children's behavior, The Bridge offers free diagnostic services.

According to Potter, "It's nonprofit, absolutely no cost. If you have a child that you think is dabbling in drugs, why wouldn't you want them to come here, just for the assessment, just for a drug screen, just to be sure?

"It's a 30-page state assessment. It's not just getting the substance abuse; we're touching the mental health areas and the abuse, so we're going to know a lot about this kid when they leave here.

"Who wouldn't want to know that about their child?"

To find out more about The Bridge, visit www.bridgeinc.org.

To seek or offer help at the Cullman office, visit them at 402 Arnold St. NE, where they occupy a suite in the same building as Cullman Caring for Kids, or call 256-775-8301, ext. 700.

Obituary Announcements: Sept. 19-21

Betty Joyce Goodson Martin, 86 of Cullman, passed away Friday, September 15, 2017. She is survived by her husband, Thomas C. Martin; daughter, Marla Jo Martin, sisters: Billy Jean Walker & Barbara Jane Scoggins; grandchildren: Rebecca Wells & Stephen Wells; great grandchildren: Chris, Austin, Sommer & Hannah Wells and multiple other family members and friends. The family will announce a celebration of Mrs. Betty's life at a later time.

Christopher "Chris" Allen Turner, 41 of Double Springs, passed away on September 16, 2017. Chris was born on February 14, 1976 in Birmingham. He graduated from Winston County High School in 1995. Chris was a family man. He enjoyed spending time with all his family, especially his children. Graveside services will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. at Double Springs Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Double Springs. Brother Mark Turner will officiate. Burial will be at Double Springs Memorial Gardens Cemetery. He is survived by his wife of almost 18 years, Toni Roberts Turner; parents, Richard Turner and Mary Westlake and her husband Rick; son, Tyler Turner; daughter, Zoey Turner; brother, Jerry Scofield; and nephew, Eric Larsen. He was preceded in death by his brother, Benjamin Turner.

Funeral service for Gail Wise, 80 of Cullman, will be Tuesday, September 19 at 2 p.m. at New Prospect Baptist Church; with interment in the church cemetery. Visitation begins Monday at 6 p.m. at the church. Mrs. Wise passed away on September 16, 2017. She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Francis Abbott and her brother, Donald Abbott. She is survived by her husband, Billy Joe Wise; daughters, Shelia (Elton) Rice and Denice (Chester) McCarn; sons, Bruce Wise and Chris (Lisa) Wise; grandchildren, Aaron (Kristie) McCarn; Kristy (Jason) Myers, Shawn Wise, Summer Hood and Justin Wise; eight great grandchildren and sister-in-law, Judy Abbott.

James Andrew Thompson, 53 of Holly Pond, passed away at his home Saturday, September 16, 2017 surrounded by family and friends. He was born to Thomas A. and Clara Walker Thompson in Marshall County, Alabama. He attended Auburn University, earning a degree in Animal Science and was a member of Auburn Alumni Club, a member of Cullman County School Board 2012 - 2016, and a member of Little Vine Primitive Baptist Church. His occupation was a salesman. He is preceded in death by his father. Survivors are his mother, Clara Walker (Bobby) Graves; wife, Teresa Gail Fortner Thompson, daughters Emily Thompson and Elizabeth Thompson; sister, Andrea (David) Beasley. Funeral service will be 11 a.m. Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel with burial in Brooklyn Cemetery. Victor Quick conducting services. Pall Bearers are Mike James, Mark James, Cody Ratliff, Cecil Patterson, David Beasley, and Caleb Patterson.

Funeral Services for Ingeborg Edith Hankey, 89 of Cullman, will be 1 p.m. Tuesday, September 19, 2017 in the Cullman Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow at East Point Cumberland Cemetery. Cullman Funeral Home directing. Mrs. Hankey was born on February 12, 1928 in Frankfurt Germany to the late Herman & Augusta Kappas Jensen; she passed away at Summerford Nursing Home on Saturday, September 16, 2017. She was a homemaker and farmer; active in the German Club until her health declined. She is preceded in death by her parents and husband, Alvie Charles Hankey. Survivors include her Daughter – Patricia Hankey; Son – Ralph Hankey; 3 – Grandchildren – Matthew (Jennifer) Harris, Clayton Andrew Harris & Kathryn Ann Harris; 4 – Great-Grandchildren – Aubrey Harris, Owen Harris, Damonn Hill & Zayne Hill. The family will receive friends from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Tuesday, September 19 at the funeral home.

Danny "Dan" Leroy Harlan, 73, of Haleyville, entered into rest on September 16, 2017 at Lakeland Community Hospital. Mr. Harlan was born on December 7, 1943, in Arkansas. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home Chapel in Haleyville, where service will follow at 6 p.m. Brother Jerry Albright will officiate. Dan is survived by his wife, Patsy Harlan; sons, Gene Campbell, Danny Harlan, Kerry (Peggy) Harlan, and Patrick (Wendy) Harlan; sisters, Nancey Mareyhew and Janice Jennings. He was "Paw Paw Dan" to 6 grandchildren, Cory, Tiffany, Jill, Clara, Samantha and Owen.

Funeral service for Vera B. Thornton, 90 of Cullman, will be 1 p.m. on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Truman Gable, officiating; burial at Emeus. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Thornton passed away on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at her residence. She was born, June 21, 1927 to Marvin and Bessie Wren Ragsdale. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, Welcome Thornton, daughter, Alma Jane Thornton, son, Carl Wade Thornton, brothers, Hershel Ragsdale, Rev. W.G. Ragsdale, and Roy Ragsdale, sister, Vola Graves. Survivors include her, daughter, Ruby (Truman) Gable, grandchildren, Jeffrey Daniel (Pam) Gable, Lisa Michelle Gable (Brian) Barker, Valerie Beth Gable (Glenn) Goble, Stacie Thornton, Charity (Darrel) Wiggins, and Stephen Thornton, 7 great grandchildren, sisters, Vonnie Grayson and Vaudie Horr, brother, Dwight Ragsdale, and daughter-in-law, Deborah Thornton. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Services for Mr. Rodgers, 68 of Cullman, will be at 2 p.m., Thursday, September 21, 2017 at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel, burial in Crossroads Cemetery. He died September 17, 2017. Visitation will be Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Free Obituary Listings

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

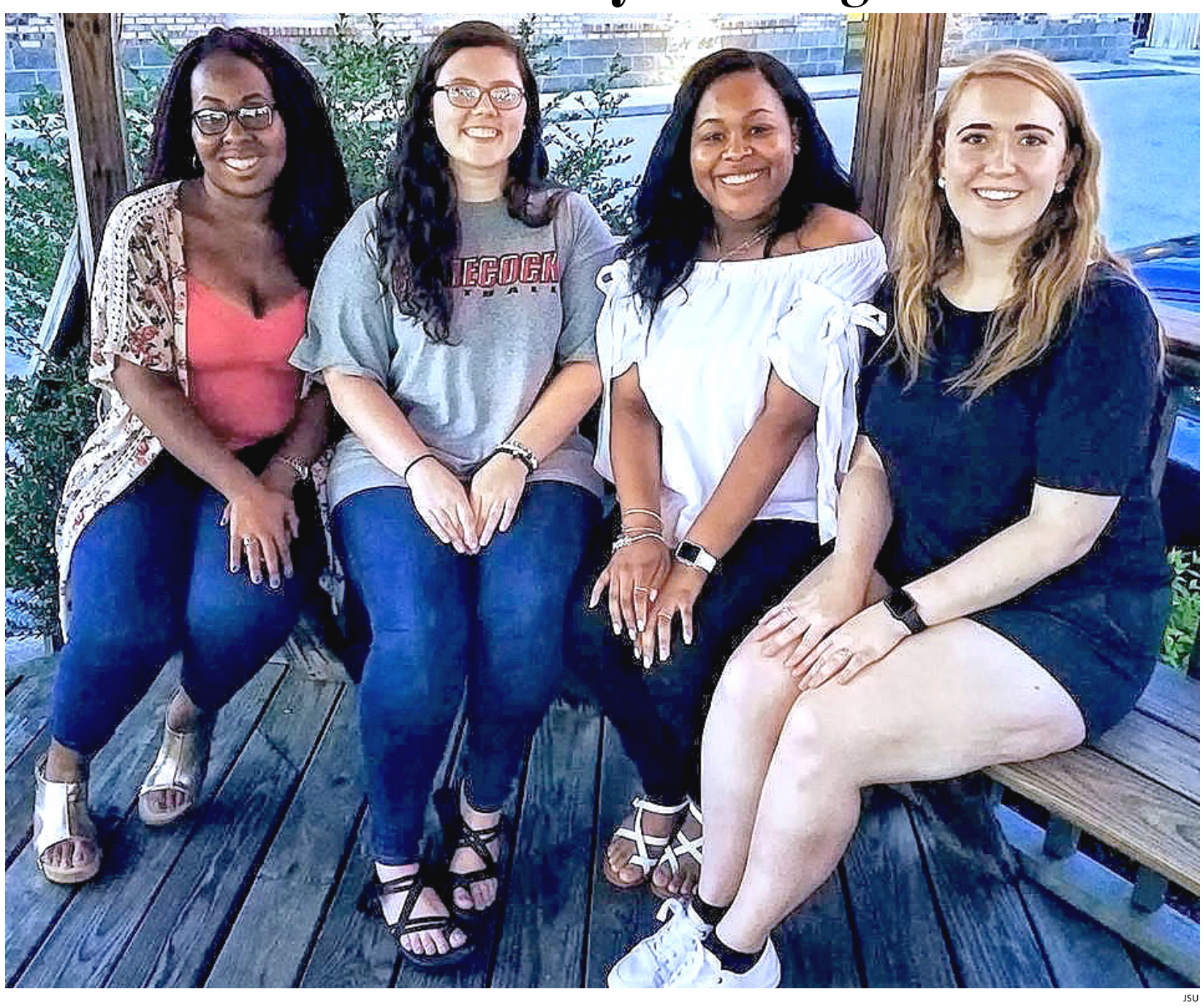
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Vinemont's Natalie Millar wins national honor as president of JSU's National Society of Collegiate Scholars

Buffy Lockette
Jacksonville State University



JSU

Current chapter officers for JSU's chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars are, from left, Destiny Jordan, vice president of social media; Ashlyn Jones, Star Status coordinator; Lillidra McCray, vice president of community service; and Natalie Millar, chapter president.

JACKSONVILLE – Jacksonville State University's chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) recently earned the Bronze Star Status Award for its outstanding achievements in scholarship, leadership and service. For three consecutive years, the JSU chapter has been recognized as a Star Status Chapter.

Natalie Millar of Vinemont is president of the JSU chapter.

"I commend both the student officer board and the advisor for their hard work and commitment in honoring, inspiring and engaging the campus community and student scholars," said Stephen E. Loflin, CEO and founder of NSCS. "Attaining a Star Status level is no easy feat for a full-time undergraduate student and officer. Jacksonville State University should be proud of this accomplishment as we continue to build a national community of first and second-year high achieving scholars."

NSCS chapters can attain one of six Star Status levels for completing a series of activities and programming to include the NSCS New Member Induction Ceremony, March to College Day, Integrity Week, professional development, community service and leadership. Levels include: Bronze, Silver, Gold, Certified Gold, Platinum and Diamond. Each level is determined by the quantity and quality of events a chapter held the previous year.

Based on the ranking, chapters will receive a trophy, additional funds for chapter programs, and a letter to the president of their university to showcase their exceptional work and the impact that they have made on their campus.

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars is an honors organization committed to recognizing and elevating high achievers. NSCS is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies and membership is by invitation only, to eligible first and second-year college students based on a 3.4 grade point average and class standing.

NSCS awards more than a million dollars in scholarships every year.

NSCS offers members exclusive access to scholarships, career resources and leadership and networking opportunities and has more than a million lifetime members and 330 chapters across the country. Learn more about NSCS at www.nscs.org or www.facebook.com/JSUNSCS.

Health fair Sept. 20 at Wallace State

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State Community College will host its third CELEBRATE Adult Health and Wellness Fair on Wednesday, Sept. 20, from 8 a.m. to noon, in the Conference Center of the School of Nursing and Center for Science on the Hanceville campus.

"We are excited to once again offer this free event to area residents in Cullman and surrounding counties," said Amy Burtram, an instructor in Wallace State's Department of Nursing Education and organizer of the event.

"CELEBRATE is a great opportunity for them to get quick check-ups and learn lots of information that will be useful to them every day."

Attendees will be able to get evaluations of the current medications; learn about safe exercises they can do at home, smart driving tips, health eating habits, relaxation techniques, smoking cessation, and how to identify a true emergency situation.

They will receive a booklet to keep track of important information, and meet with law enforcement officers to learn about programs they offer to area residents.

"Many visitors flocked to the Cullman County Sheriff's Office table during our last CELEBRATE event," Burtram said.

"They learned about the Yellow Dot program that helps first responders know where they can find important information about occupants of vehicles that have the yellow dot logo. They also learned about Project Lifesaver, which helps locate residents who wander due to Alzheimer's, autism, dementia or other conditions."

Staff from Cullman Regional will be in attendance giving tests on bone density, blood sugar, etc., while current Nursing students at Wallace State will assist attendees at booths set up in the conference center.

Attendance to CELEBRATE is free and open to the public. For more information, call the Wallace State Department or Nursing Education at 256.352.8199 or Amy Burtram at 256-352-8062.

For more information about Wallace State, visit www.wallacestate.edu.



WSCC (from Front)

12th in the 8K, outlasting Huntingdon College, Miles College and Rust (Miss.) College.

Victor Bravo had Wallace State's best finish for the third consecutive meet this fall, placing 54th overall with a 29:32.08.

Christopher Baker was 68th overall, finishing the race in 30:00.25

Dustin Howell (31:03.58), Jacob Guthrie (32:02.03), Tyler Crowden (33:02.73), Brennan Wink (34:25.03), Morgan Smith (35:57.19) and Andrew Blair (36:14.39) rounded out the field for Wallace State.

On the women's side, Marlena Morales finished 40th overall for Wallace State, clocking in with a 27:04.18 in the 6K.

Wallace State's Taylor Barkley was behind Morales with a 30:12.77.

Sofia Ramos (33:03.01) and Miriam Smith (34:05.24) rounded out the field for Wallace State.

Both teams travel to Jacksonville State on Sept. 30. For more information about Wallace State athletics, visit http://athletics.wallacestate.edu/

Car (from Front)

Forgotten Warriors, talked about the decision to assist the Sherrells.

"We've actually been helping them for about a year, I guess. They've been without a vehicle for quite some time, and being that he had that stroke about a year ago, he's not been able to get back and forth to the hospital without somebody giving him a ride. And they've got two teenage kids that (have) sports games and things like that, that they haven't been able to go to.

"Being able to give them something like this is not only going to benefit them to be able to get them around, but he deserves it. He did his time, he's a great guy. He just hit a rough spot. I couldn't find anybody better to do it."

As the Sherrells prepared to drive off in their new car, Yolanda Sherrell simply offered to all involved, "Thanks! From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!"





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