The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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FOCUS ON CULLMAN'S WORKFORCE

Part 1: 'Keeping it Real' gives students a glimpse of working life



CULLMAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Taken at Holly Pond HS

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

Around Cullman, recent business growth and the increasing number of "Help Wanted" signs has led to speculation that the county may have too many businesses and industries, and not enough workers to sustain them. To make things a little more complicated, the coming Toyota/Mazda plant right off I-65 in Madison County is too close for comfort. Madison and Huntsville officials told the companies that their homegrown workforce could not sustain an operation the size of the joint venture facility, and the automakers are counting on drawing off workers from surrounding counties. Cullman County, with its multiple parts manufacturers, is a prime target for recruitment.

According to a survey of 104 major business leaders by the Center for Business and Economic Research in the fall of 2016, the two biggest issues facing the state of Alabama are education and workforce training. In July 2017, Gov. Kay Ivey launched a new education initiative, "Strong Start, Strong Finish," which includes expanding computer science in middle and high schools, and bolstering workforce training programs for adults.

Workforce shortages are not a Cullman problem; finding qualified workers for good jobs is an issue across the state and even the nation. Part of the governor's emphasis on computer science education is, according to her, the existence of 4,700 job vacancies in that field in Alabama with an average salary of $82,000 per year. She also said when announcing her initiative that only 37 percent of Alabamians possess a two- or four-year college degree or professional credential, and that 62 percent of Alabama jobs will require one by 2020.

Over the last several years, the state of Alabama established a College and Career Task Force (2013) and the Alabama Workforce Council (2014) overseeing seven regional councils, in addition to its long-standing Career Center system administering Workforce Investment Act programs. Through these agencies, numerous programs and initiatives seek to develop and train workers.

Over the coming weeks, The Tribune will take a look at local programs and agencies involved in efforts to increase the Cullman area workforce, both in quantity and quality. Look for stories on what's happening at the Cullman Economic Development Agency (CEDA), Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce, Cullman County Board of Education and Wallace State Community

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A first-hand account of tumultuous times, part 1

Ms. Pearl Jackson Green's story of growing up African American in the civil rights era in the South



MS. PEARL JACKSON GREEN

Ms. Pearl Jackson Green, second from left, with some of her Delta Sigma Theta sisters in January 2018

Loretta Gillespie
Tribune Correspondent

Note to Cullman readers about Ms. Pearl's Good Samaritan in Cullman County (See "Incident in Cullman County" below.): As the years passed the incident on the bus faded somewhat from Pearl Jackson's mind, but the kindness shown to her that night is something she will never forget. The man who offered her his seat was grown in the late 1940s, so it is probably safe to assume that he has passed away. But perhaps he, or another passenger on the bus, talked about it later on. If you have heard this story from a friend or relative, please contact The Tribune. Ms. Pearl would love to express her gratitude to his family.

Ms. Pearl Jackson Green wears many hats. No pun intended, but the lady has a hat collection that rivals any duchess. And she has worn many titles in her time. She was among the first black women from Lawrence County to attend college.

Although her first inclination was to study science and become a medical researcher, she later changed her major.

She earned a degree in education from Alabama State College in Montgomery and went on to teach in the Lawrence County School System for 20 years.

At "80 plus" years of age, she is still teaching. People frequently ask her why she continues. "It's because I might be able to help some young person," she replies.

You get the feeling when talking to her that she is teaching you things that you might

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PET OF THE WEEK

Help Marla find her forever home

W.C. Mann
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CULLMAN – The Cullman County Animal Shelter's Donna Ruttkay introduces us to this week's Pet of the Week: Marla, a 1-year-old female red tick hound mix.

"Marla is a laid-back companion dog with a low to medium energy level. She relishes human company and will be perfectly content to sit by your side. She also enjoys walking in the great outdoors and is accustomed to wearing a backpack when trekking.

"She has a warm and delightful temperament around people."

Marla's adoption fee is $90, and that includes: DHLPP vaccine, Bordetella vaccines, rabies vaccine, wormer, general exam at the vet, spay, microchip, free 45-day health insurance policy issued by 24PetWatch (with valid email only) and a free bag of food from Cullman Pet Depot (you must pay sales tax).

Please consider adopting to give a rescued pet a chance at a happy and healthy life.

Contact the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 256-734-5448 or visit them at 935 Convent Road NE. Email cullmancountyanimalshelter@gmail.com.



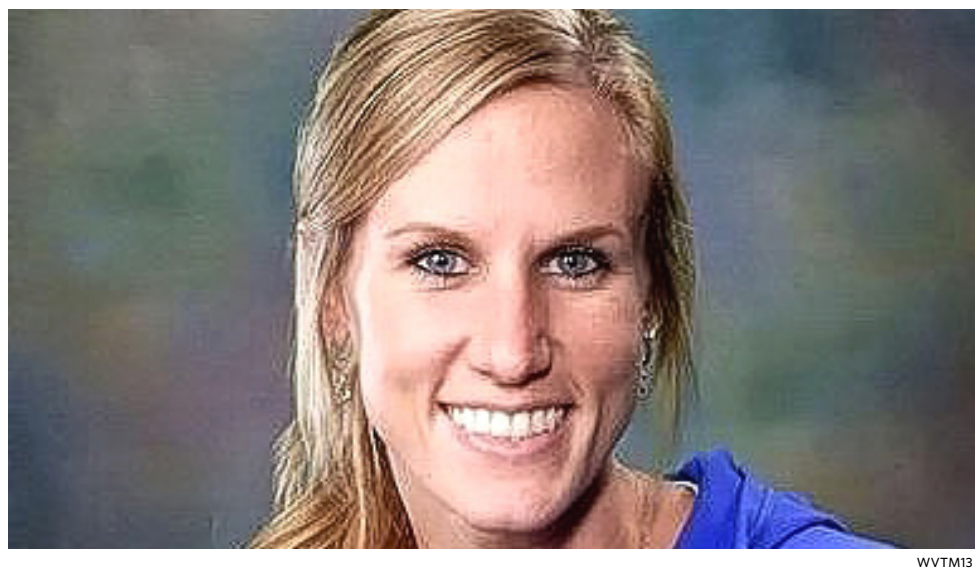
CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

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Husqvarna POLARIS INDUSTRIES INC. TORO
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Mortimer Jordan volleyball coach killed in I-65 crash in Cullman County

Cullman man charged with leaving the scene of an accident

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com



WVTM13

Kelsey Marie Treadaway, daughter of Alabama Rep. Allen Treadaway, R-Morris and head volleyball coach at Mortimer Jordan High School, was killed early Sunday morning.

CULLMAN COUNTY – A two-vehicle crash on Interstate 65 in Cullman County claimed the life of a Kimberly woman early Sunday morning. Kelsey Marie Treadaway, 31, was pronounced dead at the scene, according to Cullman County Coroner Jeremy L. Kilpatrick. The incident occurred around 3 a.m. near mile marker 304.

According to Alabama State Trooper Chuck Daniel, Treadaway was killed when the 2010 Toyota Camry she was driving was struck from behind by a 2007 Chevrolet pickup driven by Brandon Adam Hamm, 33, of Cullman. Treadway was not wearing a seatbelt.

A passenger in the Camry was transported to Cullman Regional.

Troopers said Hamm left the scene of the wreck and was later located and identified.

Hamm, who was not injured in the crash, was charged with felony leaving the scene of an accident and placed in the Cullman County Detention Center.

An additional charge of false reporting to law enforcement authorities was levied by the Cullman County Sheriff's Office.

Treadaway was the daughter of Alabama Rep. Allen Treadaway, R-Morris.

She was also the head volleyball coach at Mortimer Jordan High School.

Reported by WVTM13 in Birmingham:

In a statement Speaker of the House Mac McCutcheon said he, his wife Debbie, and every member of the Alabama House of Representatives are heartbroken by this news. "The Alabama House of Representatives is an elected body that has different political views and ideas. But we are respectful and mindful of each other's personal needs and concerns," said McCutcheon. "We come together to pray for each other and support each other in times of tragedy and crisis. Right now our thoughts and prayers are with Allen, his wife Susan and their family. May God comfort them and give them the strength to endure during this time of sorrow."

Nothing further is available as Alabama State Troopers continue to investigate.



CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Brandon Adam Hamm was arrested and charged with felony leaving the scene of an accident by Alabama State Troopers. An additional charge of false reporting to law enforcement authorities was levied by the Cullman County Sheriff's Office. Hamm allegedly caused the crash when his 2007 Chevrolet pickup struck the vehicle Treadaway was driving from behind.

Cullman woman killed in wreck at Stony Lonesome; investigation ongoing

Wendy Sack
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BREMEN – A Cullman woman was killed in an incident at Stony Lonesome OHV Park early Saturday evening. Cullman County Coroner Jeremy L. Kilpatrick, who confirmed the death Saturday, identified the victim as Hannah Nicole Bates, 21. Kilpatrick said Bates died at the scene.

Stony Lonesome is a park for OHV, or "off-highway vehicles." It is owned by Cullman County and operated by Cullman County Parks and Recreation (CCP&R).

"It happened within minutes of the park closing, I think they were probably on their way back to check out," said Doug Davenport, CCP&R director.

Davenport said the wreck occurred on a hill on one of the designated trails. He said the OHV involved was a RZR 900.

The victim was a passenger. The driver was not hurt.

According to Davenport, where the wreck happened, "It doesn't look like speed or anything would be a factor."

"It's a tragic event. There wasn't a race."

Davenport said it appears the victim was not wearing a seat belt.

Of the park employees, he said, "We've got a great bunch of people up there. It affects them. It affects them personally. They just talked to his person checking them in. They're taking it pretty tough."

Cullman County Attorney Chad Floyd issued the following statement Saturday night:

"It is with heavy hearts that the Cullman County Commission and the staff of the Stony Lonesome OHV Park must report that one of our patrons lost their life today in an unfortunate trail riding accident. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of the individual involved in this terrible tragedy. The Park will remain closed through at least Wednesday, February 28, 2018."

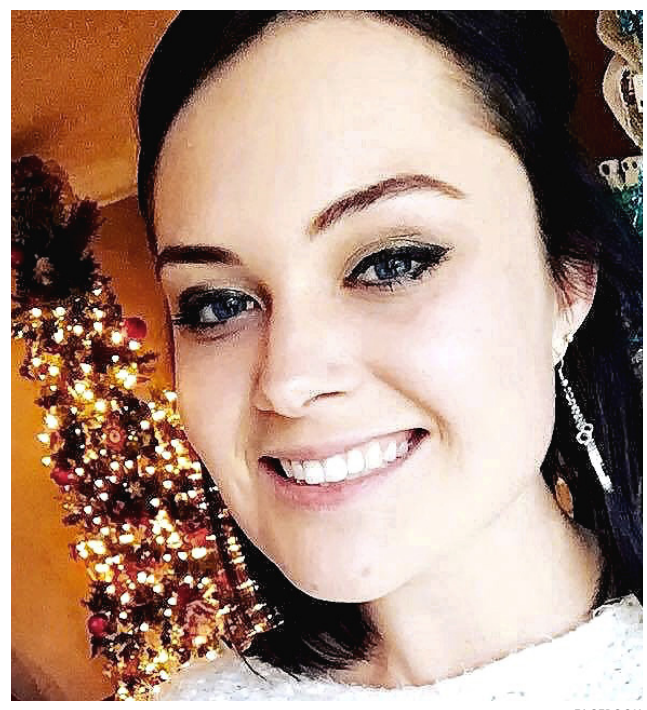
On Monday, Floyd issued the following statement:

"At this time, the Cullman County Commission has no further information to release concerning the accident that occurred at Stony Lonesome OHV Park this weekend. Presently, the Cullman County Sheriff's Office is conducting an investigation into the incident. Our continued thoughts and prayers go out to the family of the young woman who lost her life on Saturday night."

When reached for comment on Monday afternoon, Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry said, "We are conducting an investigation at this time of the incident. Due to it being an ongoing investigation we are limited on the details we can release. My heart and prayers go out to the family over this tragic incident."

This death is the third at the park in less than a year. Back on April 22, 2017, Lawrence Richey, 34, of Smiths Grove, Kentucky and Erin Duncan, 22, of Elkins, Arkansas were killed as the result of an ATV crash.

Stony Lonesome is located at 10075 Alabama Highway 69 South in Bremen.



FACEBOOK

Hannah Bates was killed in an OHV wreck at Stony Lonesome OHV Park in Bremen on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018

ADVERTISE WITH THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

"I am the Marketing and Sales Director for the Cullman Tribune, feel free to call or email me and let me showcase your business. We have several packages to meet your advertising budget."

Call Robin Lee at 205-810-6122
Email: robin@cullmantribune.com

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NO PHONE CALLS
Stop in office to fill out application
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Mullins Body Shop, LLC
11042 US Hwy 31 South, Cullman, AL 35055

Cullman Lions Club
Annual
Fish & Ham Dinner
Saturday, March 3rd
At
Cullman Middle School Cafeteria
11:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
$10.00 Plate
Choice of catfish filet or ham, baked potato, slaw, hushpuppies, dessert, and drink (Eat In or Carry Out)
*** Drive-Thru available on North Side ***
Purchase advanced tickets from any Cullman Lion, or Lioness, Club member
- OR -
The Brandin' Iron Restaurant - Business Solutions of Cullman
Cullman Veterinary Hospital - Doug Doggett Jewelers
East Side Barber Shop - Ed White Jewelers - Mary Carter Store
Peek Auto Parts - Ponder Wrecker Service - Rennards Gallery
www.cullmanlions.com

WANT HELP PREPPING FOR AUDITIONS, PLAYS, CHOIRS, PAGEANTS, ETC?
Wallace State Performing Arts Department Presents:
AUDITION WORKSHOP!
The Wallace State Performing Arts Department is holding an Audition Workshop for all students who are interested in brushing up on their audition skills. This is open to experienced performers, as well as beginners. You will learn the do's and don'ts of auditioning, learn helpful tips and tricks, and you will also get the opportunity to participate in a mock audition and receive feedback from our Wallace State instructors!



WHEN:
Saturday, March 3, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
WHERE:
Burrow Center for the Fine and Performing Arts
WHAT TO BRING/COST:
Music or accompaniment for the Mock Audition/$30 per person
Please contact Stefany Keisler at stefany.bate@wallacestate.edu for additional information and for early registration
ALL AGES WELCOME!

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Arrest report: Feb. 23-25

Wendy Sack
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CULLMAN – Below are the arrests reported for Feb. 23-25. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

GJ = grand jury; **FTA** = failure to appear

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Bartlett, Joseph Gary, 71
- DUI- .08 BAC or greater

Beasinger, Tonya Monk, 43
- probation revoked- trafficking illegal drugs

Bowden, Crystal Reshay, 34
- attempting to elude
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Burdette, William Eleazer, 50
- disorderly conduct

Burney, Rowdy Ervin, 51
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment
- resisting arrest

Campbell, Cheston Jared, 30
- FTA- proof of liability insurance required
- FTA- speeding

Casimiro, Heldred Elizabeth, 38
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- second-degree promoting prison contraband
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Cornelius, Walter John III, 29
- public intoxication

Daniel, Jakoria Kimanesha, 21
- FTA- driver's license not in possession

Gentry, Jennifer Leigh, 35
- possession/use of a credit/debit card

Gillian, Gregory Linston, 51
- harassing communications
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence- harassment
- FTA- harassing communications

Hamm, Brandon Adam, 33
- false reporting to law enforcement

Hancock, Terry Lee, 62
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Jenkins, James Lewis, 49
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Jones, Clay Justin, 41
- public intoxication

Jones, Hannah Azalea, 26
- public intoxication

Laster, Dana Jean, 31
- chemical endangerment of a child

Leipert, Douglas Michael Jr., 20
- minor in consumption of alcohol
- public intoxication

McWillams, Aaron Tinnadja, 23
- following too close
- IPA- illegal possession of alcohol in a dry county
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- speeding-reasonable and prudent
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Montgomery, Donna Carol, 50
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Morton, Jamaica Leo Chiquita, 34
- obstructing government operations

Pichelmayer, Timothy Ozel, 48
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- speeding- reasonable and prudent
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance
- failure to signal turn

Plunkett, Preston Davis, 24
- FTA- hunting without permission

Rice, Nicholas Heath, 39
- FTA- driving while revoked (2 counts)
- FTA- liability insurance required

Rogers, Aja Celeste, 36
- GJ- failure to comply- SORNA violation

Sandlin, Dallas Chase, 20
- third-degree assault
- third-degree domestic violence- third-degree criminal mischief

Shirley, Zachary Christopher, 25
- menacing

Smith, Edward Eugene, 58
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Thurman, Jeri Diane, 28
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- public intoxication
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana (2 counts)
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance (2 counts)

Trejo, Chelino, 31
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Weaver, Wendell, 65
- GJ- sexual abuse of a child under 12

Williams, James Jeffrey, 55
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Johnson, Alvin L. Jr., 24
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Mangum, Hailey C., 26
- second-degree stalking

Cruce, Ida M., 51
- GJ- second-degree theft of property

Harden, Katrina O., 37
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

James, Latosha M., 35
- fourth-degree theft of property

Edwards, Cheryl M., 51
- DUI

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests reported.

Find arrest reports online Monday-Friday at www.CullmanTribune.com.

EDUCATION

WSCC: New RN mobility programs offered for paramedics, radiology technologists and respiratory therapists

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Graduates of several health science programs at Wallace State Community College and professionals in those fields now have an option to advance to earn an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Nursing (ADN) and become a registered nurse.

Wallace State Community College is the only community college in the state to offer such an option to students in the Diagnostic Imaging, Emergency Medical Services and Respiratory Therapy, or those already in the field as radiologic technologists, paramedics and respiratory therapists. These mobility programs join the longtime program that allows licensed practical nurses the opportunity to earn the ADN.

"We are very excited to offer these new opportunities not only to our current and future students, but also to professionals in our area who may want to build on their experience and expand their options," said Lisa German, Dean of Health Sciences at Wallace State Community College. "These new mobility options will allow them to use the degrees they've already earned to expand their career options and marketability as multi-skilled practitioners."

"It is exciting to offer health professionals an opportunity to further their development and secure credit for previously learned skills," said Deborah "Pepper" Hoover, director of the Wallace State Nursing program.

"These currently licensed professionals will be prepared to deliver healthcare to our communities from a unique perspective as well as offer employers a very diverse employee for their organization."

The WSCC Department of Nursing will take applications March 15 to May 15 for students wishing to enter the program in Fall 2018. The department is hosting many advising sessions in the next few months to share information about the curriculum and application requirements. The next session is Friday, March 9, at 10 a.m., followed by Monday, April 23 at 3 p.m., and Friday, May 4 at 10 a.m. All sessions will be held in room 201 of the School of Nursing and Center for Science.

Students wishing to enter the mobility program must have degrees in their respective field and must meet the pre-requisites required by the Nursing program. They must also have a minimum ACT score of 18. Those who are not LPNs should acquire Certified Nursing Assistant certification prior to the start of the fall semester.

Should all requirements and pre-requisites be met, a student can complete 31 credit hours in three semesters to earn their nursing degree.

A document outlining admission requirements and more can be found under the MOBILITY Nursing Advising Pamphlet link on the Nursing webpage. www.wallacestate.edu/programs/health-division/nursing

For more information about the Nursing program, visit www.wallacestate.edu/nursing or call 256-352-8199. Visit www.wallacestate.edu to learn about all the programs offered at Wallace State, or call 256-352-8000.

HANCEVILLE CLASS OF 1968
50th CLASS REUNION
DATE: June 2, 2018
PLACE: The Moody Center, Hanceville, Alabama
TIME: 1:00 PM
Please RSVP by April 30, 2018
You may join us on Facebook
"Hanceville High School Class of 1968 Reunion"
or contact
Harold Brown (256) 735-0120 or (256) 338-0531
or email: haroldbrown10@att.net

PB ADT BK 48 PG 308 - 02/23/2018 08:28 AM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE

PETITION OF Quintana Ann Rainwater — CASE NO: AD2018-011

FOR THE ADOPTION OF

J. T. M., MINOR.

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: TONEY MARTIN, KNOWN OR UNKNOWN FATHER OF J.T.M., A MINOR CHILD BORN TO SAMANTHA MARIE DOUTHIT RAINWATER.

The Petition for Adoption was filed in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama by Quintana Ann Rainwater. If you should contest this adoption, 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 the Clerk of Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, Post Office Box 970, Cullman, Alabama 35056.

DONE THIS 22nd DAY OF Febuary, 2018.

To the Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the above notice once a week for four (4) successive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY ALABAMA

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

Default having been made in the payment of the debt secured by that certain mortgage executed by Michael A. Hooper on August 4, 2015 and being recorded on August 4, 2015 in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama at Mtg. Book 1767, Page 306, B & R Meter Service, LLC, as Mortgagee, by reason of such default, under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in said mortgage, will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash, at the front door entrance of the Courthouse at Cullman County, Alabama, on March 27, 2018 during the legal hours of sale, all of its right, title, and interest in and to the following described real estate, situated in Cullman County, Alabama, to-wit:

The East half of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 1, Township 9 South, Range 1 West. Containing 20 acres of land, more or less.

Conveyed subject to a right-of-way for a public road off of and across the South side of said parcel.

Address of Property: County Road 1763, Cullman, AL 35055

THIS PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD ON AN "AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS, SUBJECT TO ANY EASEMENTS, ENCUMBRANCES, AND EXCEPTIONS REFLECTED IN THE MORTGAGE AND THOSE CONTAINED IN THE RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE JUDGE OF PROBATE OF THE COUNTY WHERE THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY IS SITUATED. THIS PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD WITHOUT WARRANTY OR RECOURSE, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED AS TO TITLE, USE AND/OR ENJOYMENT AND WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT OF REDEMPTION OF ALL PARTIES ENTITLED THERETO.

This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the expenses of foreclosure.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid for and purchase the real estate and to credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and the indebtedness secured by the real estate.

This sale is subject to postponement or cancellation.

B & R Meter Service, LLC, Mortgagee

Trent Lowry
GRIFFITH, LOWRY & MEHERG, LLC
Attorney for B & R Meter Service, LLC
409 1st Avenue SW
Cullman, AL 35055
(256) 734-0458
trent@griffithlowry.com

Living Stations of the Cross
performed by the Cenacolo Community
Friday, March 23rd @ 7pm
in the piazza of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament
* This powerful event is free and open to people of all faiths and ages. *

Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament
3224 County Rd. 548 Hanceville, AL | 256-352-6267 | www.olamshrine.com

STATE OF ALABAMA * IN THE PROBATE COURT
*
CULLMAN COUNTY * CASE NO. PC2017-343

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF RALPH MITCHELL, SR., DECEASED.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Letters Testamentary on the Estate of said deceased have been granted to Julia McCaffrey on the 21st day of February 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.

Julia McCaffrey
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
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, AL 35056-0398
(256) 734-4721

Green (from Front)

never learn from websites or encyclopedias. In essence, Pearl Jackson Green is a walking, talking history book.

This is her story....

Pearl's father, John Dyke Echols, was a mechanic. Her mother, Annie Love Echols, was a domestic helper who worked for the Turner and Sims families.

She spent much of her time at the Joe Wheeler Plantation for many years. Her father died when Pearl was 14.

She was the oldest of seven children, but even though most people of that generation would have had to quit school to help care for the younger siblings, she never wavered in her quest to get an education.

She and her younger siblings walked to school each day from out near where Alabama Highway 157 and Highway 33 intersect to the Rosenwald School near where Freeman Tabernacle Church is today.

The school buses ferrying the white children back and forth to a different school passed them by, rain or shine, twice each day.

When questioned about this circumstance, Pearl said, "That's just how it was; no one ever considered that it would change. I was never bitter about it."

That's Ms. Pearl's attitude about much of what took place before the civil rights movement. It's just the way things were...

She was the first in her family to attend college. She received a scholarship from the local Masonic Lodge, where her father had been a member. She chose to attend Alabama State College in Montgomery.

She left home a young, intelligent black girl, eager to learn and better her lot in life.

She would return a woman with an education in more than just the academic sense.

She learned how to dress, how to speak in public and how to carry herself in such a way that she commanded, and still commands, respect from the people she interacts with.

Along with those admirable characteristics, she learned some hard, harsh truths about life and man's ability to mistreat and misjudge his fellow man.

Her first lessons in elocution and poise came from her college English professor, Annette Roberts.

It was from this kind and elegant New Yorker that Ms. Pearl learned the deportment skills that would see her through life.

She credits this professor with seeing something in a young girl that promised great potential and encouraging her young student to reach for the stars.

"She thought that I was more suited to working with people than being shut away in some lab," said Ms. Pearl, "and she was right. I have always enjoyed working with people."

So engrained was the religious aspect of her life, it would have been unthinkable not to attend church, wherever she was.

So, while at college, and because church was always a central part of her religious and social life for as long as she can recall, she found a church home in Montgomery.

It was about a four-block walk from her dorm room, down streets that went from college campuses, to tree-lined family neighborhoods that turned into places where she wouldn't walk at night, and finally to the downtown area where the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church was located.

Friends at college had recommended this church because of its energetic, forward-thinking, young minister.

New to Montgomery, this preacher was from Atlanta, the son of a minister who had imbued him with the ability to instill the gospel into people thirsty for the word, and to impart a new way of thinking, ones which the Bible mentions over and over – loving thy neighbor, treating people as anyone would want to be treated, of all the basic principles of decency and Christianity.

His name was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

It was Ms. Pearl's first experience with hearing about the movement toward equality between blacks and whites.

Dr. King's message was, out of necessity, somewhat shrouded in secrecy.

"There were police outside the church every service, and they would have arrested him for the least little hint of rebellion, so he would write messages on poster boards and hold them up to the congregation as he preached his usual gospel message," Ms. Pearl explained.

"In this manner, he would tell us about the political things we might be seeing and hearing in the near future.

"If we were supposed to meet somewhere, or not ride the buses, he would communicate these things in this manner to keep those outside from hearing.

"His sermons were carefully scripted, not to inflame, but to educate people to the idea of integration, without preaching it," she said.

She saw much of what the history books can only imperfectly convey.

She lived in a time that was frightening, dangerous and exciting all at once. She saw the changes that today's generations only know through old black and white movies (She says that the most accurately depicted movie she has seen of the tumultuous times of the 60s is Selma."

"They got the feeling just about right," said Ms. Pearl) and documentaries that show dogs set upon children and old women being displaced from busses.

As a child and a young woman, Pearl was required to drink from "colored" water fountains, use "colored" restrooms, sit in the balcony of the local theater, and was not allowed in some white establishments like restaurants and hotels.

But as a young college student, she was acutely aware of the changes taking place; she was around when Dr. King walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge to Selma, and when Eugene "Bull" Connor turned Birmingham, Alabama into the focus of hatred and bigotry, a stigma that it has taken scores of years to live down, and when news of the Freedom Riders was splashed over the front page of newspapers all across the country; she remembers it all vividly.

One of the most hateful acts during those years of struggle will be forever etched into her mind.

People all over the world were shocked when news of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing hit the airwaves in 1963.

Although the deaths of four innocent little girls and the place chosen for the attack were a shock, the bombing itself was not totally unexpected.

"Dr. King's home had already been bombed," she pointed out. But this act of pure hatred was so awful that it touched even the hardest of hearts.

"The mood all around us was tense. It was a frightful time."

Still, she was never bitter, just concerned for people of all races, yet eager for the promises of a better life that Dr. King's dream portrayed.

All over the nation, rioting and violence reigned. The South, where people pride themselves on their hospitality, was the focus of these tumultuous times.

Ms. Pearl was never a part of the violence, never one to promote hatred.

"I was never a 'stand in the street with your fist raised' kind of person," she said quietly.

"I was more effective talking to people one on one across the table."

She proved that to be true many times in her personal and professional life.

But before that happened, she would be the victim of true prejudice and hate, through no fault of her own, save the beautiful café au lait color of her skin.

Incident in Cullman County

In the late 1940s, headed home on a break, Ms. Pearl was seen off at the Montgomery bus station by some of her college sorority sisters.

They had just presented her with a beautiful hat, kept safe inside a new hat box.

She had her personal belongings in her purse, and a heavy suitcase.

The trip was uneventful until around 8 p.m. when the bus was on a desolate rural road in what could possibly have been Cullman County.

Ms. Pearl just remembers that they had already passed through Birmingham a while before the following incident occurred.

"A white man offered me his seat on the bus," she said.

"When the bus driver noticed what was going on, he immediately stopped the bus and instructed the man not to give me his seat."

The driver used some derisive language when ordering the man to get back into his seat.

Ms. Pearl, not wanting to draw more attention, would have gladly stood the rest of the way to Decatur, but things didn't turn out that way.

The bus driver and the man continued to have words, their emotions escalating to the point of shoving and calling names.

Ms. Pearl was horrified to be the subject of the controversy.

Finally, the bus driver ordered her off the bus. The other man leaned over and whispered, "Get in the ditch and wait there, someone will come for you."

She gathered her hat box, her purse and suitcase and made her way out the door of the bus and onto the dark, deserted roadside. "It was in the middle of nowhere," she recalled.

She was conservatively dressed, in a navy-blue suit, a nice hat and high heels, as she always was when traveling, but she followed the man's instructions to the letter.

She cautiously put her immaculate shoes into the scrub grass at the side of the asphalt and gingerly stepped down the embankment, not knowing if there were snakes or other critters sharing the space with her.

She carefully arranged the hat box and suitcase beside her, and half-sitting, half-crouching in the ditch, attempting to save her hosiery from briars, she settled down to avoid being seen.

As the darkness deepened around her, she heard the wind whispering eerily through the trees and was constantly unnerved by rustlings in the tall grass.

Terrified and shivering with anxiety and the cold, she carefully removed her hat, and she waited...

For what seemed like hours, and was in fact at least three or four hours, Ms. Pearl waited in the dark, listening to the sounds coming from the fields beyond.

Scared, hungry and alone, the young girl watched and listened for sounds of a vehicle coming, but it would be hours before she saw headlights approaching from the south...

"Out of nowhere, there was a bus," she recalled.

"It stopped right where I was in the ditch and the doors swung opened.

"No one said a word. I got my things and walked up the embankment, got on the bus and still no one said a word.

"We rode all the way to Decatur in silence, no one ever asked me for a ticket, or money for bus fare, or anything. It was as if I wasn't there."

When Ms. Pearl arrived in Decatur, her frantic mother and uncle were waiting at the bus station.

They had been there all night long.

As upset as they were with her being so late, at first, they didn't believe her story.

They thought she might have been at a party or something like that and caught a later bus.

Finally, they were convinced that she was telling the truth.

"Years later I tried to find the man who wanted to give me his seat.

"I have wondered if maybe he was the driver of the second bus, but I just don't know, and not having asked his name, there was nowhere to start looking.

"I would love to meet him and thank him," she said pensively.

Finishing college

Back at school she joined the choir, becoming one of the 35 members of a traveling choral group.

She sang high soprano and could even manage a little alto when necessary.

She took music lessons along with her regular classes, and she was part of a work/study program in which she worked for the school to help pay her tuition.

She was voted into a sorority, Delta Sigma Theta, to which she still belongs to this day.

With these intelligent, like-minded women she formed lasting relationships that would be important in the days and years to come.

All around them the civil rights movement was taking place, making national headlines and changing the country, but for the college students in her circle, and herself, getting ahead meant making sure that their education came before anything else.

"Everyone looked out for everyone else, there were no uppity attitudes at that time and place, we all wanted to keep up our grades and graduate with honors," she said earnestly. "We strived to achieve excellence in our studies."

Pearl's English professor continued to mentor her.

She encouraged her, along with friends, to enter some school-sponsored beauty contests.

In her freshman and sophomore years Ms. Pearl won top honors in these pageants.

She was a natural beauty, with straight, even white teeth and a dazzling smile.

Not only did these events garner her prizes, more importantly, they increased her self-esteem and gave her the ability to get up on a stage and hold her head high while walking in stiletto heels and evening attire, which isn't as easy as it looks on television.

She joined Toastmasters, where she learned to use body language and her hands to get her point across.

These skills would serve her well in her working career.

At the age of 20, Pearl Jackson graduated with a degree in education and moved back home to Lawrence County to live and work.

One of the first things she did, after getting a driver's license, was to attempt to register to vote.

It was harder than she thought it would be...

Look for part two of Ms. Pearl's story in the next issue of The Cullman Tribune.



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Curt's Closet to open this Thursday

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Curt's Closet was packed with visitors during its open house Sunday afternoon. It will open to the public on Thursday, March 1.

CULLMAN – This Thursday, March 1, Ashley Wilson will open Curt's Closet, a youth clothing boutique with a twist: everything's free! It's a charity operation, but it's not a typical "clothing closet." Children and teens from disadvantaged families will be allowed to come and shop in a setting that feels more like a retail boutique, just without the cash register and card scanner. From the outset Wilson said she wanted kids, whatever their circumstances, to enjoy a normal shopping experience in the store.

"I want to stress," said Wilson, "everything is free to families that are in need. People ask me, 'How much are the prom dresses?' Everything's free for anyone in need, based on income or hardship."

Prospective customers can set up an appointment with Wilson via the phone number or email address listed at the end of this story, to find out eligibility requirements.

Curt's Closet will also accept referrals from churches, schools and the Cullman County Department of Human Resources.

Curt's Closet will offer clothing, accessories, backpacks, lunchboxes and jewelry.

Of particular interest to a number of previewers has been the store's selection of prom dresses.

Many of the donated items are new, including all undergarments.

The reason behind Curt's Closet

Wilson founded Curt's Closet in memory of her son, Curtis James Wilson, who was killed in a car wreck on May 7, 2017.

On her website, Ashley Wilson wrote: "Curt had a gift for loving others with the love of Christ... he brightened any room he walked into and touched many lives with his sincere care and concern for others.

"His wit and humor made everyone he came in contact with walk away smiling!

"I want to continue his gift of love by lessening the burden of the expenses that parents face each year as their children go back to school and throughout the year. In doing so, we collect donations of gently used/new clothing, shoes, backpacks and lunch boxes. There's no greater gift I can give in memory of my son than that of making a difference in the lives of those in need.

"It's what Curt would want... to make life a little easier and make people smile."

According to Wilson, the store still needs laundry detergent and plastic totes in which to store items. Monetary donations to the nonprofit organization, of course, are welcome.

"This is all God," concluded Wilson. "It is all God. Everything you see here, He has blessed this from day one. I just have to give Him the glory."

Curt's Closet will be open on Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month.

At a glance
Curt's Closet
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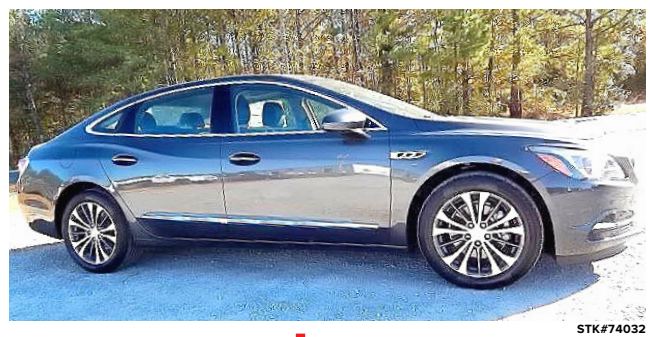
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COMMUNITY NOTE

Saint Bernard Spring Open House March 9 and 11

Joyce Nix
St. Bernard

CULLMAN – Saint Bernard Prep School will host Spring Open House on Friday, March 9 and Sunday, March 11.

Prospective students for grades 7-11 are welcome to shadow a current student on Friday from 7:50 a.m. until 3:15 p.m.

Parents and guardians are welcome for tours, light refreshments and Q and A from either 9-11 a.m. or 1-3 p.m. on Friday.

Sunday tours will be offered, and questions answered, from 1-3 p.m.

Call today to see if Saint Bernard Prep is a good fit for you 256-739-6682.

Visit www.stbernardprep.com or follow on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/stbernardprep.

Obituary Announcements: Feb. 24 - 28

Mrs. Barbara Jean Horton, 80, of Vinemont, passed away Saturday, February 24, 2018. She was born February 21, 1938 in Illinois to James and Dorothy Coursey. She was a nurse. She is preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Robert Horton. Survivors include two daughters, Vania (Charles) Johnson and Glenda (Michael) Wilhite, grandchildren. Stephanie Hill and Tyler Johnson; great Grandchildren Ella, Silas, and Ima Hill; and Evie Kelly; and a sister Pat Erger. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Funeral service for Dorothy Marrel Monk, age 87 of Falkville, will be at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home. Burial will be at Cullman City Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Monk passed away on Sunday, February 25, 2018. She was born on August 26, 1930 to George Richard and Ruby Holmes. She is preceded in death by her husband, William Roscoe Monk, and her parents. Survivors include her children; Sheila (Jerry) Foster, Richard (Joyce) Monk, Ronald (JoAnna) Monk, grandchildren; Jason (Tonya) Foster, Wendy (Alan) Farwell, Tonya Beasinger, Michelle (Franklin) Prince, John (Tosha) Monk, Lita Buttermore, Sarah Hilliard, Jordan Monk, a host of great and great-great grandchildren, sister, Nell (Eillis) Romine and brother, Theron "Butch" (Linda) Holmes. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until 12 noon on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Roy Keith Glass of Cullman passed away on February 24, 2018 at his residence at the age of 87. He was born in Gadsden Alabama on March 4, 1930 to James Henry and Beulah Praytor Glass. He is preceded in death by his parents, son Edward Glass, daughter-in-law Joan Glass and one grandchild. Funeral services are on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at Moss Funeral Home Chapel at 1:00 PM with Rev. Mac Buttram, John Fox and Larry Blackmon officiating. Interment will be in Trussville Cemetery (Old Town). Survivors are: Wife: Verna Glass, Daughter: Dianne (Joe) Turner, Son: Kenneth (Marcia) Glass, Randy (Donna) Glass, ten grandchildren and twenty-four great grandchildren. Visitation is on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at Moss Funeral Home from 11 a.m. until service time at 1 p.m.

Jeffrey Glenn Humiston, of New Port Richey Florida, went to be with the Lord after a lengthy illness on February 21, 2018. He was 57 years old. Jeffrey was preceded in death by his mother Shirley J. Humiston. He is survived by his father James H. Humiston (Jane) (Cullman, Al.), and two brothers James H. Humiston, Jr. (Bonnie) of Wadsworth, Ohio, Jerald A. Humiston of Akron, Ohio. Step brothers: Ross Vaughn of Kennesaw, Georgia, Corey Neal of Cullman Al. and step-sister Frankie Sherbert of Nectar Al. He will be missed by other family members and friends. Jeffrey played three sports in high school in Ohio. His favorite sport was football. He loved his family and friends and most of all his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The family will receive friends on Tuesday February 27,2018 at the Cullman City Cemetery at 11 a.m. for a graveside service with Rev. Todd Henderson officiating. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Cullman First United Methodist Church- needy families. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Christina Mitchell Hoffman, age 44 of Holly Pond, passed away Saturday afternoon, February 24, 2018. She was born in Akron, Ohio to Audie, Sr. and Joyce Hammock Mitchell and was a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Funeral service to be held Tuesday, February 27, 2018 beginning at 2 p.m. at the Holly Pond Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Holly Pond Cemetery. She is survived by her parents (Wilda Joyce Mitchell; brother, Audy, Jr Mary Grace) Mitchell; niece and nephews, Karli Grace Mitchell and Austin Tyler Mitchell.

Louise Johnson Basenberg of Cullman passed away at the age of 84. She was born on April 24, 1933 to Jesse and Agnes Carter Johnson. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband Harrell Edward Basenberg, daughter Sandra Doty, brothers Ricky and Sonny Collins. Funeral services are on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 7 p.m. at Moss Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor's Don Strandlund and Sandy Miller officiating. Interment will be in Hopewell Cemetery. Visitation will be on Tuesday at Moss Service from 4:30 PM until service time. Survivors are daughters Deborah Sanders, Donna (Tim) Laney, sisters Christine Gentry, Linda McMinn, Betty Collins, Jean Lawrence, brothers Larry Collins, Jackie Collins, Tommy Collins, son-in-law Terry Doty, 6 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

Jack Phalon passed away on the morning of February 23, 2018 after an extended illness. Born in Patterson, New Jersey on August 10, 1932, he was the youngest son of harry F. and Catherine Ramsden Phalon. He is preceded in death by his parents, infant brother Harry, Sister Eileen, Brother Reverend Raymond Phalon and Sister Cathy Collins. Jack was the last in this line of Phalon family but leaves behind many cousins and friends. Jack was a long time member of Sacred Heart Church where his funeral mass will be held on Wednesday, February 28th at 10:00 a.m.; visitation will be held Tuesday evening at the church from 7 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.; followed by a Rosary.

Virginia May "Ginger" Harper of Baileyton passed away on February 20, 2018 at her residence at the age of 67. She was born in Carlsbad New Mexico on June 6, 1950 to Wildy L. and Vera Faye Hutton Weldy. She is preceded in death by her parents and a son Patrick O'Connor. Funeral services are Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 2 p.m. at Moss Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Mt. Pisgah Cemetery near Baileyton. Visitation will be on Wednesday from 12 noon until 2 p.m. Survivors are: Husband: William Harper, Daughters: Jennifer Tellez, Linda O'Connor, Katherine O'Connor, Sisters: Patsy DeBoerdere, Barbara Crow, Martha Weldy Brothers-In-Law: Rick DeBoerdere, Brian Crow and 4 grandchildren.

Roger William Grund, 66 of Cullman, passed away on February 24, 2018. He was a 10+ year veteran of the United States Army, retiring with a rank of SSG(P). He drove a logging truck for Hestla logging for 15 years, taking great pride in the cleanliness of his vehicles. His trucker friends knew him by his nickname "River Rat" and in his spare time, he enjoyed rebuilding old trucks, playing with his dog CJ and spending time with his four beloved grandchildren. He is preceded in death by parents Herman William Grund and Azelee Patrick Grund; sisters Betty Grund, Helen Sullivan, and Ruth Grund; and brother Leon Grund. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Yvonne Black Grund; brothers George (Sandra) Grund, Paul (Linda) Grund, and Frances (Randy) Nuss; daughters Christy (Shannon) Mattox and Melissa (Brad) Charland; grandchildren DaKota Mattox, Izabella Charland, Ashton Charland, and William "Xander" Charland. The family will receive friends for visitation on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. The celebration of Mr. Grund's life will be Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 12 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home Chapel with burial to follow at Garden City Cemetery. Moss Service Funeral Home directing.

Robert A. Geiger, LTC (Retired, U.S. Army), who was born on the 19th of November, 1924, went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on the 25th of February, 2018, at the age of 93. He is predeceased by his parents Ralph and Marie Geiger and his brother Philip Geiger. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Ethel (Deannie) Geiger, his brother and sister in law, Charles and Elizabeth Mosley, his children Robert Jr., James and Bonnie, Deborah, Donald and Karen Geiger, his step-son Jeff Massey as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Robert joined the Army immediately after graduating from High School in 1943. He served his country with honor during World War ll, Korea, and 2 tours of duty in Viet-Nam, until his retirement in San Antonio, Texas in 1975. He and his wife Deannie moved to Cullman, Alabama in 1995. He had been active in the Baptist Church until he became disabled last year. He and Deannie are members of the 7th Street Baptist Church in Cullman. Funeral Service will be held at the 7th Street Baptist Church on the 28th of February, beginning at 2 p.m. Pastor Eric Martin will conduct the Service. His Pall Bearers will include his grandsons Lt. James Geiger, USMC, and Daniel Geiger, as well as Mark Moore, Darren Rich, Harry Speegle, and J.T. Ivie. Robert touched many lives during his life, and was dearly loved by all who knew him. He will be truly missed by his friends and family. Visitation will be held from 12 noon to 2 p.m. prior to the Service.

Rebecca Whitehead, 55, of New Hope community passed away at her home surrounded by loving family and friends on Sunday morning, February 25, 2018. She was born in Marshall County to James and Carolyn Smith Voyles. Rebecca was employed by CARTS and a member of New Hope #2 Baptist Church. She is predeceased by her mother; and son, Patrick Whitehead. Survivors are her father; husband, Steven Whitehead; sons, Nathan Whitehead and Jacob (Jessi) Whitehead; grandchildren, Braxton Whitehead, Marlee Whitehead and a grandchild "(girl) on the way". Family and Friends Visitation at the Holly Pond Funeral Home from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on February 27, 2018. Funeral service is Wednesday, February 28, 2018 beginning at 2 p.m. at New Hope #2 Baptist Church. Burial to follow in adjoining cemetery.

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ENTERTAINMENT

High-concept sci-fi thriller ‘Annihilation’ a cerebral experience

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent

“Annihilation” is written and directed by Alex Garland who is perhaps best known for his award-winning 2015 sci-fi thriller “Ex Machina;” his newest film falls in the same genre. Natalie Portman stars as a biologist named Lena, who, along with a team of other scientists, volunteers to investigate an environmental phenomenon dubbed “The Shimmer.”

The Shimmer is slowly expanding and has strange effects on all life forms inside of it that Portman and her team set out to try and understand. The film starts a little slowly but quickly moves into The Shimmer where Garland’s visual style is fully put on display. The Shimmer’s effects on the environment make for some incredible set pieces and digital and practical effects involving the plant life, animals and the characters themselves. The film isn’t meant to be a horror flick, but there are a couple small moments that are truly disturbing and ramp up the intensity once you pass the run-time’s halfway point.

Portman is the lead and the standout performance, but Jennifer Jason Leigh also puts together a subtle, effective performance as the team’s leader. Oscar Isaac doesn’t have as much screen time as the female leads but is both mysterious and likeable as Lena’s husband and a soldier.

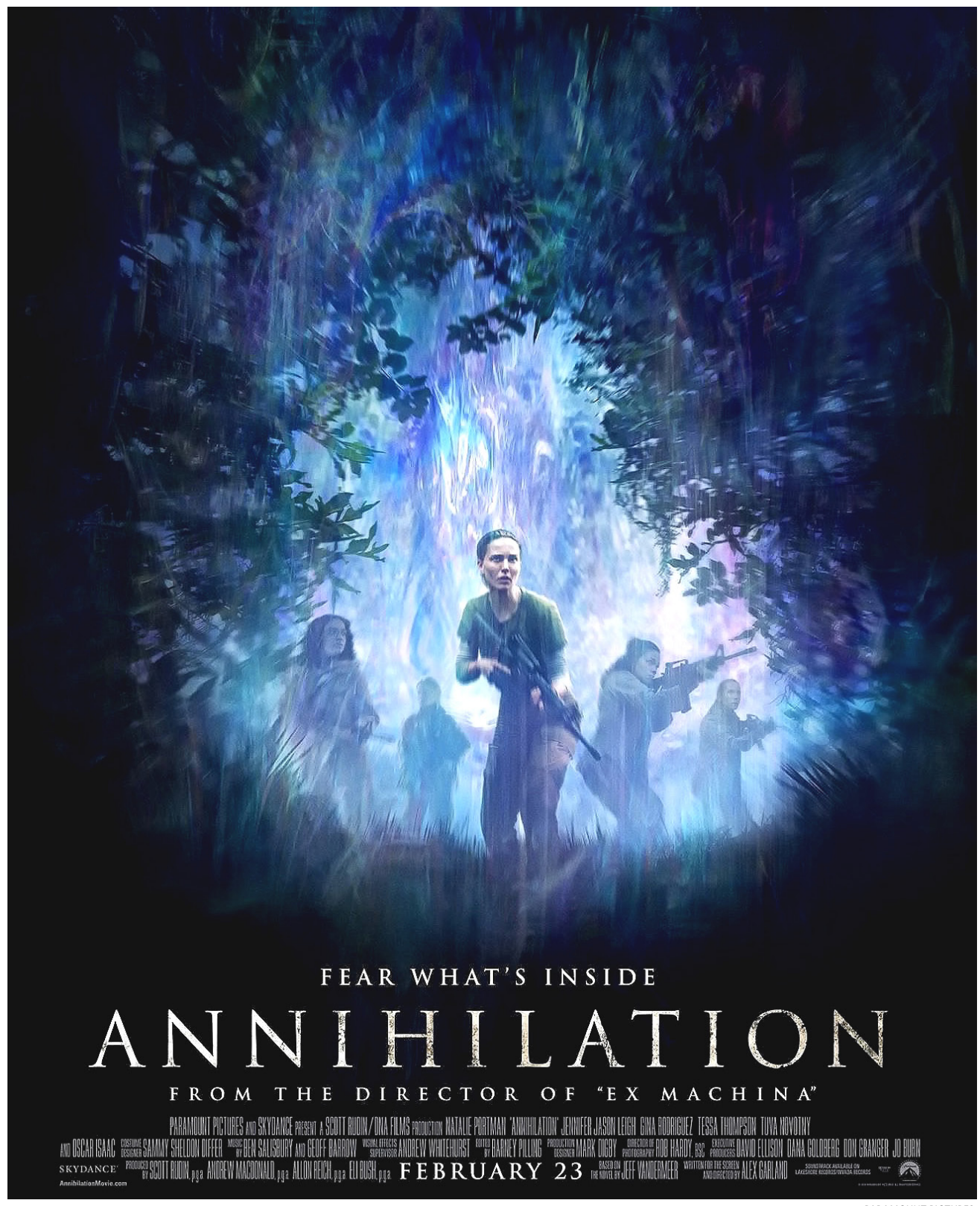
“Annihilation” really delves into some high concepts when it comes to biology and creation without giving you all the answers. Because of that, you leave the theater not sure where to begin when it comes to discussing or thinking about the film, particularly the third act. The climactic sequence keeps you completely locked in on the screen as you try to wrap your head around what is happening. Not everyone will connect with or even enjoy the ending, but there is no question that Garland is swinging for the fences.

Garland also messes around with the chronology of the film, showing us scenes taking place in the future and the past in order to give us exposition or character information as the plot progresses.

There are a couple of moments where it becomes a little distracting, but for the most part it is used to good effect and gives us information without the characters just explaining things to each other and the audience.

This high-concept thriller will definitely create some mixed opinions leaving the theater, but there is no doubt it will make a lasting impression that you will remember and talk about for days and possibly weeks to come.

Griffin’s score: 4/5 stars



PARAMOUNT PICTURES

COMMUNITY NOTE

Lenten activities at Sacred Heart Church

Sacred Heart Church
Contributor

“The Last Living Supper”
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Cullman invites the community to experience ″The Living Last Supper″ as presented by Gardendale’s Knights of Columbus of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. This program takes place at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 23, in the Sacred Heart Church and is open to all.

Come and visit with the 12 disciples of Jesus Christ as they share what will end up being their last meal together before Christ’s death on Calvary on Good Friday. The individual disciples leave the dining table to come into the audience to give their personal account of their time spent with the Savior and the feelings that are going through them during this tumultuous time. From Peter to Judas, each tale brings fresh insight into the lives of the 12 men who have followed Jesus for the past three years and who will lead the Church after His death on the Cross. Make your Lenten season more meaningful by attending this unique presentation. All are welcome!

Lenten Fish Fry Dinners
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church’s Knights of Columbus will offer their annual Lenten Fish Fry Dinners to the public on Friday, March 2, March 16 and March 23 in the Family Life Center. The dinners of fried or baked fish, baked potatoes, hush puppies, slaw, drinks and dessert are $5 for children, $8 per adult or $25 for families. Dinners are served from 5 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. prior to the Stations of the Cross in the Church at 7 p.m.

“Shadow Stations of the Cross”
Sacred Heart School in Cullman will present the ″Shadow Stations of the Cross″ in the Family Life Center of the Church on Friday, March 16.

The students, directed by the LIHM Sisters of the School, re-enact the Passion and Death of Christ in shadow form inviting attendees to follow along the Crucifixion route with Jesus. The program begins at 7 p.m. and all are welcome to attend.

“Scripture Luncheon”
The Altar Society of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Cullman will present their annual ‘Scripture Luncheon″ on Saturday, March 24, in the Family Life Center.

Theme for the decorated tables will revolve around the Bible passage ″Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God″ (Matthew 5:8).

The twelve hostesses will choose a scripture passage that has special meaning and decorate their tables according to that theme.

The event runs from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Tickets are $10 per person.

Come early for fellowship and fun! Everyone is invited to attend this special event at Sacred Heart of Jesus. For further information please contact Alison Cooke, coordinator, at 205-229-4247.

Workforce (from Front)

College.

Part 1: “Keeping it Real”
In the first installment of The Tribune’s series focusing on the Cullman area’s workforce, we take a look at “Keeping It Real” (KIR), a real-life simulation program for high school freshmen. It is offered by CEDA through its workforce entity Cullman Area Workforce Solutions (CAWS)

CAWS defines itself as “a voluntary partnership working to develop a strong, qualified workforce able to meet the current and future employment needs of Cullman, Alabama and surrounding areas. There are currently 28 partners in the CAWS group representing 17 companies and organizations. CAWS activities include educating students, educators and the underemployed about career opportunities, offering career guidance, and serving as a link to career training opportunities. CAWS also works with employers on any workforce development need including assistance with funding acquisition for training or skill enhancement programs.”

KIR, according to CAWS, “gives area 9th graders ‘real-world experience’ in paying household bills and making financial decisions for their ‘mock’ family. During the program, students, who are assigned a family, job and income, visit 12 booths where they purchase everything from groceries to daycare.

″The students learn the value (of) budgeting and making sound decisions when faced with unexpected expenses.”

CEDA’s Belinda Hyatt talked to The Tribune about KIR.

“What we do is we partner with Wallace State and industries, and just local retired school teachers, anybody that has experience, like in management or anything else. And what we do is we go out to the ninth graders . . . we kind of give them ideals and things they can start doing today to make them a better (employee) for the future,” said Hyatt.

Day one lessons include the importance of good character and quality job performance, cleaning up social media profiles and content, comparing job availability for graduates versus dropouts and brainstorming about career fields in the Cullman area. At the end of day one, students are randomly assigned family status: single, married, with or without children; occupation; monthly income; and education level.

Once these have been assigned, the students’ first task is to remove taxes from their income. Program leaders say students are often taken aback at how much of their income is not theirs to keep.

On day two, the students visit 12 stations where they buy a house, pay utilities, pay for childcare if they have young kids, buy groceries and clothing and fund other household activities.

Among these stations, the objective is for the students to learn the differences between necessities and luxuries, as well as what kind of lifestyle they can expect from different educational and career choices.

They also have to spin a wheel that will give them unexpected income or expenses, from work bonuses to broken cell phones and car trouble, to help them understand how things can change quickly in real life.

For students who find out their career and education will not support a comfortable life, representatives of Wallace State are on hand to talk to them about how training programs can make them more employable and lead to better income.

Along the way, students learn about employment opportunities and careers in the Cullman area, as well as program offerings at Wallace State. KIR, though, does not push particular educational or career paths; it helps kids develop plans for success in whatever they do.

Hyatt advised, “If you want to go to work at McDonald’s, and you’re happy and fine doing with that, work toward the higher--work toward the management positions but have a goal.”

Also on day two, students get to meet representatives of Cullman’s local industries and get ideas from them about how to pursue careers, and about what Cullman has to offer.

“The kids love it,” said Hyatt. “(The) schools love it. (It) gives the kids an opportunity to see what real life situations are. And I’ve had some great feedback. I’ve had some parents like call me, ‘Oh my gosh, my child came home and they’re like That was the best thing! Mom, y’all have to pay that every month?’”

For more information about CAWS and KIR, visit www.cullmancareers.com. For more on the overall programs of CEDA, visit www.cullmaneda.org.

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
FEBRUARY 27, 2018

Love of the game: Vinemont alumni gather to play baseball, reminisce

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent

VINEMONT – Vinemont High School's Mike Cupp Field managed to dodge Saturday's wet weather long enough for several generations of Eagles baseball player to duke it out in their alumni game. The teams were divided by age, with the 25 and younger group taking on the 26 and older unit. The older squad was able to take down the young group for a 9-7 win, but the purpose of the game wasn't to decide a winner as much as it was to get people together for a fun afternoon and reminisce about the "good ole days" together on the diamond.

The 25 and younger team featured several recent Eagles grads, including: Josh Terry, Corey Whittle, Joey Pace, Corbin Barnett, Cordale Gay, Alan Schiel, Todd Schiel, Duncan Hopper, KC Hopper, Chase Woods, Garrett Boland and Cody Stewart.

The home-standing older unit was made up of Eagles greats like: Heath Hopper, Erik Runge, Cody Harris, Josh Campbell, Stan Jennings, James Samples, Jason Veres, Matt Collins, Zack Kilpatrick, Gary Wadell, Anthony Pace and Chris Harrison.

The man that most of the older group played for, and that the field is named after, Coach Mike Cupp, was in attendance.

Cupp said the most fun part of the day for him was reuniting with some of his old players and getting a chance to see them back in action.

"It's a lot of fun; it's about as good as it gets because after you leave you don't get to see people you used to see often like Charles (Jennings). I used to see Charles every week and now it's about every year maybe," Coach Cupp said. "I coached Charles' boys, most all of these kids I coached except for the real young ones, and if you watch them you can see why we were pretty good because they can still play. I'm not surprised, some of these kids were really good players."

The plan is to make the alumni game an annual event from now on and Coach Cupp is excited to be part of it and plans to attend as many as possible.

"I'm going to come as long as I can; it's a good event. Otherwise I won't get to see these people," said Cupp.

"A lot of times you just get lucky; well I was lucky to be here a lot of years and have good kids and great parents. This was a great place to be."

Admission was free for fans, friends, family and anyone else who wanted to attend, but donations were accepted for the Eagles Baseball program.

A big part of the event was just sharing the love of baseball in the Vinemont community.

Current Eagles coach Matt Collins shared, "There's a lot of history here at Vinemont. I got Coach Cupp sitting right here next to me, and the field's named after him, so we're just trying to promote the program in a positive manner."

Said Collins, "I know a lot of the guys out here and there are some I don't know, but there's kind of an instant connection because we all played on this field and most of us played for Coach Cupp, so it's just good to give them an opportunity to get out here and play."



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Josh Campbell, Coach Mike Cupp and Charles Jennings sit in the dugout at Saturday's Vinemont Baseball alumni game.



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE



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Cullman native Wendy Shaw is happy to be home, breaking new ground, as the city's first-ever certified nurse midwife (CNM). Shaw is now practicing at Cullman Primary Care Obstetrics & Gynecology and can deliver babies at Cullman Regional.

I grew up here in the Welti area and went to high school at Holly Pond. I went to school here and worked as an RN. My actual first job in labor and delivery was at Cullman Regional Medical Center.

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