The Cullman Tribune

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The Crossing: ministering in the face of need



MELISSA HUDSON

Sheila Parker, Director Melissa Hudson, Jan Saylor, Linda Hawkins and Dianna Schmuck.

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CULLMAN – Since 2011, Melissa Hudson has been on a mission to feed and clothe the needy of Cullman County. Right now, she is already in a perfect position to respond to those needs, working out of an office in the Cullman County Department of Human Resources (DHR) building on St. Joseph Street in Cullman, but she has her eyes in even bigger things like a self-sustaining farm that will offer shelter, food and meaningful work for the homeless.

Hudson and a few friends started The Crossing in her home in October 2011, and operated there until 2013, when they received an invitation to come to DHR.

Hudson related, "I came to a meeting here, and at the time the director here said, 'Where's your building? Where's your office?' 'Well, it's in my living room!' So she let us let us have a place here, because they have several different places. They've got the CCC, the Committee on Church Cooperation, that helps with rent and stuff like that, right beside us. So they let us be here when they are, and they don't charge us rent. We get the two days a week, and it's awesome!

"It puts us right here, where a lot of people are in need. I mean, they come in the door for food stamps; the food stamp office refers people to us if they don't qualify, or if they can't get them right then. They say, 'We have a food bank right here that can serve you today.' It helps that struggle that they might have, until they can get approved."

The Crossing is open at the DHR on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Tribune met Hudson there, to talk about what she's doing now, and what she wants to do.

"We are a faith-based organization," said Hudson. "Our goal is to show everyone who comes through the door the love of Jesus. We provide Bibles if they need Bibles; we have the 'Daily Bread' (devotional guides). That is not a requirement, of course. We pray with people; we have several people who come now and specifically ask us to pray with them for what they've got going on.

"What we do that is extremely different, is we set it up where people get to choose. We have on our refrigerators and freezers a list of what we have. Based on what we've had donated, we determine how many we can give you, based on your family size. You get to pick, just like you'd go shopping. When we first started--and we still run into it some, if it's someone new--they would say, 'Just give me whatever you have.' We're like, 'No, we're not going to do it that way. You're going to pick.'

"I never really thought it would be hard for someone to come in and just say, 'I want this and we eat that,' but it seems to be extremely hard, and I think that's because they feel degraded or less than, because they have to ask for help. People come and say, 'Beggars can't be choosers,' and we tell them, 'That word is not allowed. We don't talk like that. We all, at some time in our life, need help. This is your time, and we're here to help you.'

"We provide food and clothes to anyone that says that they're in need. We do have a check sheet that we get from the food bank, that has guidelines as far as income and stuff like that. But we also have a catch-all, that if you need food and you don't necessarily fit into that, we can still serve you; because if you come to me and say you're hungry, we're going to make sure you get to eat."

With an open-door policy like that, one might think The Crossing is a pushover for people wanting to take advantage of the system, but while generous, its staff is not gullible. The group is actually part of an organized community effort to reduce duplication and prevent fraud.

Hudson explained, "We keep our records on Charity Tracker, something The Link brought in; it's a computer software program that links all of our nonprofits that sign up to it. We keep all our information there. That way, it's available to everyone else that's on Charity Tracker, so they can see who we see and how we serve them and how we help them. It kind of helps to hopefully keep down any fraud that there might be, or abuse of the system."

The Crossing has a staff of five regular volunteers: Hudson, Jan Saylor, Linda Hawkins, Dianna Schmuck and Sheila Parker. A registered nonprofit, its work is overseen by a five-member board consisting of Hudson, Stephanie Kenney, Kerry Hanvey, Sherry Tabor and Lisa Jones. The organization serves an average of 33 to 34 families per day, with occasional spikes of up to 40. That

» PAGE 3

Citizens' Academy graduation Tuesday; U.S. Attorney Jay E. Town to speak

Academy's last class session dove into the worst of the worst crimes



CONTRIBUTED

U.S. Attorney Jay E. Town

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CULLMAN – The latest class of the Cullman County Sheriff's Office Citizens' Academy will graduate on Tuesday, Oct. 24 at Temple Baptist Church (30 County Road 1184, Cullman) at 6 p.m. The guest speaker will be newly-appointed U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama, Jay E. Town.

"We are glad that Mr. Town is coming to Cullman County and we look forward to having him. He has a long career as being tough on crime," said Sheriff Matt Gentry.

The group's last class

Last Tuesday night, the citizens' academy had its last class session; the group concluded by visiting some of the darkest corners of the world of law enforcement, with presentations on violent crime, crimes against children, and the investigation of suspicious deaths.

Violent crimes

CCSO Lt. Phillip Bray, an Army veteran who took part in the investigation of the 9/11 attack on the United States Pentagon, spoke first about the classifications of violent crime, including:

• Domestic Violence - a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship, that is used by one partner against another partner to maintain control: physical, sexual, emotional, economic, psychological, threatening, stalking and cyber-stalking

» PAGE 7

Foxgloves & Fireflies: Decorating for fall, y'all!

Loretta Gillespie
Tribune Correspondent

The weather has finally taken a small turn toward autumn, and with the slightly cooler temps come the changing of the leaves. That's always a sure sign that pumpkins and mums will appear along the streets and country roads in Cullman County.

Bright cheerful colors make people feel good. They elevate our moods and sometimes, depending on what the colors are, actually stimulate our appetites. Just think for a moment of the color of just about every fast food chain sign you've ever seen, red, yellow, and orange, right? A lot of science went into determining that those colors would entice people to stop for a meal. The same holds true in our homes, and on our porches.

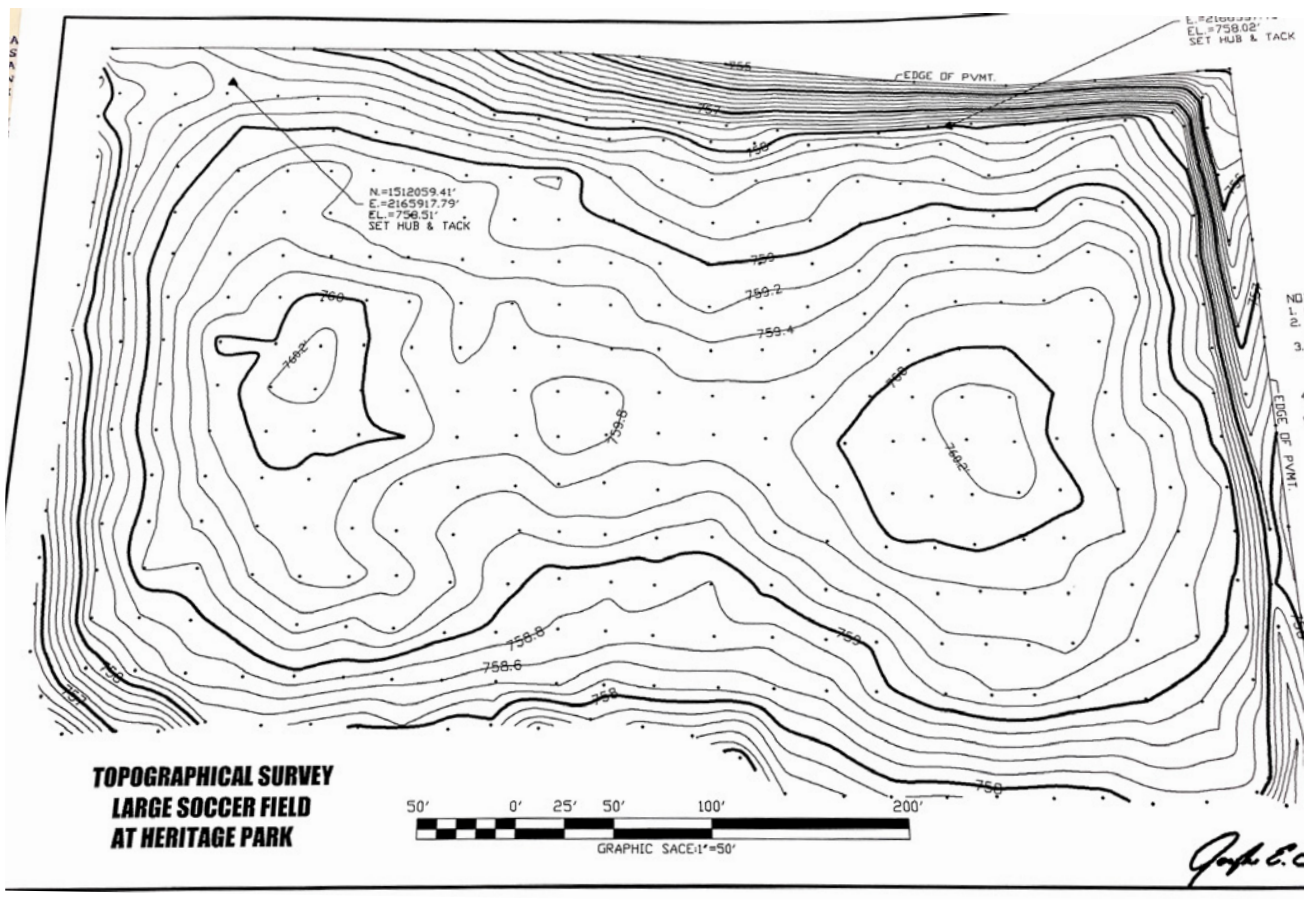
Putting out orange pumpkins, clusters of yellow leaves, muli-colored flags and scarecrows dressed in bright colors all combine to welcome friends and neighbors, and to attract the eyes of passersby, indicating that we are ready for fall's round of holidays, Halloween, then Thanksgiving.

If you are entertaining this season and looking around for some inexpensive ideas to liven up your steps, or add a punch to your vignettes, you don't have to look any further than your sewing basket. Use yarn and ribbon in seasonal colors, tied in ribbons or shaped into spiral streamers to add to wreaths and swags for your door. Tie some thin ribbon around the stems of your pumpkins or even around y o u r

» PAGE 5



LORETTA GILLESPIE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



CP&R

Shown is a current topographical map of the large soccer field at Heritage Park, showing what Cullman Parks and Recreation discovered: "We pulled our records from the early 90s and we were surprised to see that the sites were graded for two large championship fields with two crowns and the center being a low drainage site for the two fields," said CP&R Executive Director Nathan Anderson...."Rock the South's setup, their delay tower, heavy equipment and foot traffic (were) in an area that was a drain site for the two large fields on each end."

CP&R planning drainage redesigns for Heritage Park fields, other areas

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – It's been five months since Rock the South was held at Heritage Park, where the combination of the crowds, heavy equipment, rain and the drainage design of the soccer fields led to a lot of damage to the playing surfaces.

The damage that was done to the fields caused Cullman Parks and Recreation (CP&R) to begin to look not only into repairs, but also what steps it could take to better maintain the fields in the future. CP&R Executive Director Nathan Anderson has been working on a plan for the fields and the park's drainage system after looking into the park's original designs.

Anderson said he's happy that this research has actually shed light on a need to redesign the fields for the amount of people who use it today.

"Following Rock the South this year and the damage that we experienced on the fields due to the rain and the heavy traffic, it caused us to look at our topography of the fields as they are today and compare it to the topography of the original design.

"We pulled our records from the early 90s and we were surprised to see that the sites were graded for two large championship fields with two crowns and the center being a low drainage site for the two fields," Anderson said. "What that means is we play with our AYSO (Alabama Youth Soccer Organization) soccer league (on) two large fields in an area of the field that is a wetland; it's a drain site. Considering Rock the South's setup, their delay tower, heavy equipment and foot traffic (were) in an area that was a drain site for the two large fields on each end.

"The two areas that were graded to be playing sites were actually resilient during the event. They were the sites that bounced back quickest and the sites we got the least complaints about. So, this event, the rain event and the damage experienced during Rock the South, has actually spotlighted a big need that we have to re-grade the fields completely."

Anderson and his team have been working with engineers on a plan for how they want to update the fields and make them more resilient to this kind of damage in the future.

"We are working with the civil engineers at St. John and Associates on a redesign of these fields. We are looking at raising the center of this field up over a foot and a half. We will have all the drainage of the field going to the perimeters of this large field; nothing will drain into the interior of the field," said Anderson.

"So during a larger festival or when we have larger crowds on these fields, they will be far more resilient if we have another rain event like we had this past year.

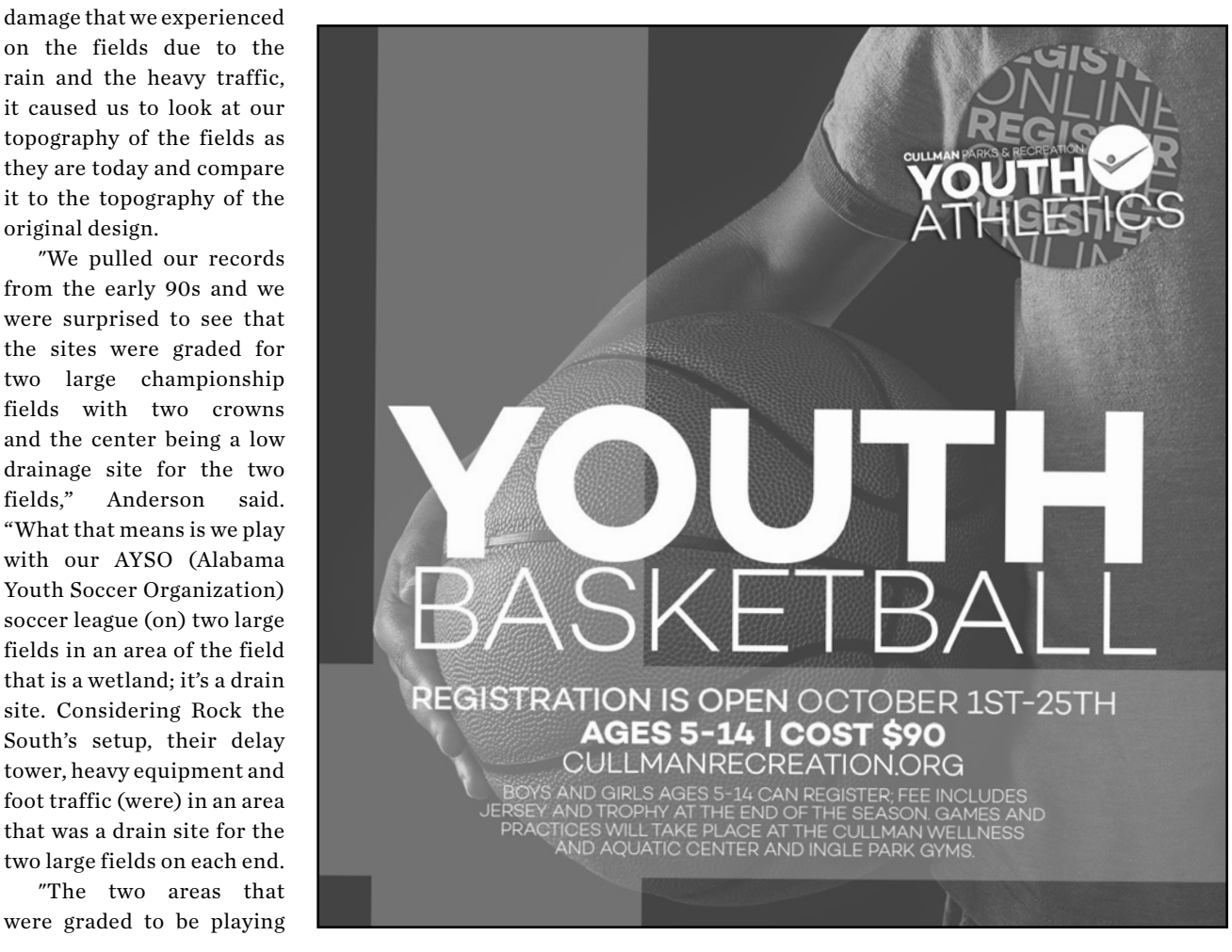
"As far as playing soccer, the design will make (the fields) easier to play on in light rain situations and in a heavy rain situation they'll drain much quicker and get the players back on the field faster. So this is something that really revealed to us that we need to redo these fields. We are currently going through design work and engineering work to redesign these large fields."

Anderson said he's also taking this opportunity to address other drainage issues in the park around walking trails and other fields.

"We also have other drainage issues. If you're familiar with the park then you are well aware of issues with drainage all over this park like around the back of Field 3, in the nature trail area around the gardens.

"On the west side of some of the soccer fields, we have trail erosion and all of that is poor drainage, so between now and the time we address these soccer fields, we'll be working on these drainage issues because we can force the water off the fields but something has to happen to the water when its off the field so we will fix those areas first and be ready with a game plan the minute the season is friendly and conducive to grass growth."

Anderson said he is optimistic that CP&R can get started with the redesign next summer when it will be much easier to plant and grow grass quickly on the fields. He said he's confident that these changes will improve the park for the long term and make it better suited for all types of events, whether it's a festival or youth sports.



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 motor vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80, as per Legislative Act 2015-470:

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Gov. Ivey presents $2.3 million grant for Wallace State-Oneonta campus at groundbreaking

Russell Moore
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Pictured L-R: Congressman Gary Palmer, Wallace State President Vicki Karolewics, Governor Kay Ivey, Mayor of Oneonta Ross Norris, Oneonta City Manager Ed Lowe, Alabama Community College System Chancellor Jimmy Baker, Blount County Economic Development Council Executive Director Don Mitchell (Governor's Office, Hal Yeager).

ONEONTA – Wallace State Community College, the City of Oneonta and Blount County celebrated the groundbreaking for a new 20,000-foot Wallace State-Oneonta facility on Thursday. Oneonta Mayor Ross Norris welcomed Governor Kay Ivey to the event, during which she presented a grant for $2.3 million for the project.

"This is a great day for Alabama," said Governor Ivey. "By 2020, 62 percent of all the jobs in Alabama will require a postsecondary degree or certificate. Today, only 37 percent of our workforce have such a credential. Today, we celebrate a commitment to educate future generations...and I am especially proud to begin this project in rural Alabama," she said.

By some estimates, the grant announced Thursday was the largest single grant ever given to Blount County. "There is nothing that benefits a community more than higher education," said Mayor Ross Norris. "It is a game changer. This grant, and this facility, bring new energy to our community, and will generate economic development for years to come." City Manager Ed Lowe has called the project "an economic miracle" for Oneonta, contributing to revitalization downtown and increased traffic from students and out-of-town visitors, with a measurable increase in sales tax collections. Having a college in Oneonta will attract new investment, he said, and "our existing industries are also seeing an advantage from having workforce development locally."

"What an absolute pleasure it is to arrive at this day, the culmination of five years of planning," said Wallace State President Vicki Karolewics. "Wallace State is indeed honored to call Oneonta home, and to work hand in hand with City of Oneonta and Blount County representatives to expand workforce and economic development." The education and training provided through Wallace State's new Oneonta facility "will lead to generational change and prosperity for Alabama," Dr. Karolewics said. "I am grateful to have a Governor who understands the needs of rural Alabama."

Wallace State's enrollment at its Oneonta Center, having served more than 640 students to date, is growing at a pace that exceeded expectations. In addition to associate degree academic transfer programs of study, a new welding program in Oneonta is already anticipating the need to expand due to demand. Dr. Karolewics also announced two new programs. An Apple App Development program, the result of a partnership between Apple and the Alabama Community College System, will begin next year. And, through a state partnership with the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC) announced recently by Governor Ivey, Wallace State as part of an Alabama Community Colleges System initiative, will begin offering Certified Production Technician (CPT), Certified Logistics Associate (CLA) and Certified Logistics Technician (CLT) training in January. Courses in Engineering Technology and Emergency Management Services have already begun and Visual Communications will be added soon. A Vet Tech program is also being considered.

"If you had to pick a president to help you along the way and to achieve what you must achieve, you couldn't have picked a better one," said Alabama Community College System Chancellor Jimmy Baker, referring to Dr. Karolewics. "My only regret is that I can't clone her."

Baker thanked Governor Ivey for her support of education. "It makes a difference when you work every day in education to know that she goes to work every day committed to education," he said.

The new Wallace State-Oneonta facility is expected to open in Spring 2019, and will house the college's academic programs. The existing facility, located at 728 2nd Avenue SE in Oneonta, was intended to be a temporary location when it opened last year. However, with faster than expected growth and increasing demand for services, the college now expects to turn that facility into a career training facility for health and applied technologies programs.

Priority registration for spring semester will begin November 13. For more information about Wallace State, visit www.wallacestate.edu.

Crossing (from Front)

translates into more than 260 area families per month.

"We do it by the household," said Hudson "and we always check their address. We serve them based on how many people are there."

The Crossing's staff appreciates being face-to-face with needs in the DHR building, but it does limit the ministries it can offer. For that reason, it is looking to move its base of operations to a place of its own.

"Our goal is to have a place where we can serve an actual hot meal," Hudson shared. "I'd like to do it regular, at least once a week, but first, we've got to have a kitchen. The stuff we pick up sometimes, if it won't last till Tuesday--we pick up on the weekend--we could prepare, if we could prepare it right then, and feed it to people.

"We would like to have a place where people can eat, people could take a shower, and someday a place where, if you're homeless--I know that's not always well-received--but we'd like a place for that. We figure people could get employed if they're clean and if they're fed, where they can think, I think that would help.

"And the place that we have in mind, God showed me this place right after I started. It's on Highway 31, and has 19 acres. We think there could be room there, maybe, to garden, and have the people we serve actually volunteer their time to work it.

"I've talked to the owners, and we're trying to negotiate a way we could actually go ahead and possess it and start preparing it, because it's just a field.

"We have a vision of being able to put a homeless shelter, because it's kind of off the road where they would be safe, and be protected as well.

"I go to the jail on Fridays with people from my church and Awakening the Bride, and we also would like to incorporate that, where the work release has a place to come work: help us work the gardens and things like that--try to help people learn to do better, kind of disciple them, and help them get out of poverty."

The Crossing is planning a meal in early December, to serve its clients between the community meals that usually take place right around Thanksgiving and Christmas.

They are looking for a good place to hold the event, and will gladly accept donations of food or money to help put it on.

On a regular basis, the organization goes rapidly through certain items, and often runs short of hygiene products and kits, canned foods and other non-perishables, diabetic-friendly low- or no-sugar food, dessert, and snack items and coffee.

The Crossing is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All donations are tax-deductible, and the staff is working on a webpage that will allow online giving. In the meantime, visit www.facebook.com/TheCrossingCullman.

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OCTOBER 24, 2017

Teams slug it out to advance to next week's youth football championships

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent

FAIRVIEW – The semifinal round of the Cullman County Youth Football playoffs was held at Dafford Smith Stadium in Fairview Saturday, featuring six matchups to determine who would advance to the Fireplug, Wee Wee and Pee Wee championship games next weekend.

Fireplugs

The Good Hope Outlaws and the Cullman Cyclones got things started in the Fireplug division.

In a hard-fought game, the Outlaws' defense managed to shut out the Cyclones, and the Outlaws came away with a 16-0 win.

Up next were the Cullman Bearcats and the Good Hope Raiders. In a defensive struggle, the Bearcats were able to hold the Raiders at bay for an 8-0 victory.

The Bearcats will face off against the Outlaws back at Dafford Smith on Saturday, Oct. 28 for the Fireplug championship game.

Wee Wee

First up for the Wee Wee division was a matchup between the Cullman Cyclones and the Good Hope Outlaws.

The Cyclones' offense took advantage of some explosive running plays and turnovers to pull away from the Outlaws for a 16-6 victory.

Wrapping up the Wee Wee games were the Fairview Aggies and the Vinemont Eagles. The game was physical and competitive deep into the fourth quarter but in the end, it was the Aggies that came away with the 14-6 win.

The Fairview Aggies advance to next week's championship game against the Cullman Cyclones.

Pee Wee

The Cullman Bearcats came away with a dramatic victory in game one of Saturday's Pee Wee matchups in a low-scoring battle.

The Bearcats defeated the Fairview Aggies 12-6 thanks to a stingy defensive performance and a handful of explosive passing plays.

Fairview scored late in the third quarter to cut the lead to 12-6, but the Bearcats came up with a big defensive stop as time expired to put the game away.

In the other Pee Wee showdown on Saturday, the Cullman Cyclones took on the Hanceville Bulldogs to see who would advance.

The Cyclones' offense and defense dominated the matchup on their way to a 20-0 win that will take them to next Saturday's Pee Wee championship game against the Cullman Bearcats.

All three championship games will be played at Dafford Smith Stadium in Fairview starting at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 28.



Fireplug Outlaws vs. Cyclones



Fireplug Raiders vs. Bearcats



Peewee Bearcats vs. Aggies



Peewee Cyclones vs. Hanceville



Weewee Fairview vs. Vinemont



PHOTOS COURTESY NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Weewee Outlaws vs. Cyclones

Gourd art: 19th annual Alabama Gourd Festival wraps at civic center

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

CULLMAN – The 19th annual Alabama Gourd Festival has come and gone, with hundreds of artists and fans gathering at the Cullman Civic Center from all over the state (plus a few other states and countries!) to shop, compete with their peers and learn some new techniques.

Dozens of vendors and booths were set up in the civic center for fans and shoppers to admire the artwork and buy gifts and decorations, as Halloween and Christmas quickly approach. There were also hourly demonstrations and lessons to help artists improve their own work.

Pam Montgomery was the festival's show chair for the 11th consecutive year and said she has seen the crowds steadily grow as more participants come in from all over the country.

"We're ahead this year from last year. Our attendance had been dropping a little bit but we're on the increase again and this year we have vendors from 10 different states; people come from all over," Montgomery said. "We've got people here taking classes from Kansas, Idaho and Ohio, so I mean people really travel for the show."

Montgomery didn't even want to try to guess how many gourds the show goes through and has on display for the annual festival but said she knows the number is in the thousands. She said social media has been a tremendous help in helping the festival grow and is starting to bring in bigger crowds. The president of the Alabama Gourd Society, Mack Gothard, was also very pleased with this year's turnout and said he is excited to share the culture with a lot of new faces.

"There are a lot of people that work on gourds, and that's our goal is to bring them in and find out more about them and the work they do. Whatever you can do in artwork you can do on a gourd; what I love about it is you don't have to frame it. On canvas you have to pay a lot of money to frame it so it's amazing what you can do with a gourd," Gothard said. "People (come) from all over, and every year people see new ideas and they go back home and try it themselves, so this is like an experiment; it's a learning experience and that's what our purpose is, to promote the gourd and the craftsmanship in a gourd."

Gothard said people participated in the festival this year not just from the United States, other countries as well, as the event continues to grow in popularity.

"Yesterday we had two people from Canada come through, we had two from Australia come in, we have people from all over the place. Our vendors come from Ohio, California and even New Hampshire, so we cover the whole United States. Last year we had an increase of over 200 people and our attendance Saturday was over 760 for one day in Cullman, and next year we're going to try out a Friday and Saturday setup to see if we can get that number even bigger," he said.

This year, there was a sign in front of the civic center that read, "Save a pumpkin, buy a gourd." Gothard said he doesn't know that the gourd can completely defeat the pumpkin tradition on Halloween, but said a pumpkin will be gone next year while a gourd will last.

"Well we'll never replace the pumpkin on Halloween, but the thing about it is, your pumpkin is going to be gone, a gourd's going to last, so if you painted it up like a pumpkin for Halloween it's going to be there next year too."

The Alabama Gourd Festival will be held at the Cullman Civic Center for the next three years on the third weekend of October. Next year will be the 20th anniversary. To find out more about the Alabama Gourd Society, visit www.alabamagourdsociety.org.

Fall (from Front)

flower pots to give them a shot of color.

Autumn leaves in a wooden bowl are an inexpensive way to add color to a coffee table or a buffet.

If you can find Osage oranges along country roads there are several ways of incorporating them into your fall arrangements. Think tall clear vases filled with these chartreuse orbs. When water is added to the vase the Osage oranges just look bigger and better.

Tie a plaid ribbon in complimentary colors and you have a very eye-catching centerpiece. Add some votive candles at the base and it just intensifies the dramatic look of these found objects and it didn't cost you a penny!

Stacking pumpkins has become a very popular way to display these familiar fall symbols of the year's bountiful harvest. The unusual shapes and colors that have been developed make this an even more attractive way of showcasing your entrance or tablescape.

You can even have an all neutral color scheme these days, with lovely white or cream colored Cinderella pumpkins, which last a very long time, even on into the Christmas holidays. If the color starts to turn, just spray paint them in your favorite shade and incorporate them into your holiday décor.

You imagination can spark all kinds of vividly colored and accented arrangements for your gate or the entrance to your home. The branches of Bradford pears should soon be turning the most marvelous shades of maroon and magenta. Use these common elements to fill vases and urns, or to tuck between the pumpkins in your stack. Any colorful leaves will work for this.

You can even use your wardrobe to inspire your décor.

Get out those bright fall scarves and throws and let these crisp days and cool nights inspire you to tuck them under your centerpiece, around your lanterns, and under your indoor pumpkin displays. This will also give you another textural element, which always adds interest to any arrangement.

Now, you are all set for visitors! All you need is the food! Watch this space in the coming weeks for some new holiday recipes.

Happy fall, y'all!

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THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
OCTOBER 24, 2017

Wallace State recognizes Phi Theta Kappa fall inductees

Russell Moore
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society recently welcomed new members during its annual fall induction ceremony.

Phi Theta Kappa is the college's honor society, and Wallace State students are eligible for consideration if they maintain a 3.5 GPA for 12 or more credit hours the previous semester.

New Wallace State inductees to the honor society are:

- Addison: Zeb Maze
- Altoona: Oscar Cartagena, Jennifer Payne
- Arab: McKenzie Buie, Dana Lawrence
- Attalla: Tasha Garrison
- Birmingham: Shannon Manthey
- Blountsville: Peyton Dean, Christian Fallin, Anna Smith
- Bremen: Logan Burgess
- Cleveland: Megan Jordan
- Cordova: Morgan Cates
- Crane Hill: Taylor Urech
- Cullman: Kayla Aleman, Heather Campbell, Jessica Collins, Brandee Holaway, Hali Marran, Lauren Marran, Michelle Meeks, Chandler Nunn, Karli Posey, Kolby Robinson, Kana Schofield, Cierra Smith, Audriana Suarez
- Dayton, Tenn.: Morgan Carter
- Deatsville: James Henry
- Empire: Zoe Moon
- Gardendale: Mary Granade, Barbara McMillan
- Glencoe: Angela Ramiscal
- Guntersville: Aundrea Light
- Hartselle: Garrett Johnson, Savannah Lemmons
- Hayden: Christopher Jennings, Hannah LaFavor
- Hanceville: Norma De Aguinaga Garcia, Summer Hollis Higgins, Abigail Long, Julianna Ogle, Hannah Sumner, Charles White, Erin Wise
- Holly Pond: Sheila Howe Homan
- Huntsville: Kristen Artis
- Logan: Tanner Rusk
- Livingston: Tempie Ennis
- Morris: Lisa Spencer
- Oneonta: Joel Bostrom, Tyler Cardwell, Kara Cornelius, Aaron Mejia, Rhonda Teal
- Nauvoo: Makeala Mote
- Pinson: Justin Baxley, William Hubbard, Cheryl Reese, Mariah Rushing
- Trafford: Kendall Roberts
- Trinity: Maleah Fuller



WSCC

Wallace State recognized 64 new inductees at its Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society ceremony this month.

- Warrior: Erika Cork, Cassie Lawrence

Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in American higher education with 1,285 chapters on two year and community college campuses in all 50 states and in Canada, Germany, Peru and other select republics or territories. More than 2.5 million students have been inducted into Phi Theta Kappa since its founding in 1918, with approximately 135,000 students inducted annually.

For more about WSCC, visit www.wallacestate.edu.

Obituary Announcements: Oct. 24 - Nov. 4

Ella Mae Hale, 68, of Gardendale, died Wednesday, October 18, 2017. She was preceded in death by her parents, Lelton and Venetia Hauk Hale; 10 uncles and seven aunts. Ella Mae is survived by an uncle, four aunts and numerous other family members and friends. She will be remembered for her love of country, church and Alabama football. Most of her life she willingly shared her gift of singing to bless and encourage others. She sang twenty-nine years in the Birmingham Concert Choral, Over the Mountain Festival Choir, Alabama Civic Choral and even organized a group, Ell Mae's Ensemble which sang at South Rehab Ctr. She never met a stranger and always had to take their picture. All will miss her. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Blessed Sacrament Church, Birmingham; Sacred Heart Church, Cullman; or St. Bernard, Cullman. Visitation will be Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at Sacred Heart Church from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. with a Rosary at 7:30 p.m. The Funeral Mass will be Wednesday, October 25 at 10 a.m. Interment will follow at the Catholic Cemetery. Father Patrick Eagan O.S.B. officiating.

Funeral services for Shirley Butts, 75, of Hanceville are Tuesday, October 24 at 2 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home; with interment in Hopewell Cemetery. Visitation on Monday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Mrs. Butts passed away on Saturday, October 21, 2017. She was preceded in death by her parents, Clyde Yates and Lucille VonHeber Yates; her husband, Rayford Dale Butts and daughter, Robin Duke. She is survived by her children, Rocky (Teresa) Butts, Dale Paul (LaTasha) Butts, Vickie Renae Irvin (Steve McCowen) and Ronda Ann Persall; ten grandchildren; fifteen great grandchildren; sisters, Hazel Scott and Tava Weise and special wingman, Hobert Butts.

Graveside services for Mark Dennis Tilley will be Wednesday, October 25, 2017, at Cullman City Cemetery. Bro. James Abbott is officiating. Mr. Tilley passed away Thursday October 19, at his residence. He was born April 5, 1975 to Dennis D. and Sandra Jones Tilley. He is preceded in death by his parents, grandfather Dwight Tilley, grandfather Merle Jones, uncle Kelly Smith and uncle Byron Jones. He is survived by a half-brother, Paul (Robin) Bryant, grandmother Faye Tilley, grandmother Marjorie Jones, aunt Donna (Dale) Mayo, aunt Cynthia Smith, uncle Stanley Jones, uncle Gary Jones, and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Funeral services for Wayne E. Clay, 73, are Wednesday, October 25 at 2 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home; with interment in Hopewell Cemetery. Visitation on Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. Mr. Clay passed away on Sunday, October 22, 2017. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jesse and Leona Reed Clay; his wife, Janice Clay and sister, Patsy Rivers. He is survived by his children, Teri (Heath) Albright, Kevin Clay and Shane (Corrie) Clay; grandchildren, Kaitlin Albright, Canaan Clay and Judah Clay and brother, Jim (Gwen) Clay.

Steven Douglas Hightower, 55, of Bear Creek, entered into rest on October 22, 2017 at his home. Mr. Hightower was born on November 21. 1961, in Haleyville, Alabama. Steven served in the United States Army from 1983 to 1989. He graduated from Phillips High School and was a lifelong member of Antioch Baptist Church. Steven enjoyed hunting for arrowheads and artifacts. The family will receive friends on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 from 3-4pm at Bobby Bishop Community Center in Bear Creek with a memorial service to follow at 4pm. Brother Jeff Whitten will officiate. Steven is survived by his son, Chris Hightower and his wife Autumn; mother, Yvonne Hightower; sister, Pam Ricketts and her husband Art; nephews, Brandon and Colton Ricketts. He was "Pawpaw" to a grandson, Jackson Hightower and a granddaughter, who is arriving in February, Maci Cate Hightower. He was preceded in death by his father, Cuethal Asa Hightower.

Funeral Service for William "Ray" Gerstman, age 80 of Vinemont, will be at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home Chapel on Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 1 p.m. with Charles Sinyard officiating. Burial will follow at Rock Springs Cemetery in Blountsville, AL. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Gerstman passed away on Monday, October 23, 2017 at the Cullman Folsom Center. He was born September 6, 1937 in Cullman, AL to William Melvin Gerstman and Mary Emma Gerstman. He is preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his Wife, Mary Jo Gerstman, Sons; Michael Ray (Angie) Gerstman, Billy Joe Gerstman, and William Dale Gerstman, Daughter; Frances Jennette Smith, Step-Sons; Anthony (Debbie) Morris, Tommy (Marsha) Morris, Sisters; Mary Frances Williams and Carolyn Hancock, Brothers; Julian (Margie) Gerstman, Ronald (Margie) Gerstman; 13 Grandchildren and 12 Great-Grandchildren. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Visitation for Levi Wade III, 19, of Colony will be held Thursday October 26, 2017 at Hanceville Funeral Home from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. No services are planned at this time. Levi passed away on Friday, October 20, 2017 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. Survivors include his dad, Levi Wade, Jr.; his mother, Leigh Green; brothers, Presston Eddy and Brandon D. Johnson; sister, Alexis D. Green; God sister, Kilee Jade Scott; aunts: Danielle Green, Ashley Green, Ariana Green, Alea Green, Peaches Green and Ruthie Jean Dunn; uncles, Daniel Green and Paul Dunn; and special friend, Starisha Chatman.

Memorial service for Michael Culver, 60 of Cullman will be at 1 p.m., Saturday, November 4th at Harmony Church in Moulton. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Culver passed away October 21, 2017.

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ARTS

'FIFTEEN MINUTES' exhibition extended through Nov. 18

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – The Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State Community College is pleased to announce the "FIFTEEN MINUTES: Homage to Andy Warhol" exhibition is being extended through Nov. 18. The museum opened the exhibition in late August and has welcomed a steady stream of students and visitors who have enjoyed the experience of learning about Warhol and his lasting impact on art and culture.

A recent open house held by the museum featured a lecture by Warhol expert Seth Hopkins, director of the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, Ga. The Booth Western Art Museum loaned two large Warhol prints for the exhibition. Though most well-known for his work with celebrities, Warhol was an avid collector of Western art and memorabilia, and produced a series of works relating to the West and Western culture.

The "FIFTEEN MINUTES" exhibition, which includes reflections on the legacy of Andy Warhol, was curated and produced by conceptual artist Jeff Gordon and painter Path Soong.

It features both audio and visual artistry in its collection of silkscreen prints and original recordings.

The audio works range from spoken word to music and sound created by a diverse roster of artists, writers and performers who knew, worked with or were inspired by Andy Warhol.

Complementing "FIFTEEN MINUTES" are 15 examples of Warhol's artwork on loan from the Abroms-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the Huntsville Museum of Art, and the Booth Western Art Museum.

For more information about the exhibit or The Evelyn Burrow Museum, call the museum at 256-352-8457 or visit www.burrow-museum.org.

The Evelyn Burrow Museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.



WSCC

Seth Hopkins, director of the Booth Western Art Museum, speaks at an open house for the FIFTEEN MINUTES: Homage to Andy Warhol exhibition at The Evelyn Burrow Museum at Wallace State Community College.

Free diabetes screening at Cullman Regional Nov. 9

Cullman Regional
Contributor

CULLMAN – In recognition of National Diabetes Month, Cullman Regional is offering a free diabetes prevention screening to the community on Nov. 9. Visits are by appointment only.

According to the American Diabetes Association, 1.5 million Americans are diagnosed with diabetes every year.

You can prevent or delay Type 2 diabetes by staying at a healthy weight, eating well and being active. Cullman Regional's screening offers the opportunity to see if you are at risk for diabetes, as well as other cardiovascular diseases.

Screenings include the following for all participants at no charge:

1. Lipid Panel (Cholesterol and Glucose for diabetes)
2. Body Mass Index (Diet)
3. EKG (Electrocardiogram) – Checks heart rhythms and can determine if there is a potential issue
4. Blood Pressure Check
5. ABI Screening
6. Bone Density Screening

"The goal of these screenings is to help community members identify any potential risk factors they may have in order to reduce their risk for diabetes," said Lindsey Dossey, executive director marketing & community outreach at Cullman Regional.

"We want to help our community catch potential risks and get them under control before it becomes an emergency."

Are you at risk for diabetes? Is your blood sugar too high or too low? Does your family have a history of diabetes? If so, call to schedule your appointment today at 256-735-5600.

The screenings will take place in the Colonel Cullmann Room in Cullman Regional's Professional Office Building 2 (1912 Alabama Highway 157, Cullman, AL 35058).

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

Academy (from Front)

• Sex Crimes - including first-degree rape (forcible compulsion, or against a victim incapable of consent), second-degree rape (statutory), sexual misconduct (without consent but not by force), sexual torture, sex abuse

• Robbery - including first-degree (involving a weapon or serious injury to the victim), second-degree (with help from an accomplice), and third-degree (taking by unarmed force)

• Homicide - causing the death of another person, including criminally negligent homicide (avoidable accident or DUI), manslaughter (reckless behavior, or killing in the "heat of passion"), and murder (intent to kill, or caused by "extreme indifference to human life")

Crimes against children

CCSO Investigator Bethany Shaddrix addressed the class about crimes against children. After a brief presentation about the stark realities of child abuse and neglect, she offered advice about dealing with suspected victims:

Remain calm/don't overreact; Always believe the child; Don't promise the child anything that you can't control; Reassure and support the child; Report the matter to law enforcement or DHR; Take the child to the hospital, if needed; Don't press the child to talk; Ask open-ended questions; Don't blame the child

Shaddrix noted that the vast majority of crimes against children are committed by someone the child knows well.

Criminal investigations

Bray returned to walk students through the tasks of investigating crimes, debunking a few myths created by crimes scene investigation television shows and explaining how investigators actually process crime scenes. He covered the various means by which evidence is gathered, and how that evidence is examined.

Afterward, Bray led the students through three case studies from CCSO's own files. He told the stories of three area murder victims, and explained how their killers were brought to justice, including displays of crime scene diagrams and investigators' photographs.

The investigators offered a few resources for victims of crime:

• National Domestic Abuse Hotline - 1-800-79-SAFE, 1-800-787-3224 (TTY), www.ndvh.org

• Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network - 1-800-656-HOPE, www.rainn.org

• National Sexual Violence Resource Center - 1-877-739-3895, www.nsvrc.org

• National Center for Victims of Crime, Stalking Resource Center - 1-800-394-2255, 1-800-211-7996 (TTY), www.ncvc.org

• National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline - 1-866-331-9474, 1-866-331-8453, www.loveisrespect.org

More about this Tuesday's guest speaker, Jay E. Town

Town is the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama. He was one of the first three U.S. attorneys nominated by President Donald J. Trump. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on Aug. 3, 2017.

Town, a former judge advocate in the U.S. Marine Corps, was a prosecutor in the Madison County District Attorney's Office from 2005, when he moved to Huntsville, until his confirmation as U.S. attorney. Town left the district attorney's office as a senior prosecutor handling a full catalog of crimes, including capital murder, murder, robbery and burglary. Town was instrumental in forming the Madison County Veterans Court, one of the first such diversionary courts in Alabama dedicated to the physical and mental health needs of veterans in the criminal justice system.

Town served in the Marine Corps for 12 years and was honorably discharged in 2008, attaining the rank of Major. Before moving to Alabama, he was outside counsel at a large firm in New Jersey focused on commercial defense of major pharmaceutical, commercial and surety companies involved in litigation with federal agencies.

He has sat on several charitable boards, including the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, a national organization promoting educational, patriotic and veterans' initiatives directed by the living Medal of Honor recipients. He also served as chairman of the Audit Committee, President's Advisory Group, and was a member of the Foundation's Executive Committee.

He also serves as a director for America's Warrior Partnership, which is a national organization that empowers communities to empower veterans through community integration. Town is an original board member of The Bennie Adkins Foundation, which provides scholarships to veterans in Alabama. He also was chairman of the Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama for two years and a board member for nearly a decade.

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution awarded Town the Medal of Honor for his many charitable activities.

Town has taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Alabama-Huntsville in the Department of Political Science with the curriculum focused on executive war powers and the Geneva Convention.

Town earned a bachelor's degree in government and international relations from the University of Notre Dame in 1995 and received his juris doctor from the Seton Hall University School of Law in 1998.





THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
OCTOBER 24, 2017

Back to the farm

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – In spite of a full slate of area competition from events like the Mud Creek Arts and Crafts Festival, Pilot Club Rummage Sale, Sportsman Lake Yard Sale and the Alabama Gourd Festival, this weekend's Peinhardt Farm Day was declared a success.

Jennifer Tucker, a granddaughter of Carl Peinhardt and member of the next generation of the Peinhardt family that is taking the reins of the event, spoke to The Tribune Saturday afternoon.

Said Tucker, "I haven't gotten a number yet, but I think it's going to be one of our biggest turnouts, because of the weather. The weather's been beautiful today; we couldn't ask for a prettier day. Large crowds have been constantly coming in, so I think we're going to have one of our biggest days yet."

Farm Day enjoyed even more volunteer support than originally anticipated, with approximately 250 coming out to help the family put on the event. There were woodworking, spinning and weaving, quilting, grinding, blacksmithing, cooking and syrup-making demonstrations.

Visitors got to observe and, in some cases, interact with, various types of poultry and livestock. Experts shared about beekeeping, native plants and common wild animals. Supervised kids' activities included crosscut sawing, log splitting, shingle splitting, a petting zoo, numerous games and the cow train...and more.

Tucker applauded all the helpers. "Without our volunteers, we couldn't do this. It takes so many to pull this off, especially this day. Our school days, we have about 30 volunteers a day, but today we have upwards of about 250 to come out and help us, from young to old."

What does Tucker want people to take away from Peinhardt Farm Day?

"A new appreciation for the way things used to be," she said.

"It's a great day for people to experience the way it used to be. We just, basically, like to use this day to take people back in time, and experience things they never get to experience and don't know a lot about. There's no other farm like it around: it's actually a living history that still does demonstrations and hands-on, so it's just a time for families to come out and learn the way it was back in the 1930s, and actually get to experience the way it was, and hands-on activities and crafts, and things like that, that we like to bring back to the public. You don't experience this anywhere else."



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