The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

VOL. 145 • 50¢ PER COPY | *APRIL 3, 2018* | USPS 139-700 • NO. 40

New advisory committee launches 3-phase plan for Cullman's mental health crisis

Wendy Sack, Cullman Regional

CULLMAN – Cullman Regional on Monday announced the formation of the Cullman County Mental Health Advisory Committee and its three-phase plan to address Cullman County's mental health crisis. Nationally, said a statement from the hospital, the suicide rate increased 22 percent between 2005 and 2015. In Cullman County, the suicide rate doubled in 2017, with 25 recorded suicides.

"As state and private psychiatric hospital beds have closed, the need for such care has been steadily increasing," said Neal Morrison, advisory group leader.

According to the hospital, in 2014, there were 88 commitments from Cullman County to psychiatric facilities. In 2017, this number more tripled to 265. In the past five years, Cullman County has seen several high-profile incidents involving community members with mental illness including several stand-offs with local law enforcement.

In February 2017, Frank Kane, 52, died when he ignited the Catoma Lane house where » PAGE 2



PIXABAY

The rumors are true: Rumors Deli is now open!



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Rumors crew ready for business on Monday morning.

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The rumors are true! Annette Harris has been hinting for several days that Rumors Deli would be ready to open soon in its new location at 601 Fourth St. SW, across from the Shell on West Main, and bright and early Monday morning the iconic Cullman area eatery quietly opened its doors.

"We weren't going to tell anybody," said Harris Monday morning, "because we're just going to kind of work out the kinks and get things going, but we're open today. It's the first real day we're open. We do have a few problems, and that's one reason we didn't make a big announcement. Our phones are still not working. We're trying to get AT&T to help us out, and when they do, our pick-up window will be perfect!"

That's right: the new Rumors has a pickup window. It isn't a fast food-type drive-up window; customers will have to call ahead to order, but they will be able to swing through the pick-up lane on the east side of the building and get their orders to go.

Harris talked about the new location's amenities.

"Everything in here is new, pretty much. We have new furniture: we have beautiful tables made by Rustic River Creations in Chapel Hill, Tennessee. They're beautiful! Our lighting is all new; that's Inline Lighting here in Cullman--we bought local as much as we could.

"Our awning is beautiful outside. We've got some outdoor seating out front; today's a really pretty day to come check that out!"

Harris noted that even the restrooms are bigger and fancier, with stained glass doors by Mike Baron, and counters and sinks by Cultured Marble. Roger Long at Southern Accents rebuilt two vintage glass-paned doors that were found in the building's basement, and they can now be used to close off Rumors' private meeting room.

"We tried to keep this building as original as we could," said Harris, "and not modernize it and make it look like something that doesn't belong. We wanted to preserve it. And I think this building is loving us, because you know, it's coming back to life, and it's going to be a showpiece for this area, and I believe it's going to be a destination restaurant."

The crew preserved vintage windows, brick walls and tall shelving units complete with their original » PAGE 3

CRIME / COURTS

Cullman judges update bail bond schedule; drug trafficking, manufacturing bond amounts cut in half

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craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Cullman County's circuit and district judges recently decided to update the county's bail bond schedule, which had been in effect since 2016. Several drug-related offenses on the schedule have had bond amounts drastically reduced, and two lesser offenses--criminal littering and consumption/possession of alcohol by a minor--were reduced from monetary bonds to release on recognizance.

An official with the county court system explained that suspects who receive high initial bond amounts for those particular offenses typically have the amounts reduced at subsequent hearings, so the new schedule is an effort to bring the initial bond amounts in line with the bond amounts those suspects would end up with anyway.

Several crimes involving violent behavior or threats of violent behavior have had their bond amounts retained, but they have been amended to include a provision that the suspect can have no contact with the alleged victim.

Three new categories have been added to the schedule: harassment/harassing communications, reckless driving and violation of a protection from abuse order.

The Cullman County Bond Schedule
Terms

- **Felony** - category of serious crimes (Fel. on chart)
- **Misdemeanor** - category of crimes considered to be minor offenses (Mis. on chart)
- **Violation** - lowest category of minor crimes, including traffic tickets and others (Viol. on chart)
- **Degree** - first, second, third, or fourth; the seriousness of a crime which may occur in different forms. First degree is the most serious. (1d, 2d, 3d, 4d on chart)
- **Class** - A, B, C, or D; like degree, refers to the seriousness of an offense. Class A is the most serious. (cA, cB, cC, cD on chart)
- ROR - suspect released on his or her own recognizance, without bond

Bond Schedule in effect since Jan. 30, » PAGE 5

Pet of the Week: help Priscilla find her forever home

W.C. Mann
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CULLMAN – The Cullman County Animal Shelter's Donna Ruttkay introduces us to Priscilla, The Cullman Tribune's Pet of the Week.

"Priscilla is an Anatolian mix, approximately 11 months old. She's quiet, humble, and unassuming, a laid-back, low energy pet.

"She understands leash etiquette, and she's not a jumper; she'll be respectful of your space. Priscilla enjoys the company of children.

Animal shelter staff and volunteers work with their dogs to make sure they are accustomed to being around people, walking on a leash and practicing good behavior. Five of the shelter's dogs have recently been 'hired' to work as special needs service dogs.

"You will get good pets from the Cullman County Animal Shelter."

Priscilla's adoption fee is $90, which includes her 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. Reach them by email at cullmancountyanimal-shelter@gmail.com.



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Arrest report: March 29-April 1

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests reported for March 29-April 1. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (MARCH 29-APRIL 1)

Bailey, Ashley Carol, 32
- FTA- first-degree unlawful possession of marijuana not for personal use

Burnham, William Rance, 24
- reckless driving

Calvert, Chaulka Charles, 42
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- writ of arrest- child support

Dolan, Mark Christopher, 51
- third-degree assault

Edge, Patrick Thomas, 24
- DUI- .08 BAC or greater

Gaddis, Jennifer Ann, 33
- FTA- third-degree forgery

Gann, Jeffery James, 55
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Garrard, Richard Leon, 42
- GJ- third-degree theft of property

Gibson, Jason Lynn, 44
- FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Gill, Jenny Rebecca, 44
- FTA- contributing to the delinquency of a minor

Givens, Paul Michael, 24
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence-harassment
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Graves, Kevin Dewayne, 32
- probation violation-unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Hall, Anthony Tyrone, 42
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Hanners, Bobby Leon, 29
- tampering with physical evidence
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Harper, Jason Wade, 33
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Harris, Steven Paul, 39
- probation violation-attempt to commit a controlled substance crime
- probation violation-unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Hyde, Ashley Brooke, 40
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Jones, Hannah Azalea, 26
- FTA- attempting to elude
- possession of drug paraphernalia

McCormick, Kenny Lynn Jr., 25
- FTA- resisting arrest (2 counts)
- FTA- third-degree theft of property
- FTA- third-degree theft of property (old charge only)

Owens, Jessica Marie, 30
- obstruction- using false ID

Smith, Blake Sanderson, 29
- second-degree bail jumping- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- first-degree bail jumping- unlawful possession of a controlled substance
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Smith, Susan Winton, 65
- first-degree hindering prosecution

Speegle, Kevin Alan, 36
- public intoxication

Stewart, Brian Wesley, 33
- public lewdness

Strickland, Ronnie James, 44
- public intoxication

Taylor, Anthony Wayne, 33
- FTA- third-degree burglary

Tennihill, Jennifer Alicia, 31
- probation violation-unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Thomas, Marissa Ann, 27
- public intoxication

Wilcox, Kayla Renee, 34
- possession of drug paraphernalia

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (MARCH 30-APRIL 1)

McCormick, Kenny L. Jr., 25
- FTA- attempting to elude
- FTA- third-degree criminal trespassing

Johnson, Brandi L., 36
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Stover, Tevin O., 25
- FTA- violation of protection order

Hanners, Curtis R., 51
- FTA- driving while revoked

Strickland, Ronnie J., 44
- FTA- public intoxication (4 counts)

Dockins, Cathy L., 59
- DUI

Sellers, Christian A., 21
- unlawful distribution of a controlled substance

Dibble, Michael T., 43
- DUI

Taylor, Anthony W., 33
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Rosin, Cody A., 26
- FTA- public intoxication

Shader, Raechel N., 32
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- second-degree promoting prison contraband

Edge, Patrick T., 24
- FTA- speeding

Buchanan, Brad L., 49
- public intoxication

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No arrests reported.

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

Crisis (from Front)

he lived with his mother. (Read www.cullmantribune.com/articles/2017/02/01/reports-cpd-scene-where-man-has-allegedly-barricaded-himself-inside-home)

In July 2017, prominent Cullman attorney Steve Griffith was shot to death at his Vinemont home by an intruder who lawmen say was mentally ill and had been obsessed with the victim for more than a decade. (Read www.cullmantribune.com/articles/2017/07/18/system-failing-our-citizens-sheriff-points-mental-illness-cause-fatal-home)

"We are already making progress and have valuable commitments from several of our local partners," Morrison said.

Some of the programs already in place:
- Mental health first aid training for local law enforcement: This training will be conducted by WellStone (formerly Cullman Mental Health) with materials being provided courtesy of Probate Judge Tammy Brown.
- WellStone will be temporarily waiving all self-pay fees for addiction treatment to remove any barriers for those seeking help.

"The committee has outlined a three-phase plan to help create a long-term, sustainable solution," Chris Van Dyke, WellStone chief operations officer said.

Phase 1 – Address the current crisis in the Cullman Regional Emergency Department

The dramatic rise in the number of people needing inpatient care has created a crisis in local emergency departments, including Cullman Regional, which are required to provide medical clearance to admit patients to scarce psychiatric hospital beds. Patients routinely wait days and sometimes weeks in the emergency department as they await an open psychiatric bed.

Phase 2 – Improve funding for wrap-around crisis services and address statewide barriers to care

Often times, patients receive inpatient treatment and are able to return to society; however, without continuous care and programs, they frequently return back to the emergency department for treatment which begins the cycle over again. This phase seeks to create and/or grow outpatient day programs and outreach workers who can follow people with a history of mental health illness and intervene prior to a crisis situation.

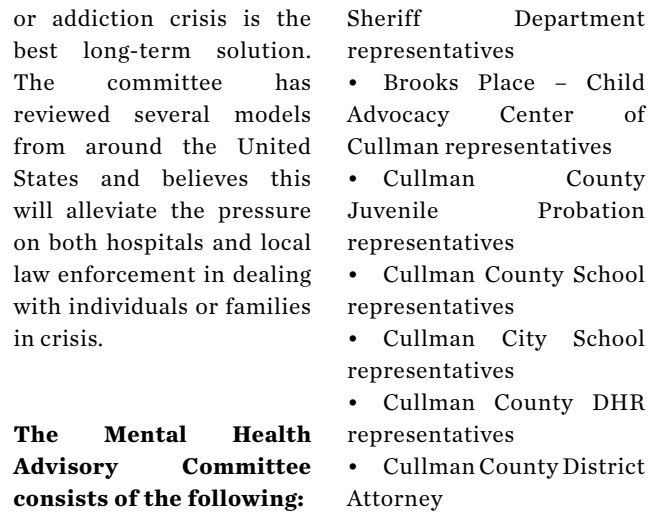
Phase 3 – Open a freestanding mental health crisis center in Cullman County

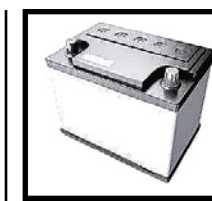
After successfully completing phase one and two, the committee believes the creation of a freestanding crisis center to provide triage and crisis treatment for adults and families with mental health or addiction crisis is the best long-term solution. The committee has reviewed several models from around the United States and believes this will alleviate the pressure on both hospitals and local law enforcement in dealing with individuals or families in crisis.

The Mental Health Advisory Committee consists of the following:
- Cullman Regional Medical Center representatives
- WellStone (formerly Cullman Mental Health) representatives
- Judge Greg Nicholas
- Judge Tammy Brown
- The Sanctuary at the Woodlands representatives
- Judge Kim Chaney
- Judge Martha Williams
- Judge Rusty Turner
- Cullman County Sheriff Department representatives
- Brooks Place – Child Advocacy Center of Cullman representatives
- Cullman County Juvenile Probation representatives
- Cullman County School representatives
- Cullman City School representatives
- Cullman County DHR representatives
- Cullman County District Attorney

"We have big plans, but it will require all of us working together, toward the same goal in order to make this work," Brown said.

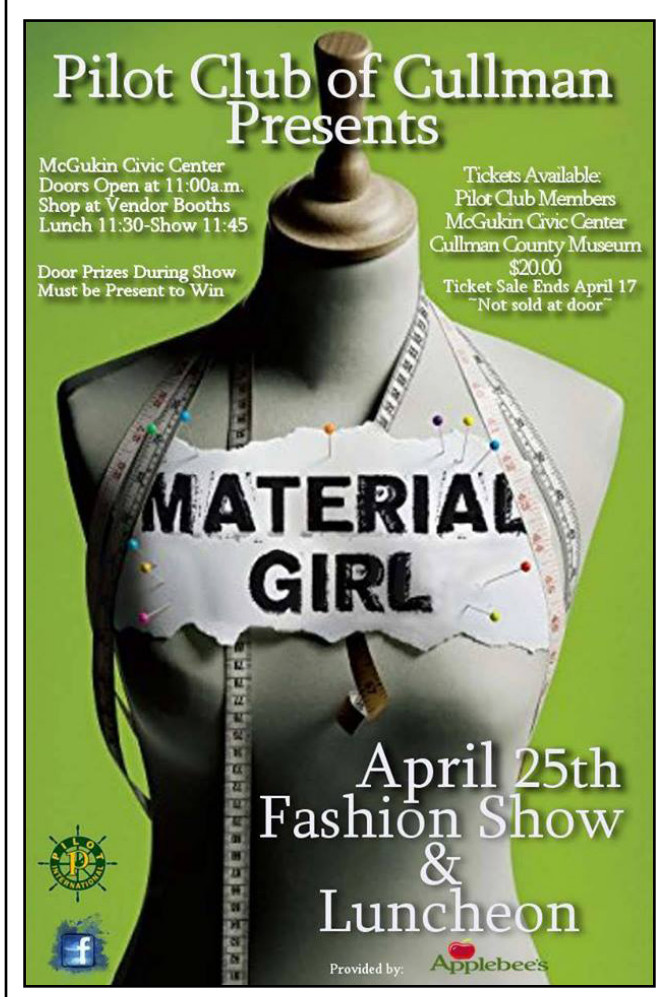
For more information on the advisory committee or how to get involved, contact any of the local partners or Morrison at 256-339-6555.




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Nathan Harvell
(PLAINTIFF)
VS
Krystal Garcia
(DEFENDANT)

CASE NO: SM-2017-900884

NOTICE OF FILING OF LAW SUIT

DEFENDANT(S), Krystal Garcia, whose whereabouts are unknown, must answer the complaint brought against him/her by the PLAINTIFF, Nathan Harvell, for $4,770.00 plus court cost, cause of action being: Contract/Rent owed.

ANSWER TO THE COMPLAINT MUST BE MADE BY THE SAID DEFENDANT on or before the 24th day of April, 2018, or a default may be rendered against him/her in the above styled cause.

DATED THIS THE 16th DAY OF March, 2018.

LISA MCSWAIN
CIRCUIT COURT CLERK
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

NOTICE TO PUBLISHER:

Please publish once a week for four (4) successive weeks in the Cullman Tribune beginning March 20, 2018.

The Cullman Tribune
Cullman County's Oldest Business, Serving the area since 1874
Publication Number USPS-139-700
Telephone: 256-739-1351 Fax: 1-256-739-4422
Humble Roots, LLC
Published Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 219 2nd Avenue SE, Cullman, Alabama 35055 Entered as periodical material at the Cullman Post Office Periodical postage paid at Cullman, Alabama 35055
POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO:
The Cullman Tribune
219 Second Avenue SE
Cullman, Alabama 35055
Email Address: robin@cullmansense.com

ANNUALLY BASED RATES

Cullman.....$75.00
Outside Cullman.....$85.00

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Chamber's 'State of Our Communities' set for April 27 at civic center

Rob Ketcham
Cullman Chamber

CULLMAN – There's only one place where you can hear updates about the area's education, healthcare, government and more all in one day — and that's at the Chamber's "Chick-fil-A State of Our Communities."

The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce's Governmental Affairs Committee would like to invite the public to attend this year's all-day event on Friday, April 27 at the Cullman Civic Center.

Doors will open at 7 a.m. Major session topics include the State of Education, State of Healthcare, State of Local

Government and a Legislative Forum. Representatives from agencies and organizations related to human services, utilities, tourism and recreation, economic development, and the Chamber will be set up in breakout rooms and provide information/ demonstrations to visitors until the event concludes at 3 p.m.

One breakout room will also be reserved for the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) Trade Show. This event will allow YEA! students from Cullman High School and Holly Pond High School to showcase the products and services they've been working hard on this academic year through booths and displays.

The "Chick-fil-A State of Our Communities" is free to the public. However, attendees do have the opportunity to purchase an All-Access Pass for $50, which includes priority seating, breakfast, lunch, hospitality room access and a swag bag. Breakfast ($15) and lunch ($20) can also be purchased separately.

The Chamber is currently seeking questions from members and the public for the State of Healthcare and Legislative Forum. To submit a question, visit surveymonkey.com/r/2018Stateofour-Communities. Submitting a question does not guarantee it will be asked.

See below for an overview of each major session:

State of Education
• **Time:** 8 a.m.
• **Premier Sponsor:** Wallace State Community College
• **Corporate Sponsors:** Cullman-Jefferson Gas | Cullman Electric Cooperative

During this session, we'll hear from Cullman City Schools Superintendent Susan Patterson, Cullman County Schools Superintendent Shane Barnette and a Wallace State Community College representative. The Student of the Year and Career Technical Student of the Year will also be announced. The Teacher of the Year for the city and county school systems is also recognized.

State of Healthcare
• **Time:** 10 a.m.
• **Premier Sponsor:** Katherine Morgan - State Farm Insurance & Financial Services
• **Corporate Sponsors:** Cullman Electric Cooperative | Bradford Health Services

This panel discussion will feature WellStone Behavioral Health COO Chris Van Dyke, a Cullman Regional representative and Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry, and touch on relevant local healthcare topics, such as the opioid epidemic.

State of Local Government
• **Time:** 11:30 a.m.
• **Premier Sponsor:** American Proteins, Inc.
• **Corporate Sponsors:** Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood, Inc. | Jackson & Williams Attorneys At Law During this session, Cullman County Commission Chairman Kenneth Walker and local mayors will provide general updates from their respective areas.

Legislative Forum
• **Time:** 1:30 p.m.
• **Premier Sponsor:** James R. Smith Trucking
• **Corporate Sponsor:** Cullman-Jefferson Gas

This Q&A style forum will feature local nominees for the District 4 State Senate seat, Paul Bussman and Garlan Gudger, and for the District 12 Alabama House of Representatives seat, Corey Harbison and Alex Chaney.*

** Additional participants subject to be announced*

For more information or to purchase an All-Access Pass, contact the Chamber at 256-734-0454 or info@cullmanchamber.org.

County Commission chooses Craft & Associates for storm repairs

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W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The Cullman County Commission held a special-called meeting on Monday to pick a company to repair storm-damaged buildings.

CULLMAN – On Monday afternoon, the Cullman County Commission held a special meeting to review proposals from three construction companies to perform repairs to County facilities damaged by the March 19 storms: Craft & Associates, Inc., C.H. Harris, Inc. and Eidson and Associates, Inc.

Of the three, Craft and Associates was chosen based on previous project experience.

The proposals did not contain bids, since the full extent of damage has yet to be ascertained, and the commission does not take bids on such projects, according to Chairman Kenneth Walker.

The documents listed the contractors' qualifications and previous projects as evidence of their ability to handle this set of projects.

The most heavily damaged County facility was the combined Cullman County Sheriff's Office and County Detention Center, and that was the deciding factor for the commissioners.

The facility was constructed by Craft & Associates, and the commission felt that the original builder would know best how to perform repairs.

Commissioner Garry Marchman said, "I think if you look at overall just basic qualifications, I think any of them would meet the minimum qualifications to do the job . . . Craft actually worked on the facility that has the largest amount of damage."

"That's what caught my attention," said Commissioner Kerry Watson, "was that they were the ones that were involved in the building of the Detention Center. They'd probably know more about the building than anyone else."

Marchman added before the commission's vote, "I personally want to thank all of them for taking an interest in what we're doing here, because it's huge to us and it's a tough decision to make."

While the discussion centered on the Detention Center, the County's contract with Craft & Associates will cover all County facilities damaged by the March 19 storms.

Rumors (from Front)

rolling ladders. But the eatery does have its modern touches including flat-screen televisions, a digital stereo system that can run different programming from one speaker to the next simultaneously, customer Wi-fi, and even power outlets which include USB ports for charging devices.

"You know, it's going to look a little different when (longtime customers) come in here," said Harris.

"They're used to seeing all of our stuff sitting everywhere, but we just want to get open and get the food back out to them."

For longtime Rumors fans, the changes to the menu involve additions, not subtractions. There's an extra-healthy "Superfood Salad" with kale, blueberries, sesame seeds and other good-for-you ingredients, and Rumors will be adding new breakfast sandwiches soon.

Rumors will operate at the regular breakfast and lunch hours fans remember. The phone lines are not working yet but should be up and running soon.

An official grand opening and ribbon cutting will take place later this week.

For more information, visit www.rumorsdeli.com, or www.facebook.com/rumorsdeli. Once phone lines are working, customers can call 256-737-0911.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Annette Harris welcomes the first two customers to the new Rumors.

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
APRIL 3, 2018

‘Paws in the Park 2018’ sees adoptions galore!

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Cullman County Animal Control and the Cullman County Animal Shelter on Saturday celebrated “Paws in the Park” at Sportsman Lake Park, to promote pet adoptions. The event was held just after the annual Easter egg hunt at the park concluded.

And this truly was a celebration: the shelter has seen an unprecedented upsurge in pet adoptions in recent weeks. Even at the park, the trend continued. “Paws” opened at 10 a.m., and by 10:30, two of four dogs the shelter brought out had already been adopted.

Animal Control officer Dwain Floyd told The Tribune, “Our adoption rate’s been out the roof! I would say right now they’re at 95-plus percent (of adoptable pets). I mean, that’s unheard of. It’s been great!

“We were worried about not having anything to come today. We had our dogs picked out in the middle of the week; then, Thursday, they adopted three of them out--some of the ones we were planning on bringing . . . It’s been awesome! I mean, you can’t ask for better.”

The animal shelter was also recruiting volunteers and pet foster parents. According to Floyd, volunteering at the shelter is a fun way of giving a little community service for adults and students 16 and older.

“You come up and play with the dogs!” he said.

“And the ones that don’t want to play with the dogs, if they want to fold clothes, they can fold clothes.

”It’s what we work off of, really. The volunteers, really, are what help keep us going, that, and all the donations.”

Many of the dogs that come to the shelter have had little or no positive interaction with people before arriving. They come in timid and scared, but staff and volunteers help them learn to socialize, and, more importantly, to trust. The dogs learn good behaviors like walking on a leash and playing without being overly aggressive.

The result is dogs that know how to be good pets. Many will end up becoming service dogs for children with special needs. According to Floyd, five of Cullman’s shelter dogs have made that career move in just the last month.

What about the cats?

Volunteer Donna Ruttkay, who has been the shelter’s liaison to The Tribune for its “Pet of the Week” series, reported that cats have a very high success rate at the shelter. They tend to get adopted quickly, and, on those rare occasions when the shelter finds itself with extra cats, local pet shops have no problem finding homes for them.

Ruttkay spoke highly of the county’s animal control officers and shelter staff:

“These guys care. They care. They take care of the animals, they take them off the street where they can be in danger of being hit, maimed, killed, whatever. They’re here, they’re put in the shelter. Like the captain said, this might be the first time they’ve ever had a fresh bowl of water and food every day. And they’re safe, warm . . .”

Floyd chimed in, “And they make the best pets!”

For more information on adopting, volunteering or pet fostering, visit the Cullman County Animal Shelter at 935 Convent Road NE in Cullman, visit online at www.petfinder.com/member/us/al/cullman/cullman-county-animal-shelter-al182/ or www.facebook.com/cullmancountyanimalshelter/, or call 256-734-5448.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

A shelter dog gets a snuggle from one of the many children who stopped by Paws at the Park on Saturday.

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SATURDAY 8AM-4PM
POOL WILL NOW OPEN AT 6AM ON SATURDAY

Schedule (from Front)

2016
Bold indicates changes made on the Mar. 19, 2018 schedule.

- Assault 1d, Fel. cB - $10,000...***Now $10,000 plus no contact with victim***
- Assault 2d, Fel. cC - $5,000...***Now $5,000 plus no contact with victim***
- Assault 3d, Mis. cA - $3,000...***Now $3,000 plus no contact with victim***
- Attempting to Elude, Mis. cA - $3,000...*no change*
- Attempting to Elude with injury/fatality, Fel. cC - $5,000...*no change*
- Burglary 1d, Fel. cA - $20,000...*no change*
- Burglary 2d, Fel. cB - $10,000...*no change*
- Burglary 3d, Fel. cC - $5,000...*no change*
- Carrying Concealed Weapon, no category/class listed - $750...*no change*
- Carrying Pistol without Permit, no category/class listed - $750...*no change*
- Contributing to Delinquency of Minor, no category/class listed - $500...***Now $500 plus no contact with victim***
- Criminal Littering, Mis. cC - $500...***Now changed to ROR***
- Criminal Mischief 1d, Fel. cC - $5,000...*no change*
- Criminal Mischief 2d, Mis. cA - $3,000...*no change*
- Criminal Mischief 3d, Mis. cB - $1,000...*no change*
- Criminal Trespass 1d, Mis. cA - $3,000...*no change*
- Criminal Trespass 2d, Mis. cC - $1,000...*no change*
- Criminal Trespass 3d, Viol. - $500...*no change*
- Discharge Firearm into Occupied Dwelling/Vehicle, Fel. cC - $5,000...***Now $5,000 plus no contact with victim***
- Disorderly Conduct, Mis. cC - $500...*no change*
- Domestic Violence 3d, Mis. cA - $1,500...***Now $1,500 plus no contact with victim***
- Domestic Violence Assault, Mis. cA - $1,500...***Now $1,500 plus no contact with victim***
- Domestic Violence Harassment, Mis. cA - $1,500...***Now $1,500 plus no contact with victim***
- DUI, Fel. - $5,000...*no change*
- DUI, Mis. - $2,000...*no change*
- Felon in Possession of Firearm, Fel. cC - $5,000...*no change*
- Forgery/Possession of Forged Instrument 1d, Fel. cB - $10,000...*no change*
- Forgery/Possession of Forged Instrument 2d, Fel. cC - $5,000...*no change*
- Forgery/Possession of Forged Instrument 3d, Fel. cD - $4,000...*no change*
- Forgery/Possession of Forged Instrument 4d, Mis. cA - $3,000...*no change*
- Fraudulent Use of Credit Card, Fel. cD - $4,000...*no change*
- Giving False Information to Law Enforcement Officer, Mis. cB - $1,000...*no change*
- ***Harassment/Harassing Communications (not on 2016 schedule), Mis. cC - $1,500 plus no contact with victim***
- Illegal Possession of Alcohol/Public Intoxication, Viol. - $250...*no change*
- Illegal Possession of Prescription Medication, Mis. cA - $3,000...*no change*
- Leaving Scene of Accident with Injuries, Fel. cC - $5,000...*no change*
- Leaving Scene of Accident without Injuries, Mis. cB - $1,000...*no change*
- Menacing, Mis. cA - $3,000...***Now Mis. cB - $3,000 plus no contact with victim***
- Minor in Possession/Consumption of Alcohol, Mis. cC - $500...***Now ROR after 24 hours***
- Obstructing Justice/Using False ID, Fel. cC - $5,000...*no change*
- Open House Party, Mis. cB - $1,000...*no change*
- Possession of Burglary Tools, Fel. cC - $5,000...*no change*
- Promoting Prison Contraband 1d, Fel. cB - $10,000...*no change*
- Promoting Prison Contraband 2d, Fel. cC - $5,000...*no change*
- Promoting Prison Contraband 3d, Mis. cA - $3,000...*no change*
- Rape 1d, Fel. cA - $20,000...***Now $20,000 plus no contact with victim***
- Rape 2d, Fel. cB - $10,000...***Now $10,000 plus no contact with victim***
- Receiving Stolen Property 1d, Fel. cB - $10,000...*no change*
- Receiving Stolen Property 2d, Fel. cC - $5,000...*no change*
- Receiving Stolen Property 3d, Fel. cD - $4,000...*no change*
- Receiving Stolen Property 4d, Mis. cA - $3,000...*no change*
- Reckless Endangerment, Mis. cA - $3,000...*no change*
- ***Reckless Driving (not on 2016 schedule), no category or class listed - $500***
- Resisting Arrest, Mis. cB - $1,000...*no change*
- Theft of Property 1d, Fel. cB - $10,000...*no change*
- Theft of Property 2d, Fel. cC - $5,000...*no change*
- Theft of Property 3d, Fel. cD - $4,000...*no change*
- Theft of Property 4d, Mis. cA - $3,000...*no change*
- Traffic Violations, Viol. - $300...*no change*
- Trafficking Illegal Drugs, Fel. cC - $1,000,000...***Now $500,000***
- Unlawful Breaking and Entering of a Motor Vehicle, Fel. cC - $5,000...*no change*
- Unlawful Distribution of a Controlled Substance, Fel. cB - $20,000...*no change*
- Unlawful Manufacturing of a Controlled Substance 1d, Fel. cA - $1,000,000...***Now $500,000***
- Unlawful Manufacturing of a Controlled Substance 2d, Fel. cB - $1,000,000...***Now $500,000***
- Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance, Fel. cD - $4,000...*no change*
- Unlawful Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Mis. cB - $1,000...***Now $300***
- Unlawful Possession of Marijuana not for personal use 1d, Fel. cC - $5,000...*no change*
- Unlawful Possession of Marijuana for personal use 1d, Fel. cD - $4,000...*no change*
- Unlawful Possession of Marijuana 2d, Mis. cA - $2,000...***Now $500***
- ***Violation of Protection from Abuse Order (not on 2016 schedule), Mis. cA - $1,500 plus no contact with victim***

Bond amounts for murder, attempted murder and manslaughter are set by judges on a case-by-case basis.

General Bond Schedules for offenses not listed
2016

- Class A felony...$10,000 to $60,000
- Class B felony...$5,000 to $30,000
- Class C felony...$2,500 to $15,000
- Class D felony...$1,000 to $10,000
- Class A misdemeanor...$300 to $6,000
- Class B misdemeanor...$300 to $3,000
- Class C misdemeanor...$300 to $1,000
- Violation...$300 to $500

2018

- Class A felony...$30,000
- Class B felony...$15,000
- Class C felony...$10,000
- Class D felony...$5,000
- Class A misdemeanor...$3,000
- Class B misdemeanor...$1,500
- Class C misdemeanor...$500
- Violation...Released on Own Recognizance

What is a bail bond?
Bail is an amount of money paid, or property pledged to a court to secure the release of an accused person prior to hearings or trials. It is given to help guarantee that the defendant shows up at court when he or she is supposed to do so. Bonds can take three main forms:

- **Recognizance bond** – For cases in which the bail amount might be very low and the defendant is considered to be a low flight risk, that person might simply sign a pledge to pay a certain fine if the court date is missed.
- **Property bond** – The defendant or others acting on his or her behalf sign over interest in real property of a given dollar value to secure the defendant's release. Think of it as a temporary mortgage to the court. These are often set with high dollar amounts.
- **Cash bond** – The defendant or others acting on his or her behalf must deposit actual money with the court. This is where bail bondsmen often come in. These bonds are often much lower than property bonds, but can be more difficult to procure, since they require actual money in-hand.

Upon completion of the case, the money is returned or property reverts to the owner's control. If the defendant fails to appear in court on the set date, cash money is forfeited and property can be seized.

Who has a right to bail?
The 8th Amendment contained in the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution reads:
"Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted."

Article 1, sec. 16 of the 1901 Constitution of the State of Alabama reads:
"That all persons shall, before conviction, be bailable by sufficient sureties, except for capital offenses, when the proof is evident or the presumption great; and that excessive bail shall not in any case be required."

Section 7.2 of the Alabama Rules of Criminal Procedures (ARCP) begins:
"Any defendant charged with an offense bailable as a matter of right may be released pending or during trial on his or her personal recognizance or on an appearance bond unless the court or magistrate determines that such a release will not reasonably assure the defendant's appearance as required, or that the defendant's being at large will pose a real and present danger to others or to the public at large."

Defendants have a right to be released on bond pending hearings and trials, unless they are charged with capital offenses or the judge/magistrate considers them to be flight risks or threats to the community.

Judges are given wide leeway in assigning bail amounts. To a degree, it's a judgment call (no pun intended) on their part, but it's an educated judgment call informed by numerous factors.

Fair vs. excessive bail
So how does the system determine what is fair and what is excessive? The ARCP sets forth guidelines to be considered when imposing bail:

- The age, background and family ties, relationships and circumstances of the defendant
- The defendant's reputation, character and health
- The defendant's prior criminal record, including prior releases on recognizance or on secured appearance bonds, and other pending cases
- The identity of responsible members of the community who will vouch for the defendant's reliability
- Violence or lack of violence in the alleged commission of the offense
- The nature of the offense charged, the apparent probability of conviction, and the likely sentence, insofar as these factors are relevant to the risk of non-appearance
- The type of weapon used
- Threats made against victims and/or witnesses
- The value of property taken during the alleged commission of the offense
- Whether the property allegedly taken was recovered or not; damage or lack of damage to property allegedly taken
- Residence of the defendant, including consideration of real property ownership, and length of residence in his or her place of domicile
- In cases where the defendant is charged with a drug offense, evidence of selling or pusher activity should indicate a substantial increase in the amount of bond. (More on this later)
- Consideration of the defendant's employment status and history, the location of defendant's employment, e.g., whether employed in the county where the alleged offense occurred, and the defendant's financial condition
- Any enhancement statutes related to the charged offense

These considerations lead to a few examples. In cases of similar offenses:

- A defendant who is young and healthy may get a higher amount than an elderly or ill defendant.
- A defendant who lives or has significant connections outside the state may get a higher amount than one whose roots are local.
- A repeat offender with a history of criminal behavior may get a higher amount than a first-time offender whose prior reputation was positive.
- A defendant with personal access to substantial financial resources may get a higher amount than a defendant who is poor.
- A defendant in a drug distribution or trafficking case is likely to get a higher amount than defendants in cases of other crimes within the same felony class.

The drug issue
Why do people charged with drug distribution/trafficking face such high bond amounts?

First, let us define "trafficking." Drug trafficking involves possession of large amounts of a drug with intent to sell or distribute and carries substantially higher penalties than simple possession. It is based on amounts: the justice system assumes that possession of very small amounts would be for personal use. On the following table from the Code of Alabama section 13, the amounts shown are the minimum amounts of each drug that would lead to a trafficking charge. Many drugs are included in the Code; those common in the Cullman area are included here.

- Marijuana/Cannabis: 1 kilo/2.2 pounds
- Cocaine: 28 grams/.99 ounces
- Opiates, including Morphine and Heroin: 4 grams/.14 ounces
- Amphetamines: 28 grams
- Methamphetamine: 28 grams

The Code and ARCP both note that persons arrested for trafficking who are found to be in possession of a firearm at the same time will face additional penalties, as will those arrested for distribution to minors or distribution within 3 miles of a school or public housing facility. These issues might also figure into bond considerations.

Statistics concerning drug defendants
Below are a few facts about drug defendants (those arrested but not yet convicted) from the Federal Bureau of Justice Statistics, that might shed some light on the system's particular targeting of accused drug dealers for high bond amounts.

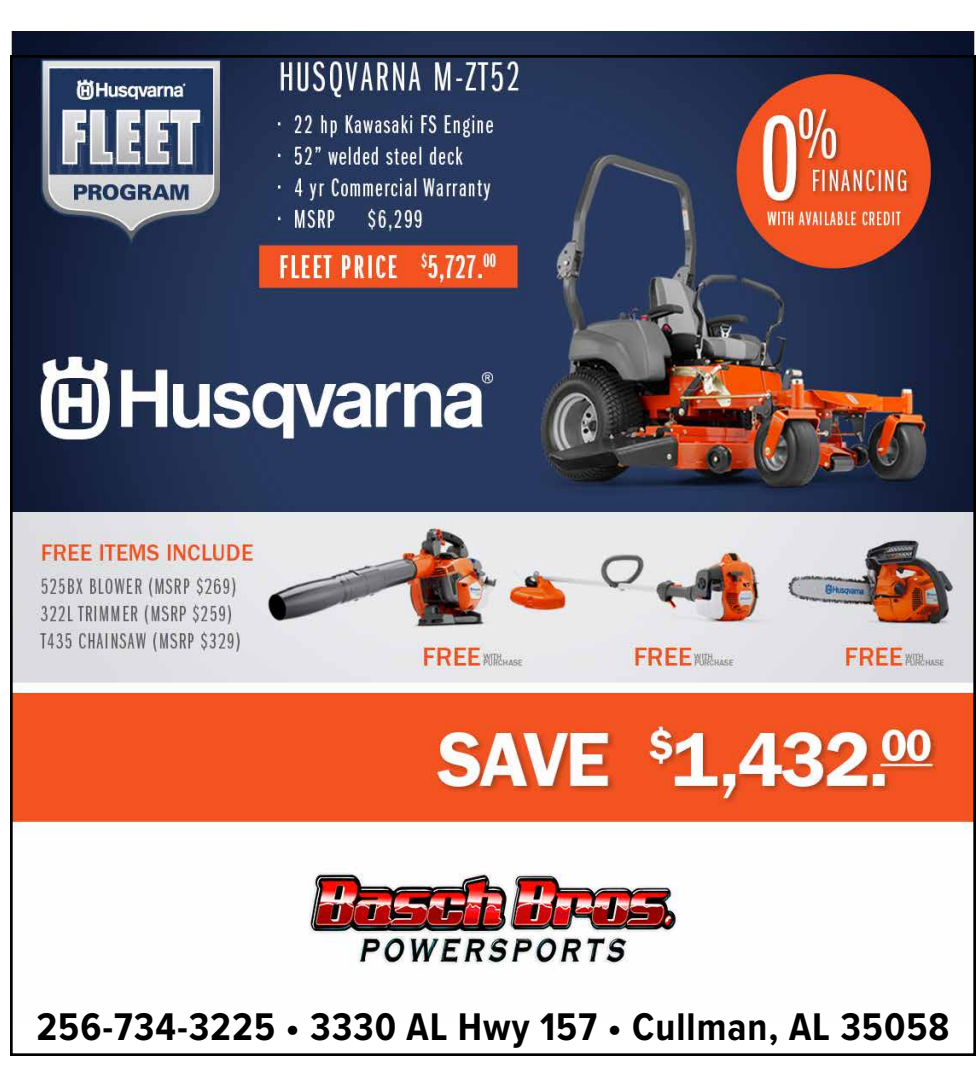
On average, more than 30 percent of defendants who are released while awaiting trial on drug charges will commit another similar offense before they go to trial.

Almost one in four federal drug defendants fail to show at scheduled court appearances.

Released drug defendants have the highest re-arrest rate of any defendant category.

Almost one-third of persons arrested for drug-related offenses will commit the same or a similar offense while awaiting trial. The commission of a second crime while out on bail can lead to the right to bail being revoked and may possibly result in bail paid or pledged being forfeited to the court. Therefore, high bail amounts for drug cases not only increase the chances of defendants showing up for court, they also encourage those most likely to repeat their offense to obey the law while they wait.





COMMUNITY NOTE

Auburn Club Scholarship Banquet May 3; order tickets by April 26

Ronnie Crocker
Contributor

CULLMAN – The Cullman County Auburn Club will hold its Scholarship Banquet at the Cullman Civic Center on May 3, 2018.

The speaker will be OL coach J.B. Grimes.

The eagle Spirit will be available for pictures from 5-7 p.m.

Tickets are $35 for adults and $15 for children 12 and younger.

The deadline for ordering tickets is April 26.

Food will be by Freddie Day Catering, and there will be a silent auction and merchandise sales.

Doors open at 5 p.m.; coach will be available for autographs at 6, and the program starts at 7.

For tickets or more info, call Ronnie Crocker at 256-347-6976.

Obituary Announcements: March 28 - April 4

Memorial services for Mr. Samuel Peter Badalucco, Sr., 73 of Cullman, will be announced by the family at a later date. Samuel was born in Dallas, TX on February 25, 1945 and passed away on March 28, 2018 at V.A. Hospital in Birmingham. He is survived by a daughter - Lisa (Gene) Mayfield; and two sons - Samuel (Shelly) Badalucco & Matt Badalucco.

Funeral services for Angela Diane Nail Sivley, 46 of Hanceville, are Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 2 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home; with interment in Hopewell Cemetery. Visitation on Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mrs. Sivley passed away on Sunday, April 1, 2018. She is survived by her husband, David Sivley; parents, Danie and Joyce Nail; sister, Kristy (Farlon) Terry; nieces and nephews, Trey and Paige Guthery, Derian Wriggens and Case and Paisley Terry; great nieces and nephews, Layklyn and Kaylyx Guthery; parents-in-law, Arlin and Sarah Sivley; brothers-in-law, Rickey (Denise) Sivley and Danny (Charlotte) Sivley; special friend, Donna Garrett and a host of aunts, uncles, other family and friends.

Funeral services for Betty Jo Griffin, 86 of Cullman, will be 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, 2018, at Welti Cumberland Presbyterian Church; lying-in-state one hour prior to service. Interment will be in the church cemetery. Rev. Ray Latham and Rev. Eric Martin will be officiating. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mrs. Griffin passed away Saturday, March 31, 2018 at her residence. She was born September 2, 1931 to parents, Robert Isom and Katherine Collier Schnittker. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, James Durward Griffin; and step-daughter, Sandy Knighten. Survivors include two sons, Chuck (Naomi Boyar) Griffin; Greg (Teressa) Griffin; step-daughter, Janis (Randy) Berend; grandchildren, Josie Griffin, Carolyn Griffin, Derrick (Kristy) Griffin, Leah (Ryan) Chambers, Chip (Maria) Knighten, Mandy (John) Moody; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Dave P. McCain, 69 of Alabaster, entered into rest on Saturday, March 31, 2018 at Shelby Baptist Medical Center in Alabaster. Dave was born on January 21, 1949 in Cullman, Alabama. He attended Addison High School. Dave was the owner of Brookwood Motors. He worked in the car business since the age of 16. Dave loved classic cars and enjoyed restoring them. He loved traveling. Dave was a huge supporter of St. Jude's Hospital and UAB Comprehensive Cancer Research. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Sardis Baptist Church No. 2, where services will be held at 2 p.m. Brother Donnie Carroll will officiate. Burial will be in Sardis Baptist Church No. 2 Cemetery. Dave is survived by his sons, Jonathan McCain, Matthew McCain; daughter, Brandy McCain; nephew, Wes McCain. He was called "Papa" by 3 grandchildren, Sofie Clark, Katlyn McCain, and Jack Rogers. He was preceded in death by his parents, Olen and Lila McCain; and brother, Steve McCain. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center WTI 210 1720 2nd Avenue South, Birmingham, Alabama 35294-3300.

Ruby Elwanda Evans, 74 of Vinemont, entered into rest on Sunday, April 1, 2018 at home surrounded by her loved ones. Elwanda was born on May 5, 1943 in Dora, Alabama. Elwanda was a member of Piney Grove Methodist Church for 37 years. She loved to fish. Elwanda enjoyed everything she did. She was the greatest mom and grandmother ever. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home, Addison. Services will be at Piney Grove Methodist Church, Piney Grove Community on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 2 p.m. She will lie in state from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. Brother Tony Thorne and Brother Greg Standridge will officiate. Burial will be in Corinth West Cemetery, Vinemont. Elwanda is survived by husband of 37 years, Howell Wendell Evans; sons, Devon (Denise) Lacey, Thelan (Janet) Lacey, Kelly Johnson; daughter, Shelby (Dennis) Saint; step sons, David (Mary) Evans, Heath Evans; step daughters, Gaylene Campbell, Rhonda (Ronnie) Thompson; brothers, Wendell (Vicki) Moody, Dale (Barbara) Moody, Randy (Linda) Moody; sister, Lunette (Vernon) Rice. She was "Ma-Ma" to 22 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Harvey Hilbert and Nora Timmy Moody; brothers, Calvert Murphy Moody, Orvil Calvest Moody, James Nathan Moody, Waffern "Tug" Moody, Hilbert Gary Moody; sisters, Oma Jessielee Moody, Mary Ruth Moody, and Neldia "Dot" Jones.

Imogene Butler Taylor, 92 of Pinson, and a long-time resident of Holly Pond, passed away Sunday, the first day of April, 2018. Jean was preceded in death by her husband, Hubert Taylor; her parents, Roy and Flossie Butler; her brother, Reese Butler; sisters, Delilah Garner and Betty Pharris; and her great-granddaughter, Josalyn Parker. She is survived by her two daughters, Linda Howell (Michael) of Pinson, and Kathie Slate (Jim) of Hartselle; 7 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; two sisters, Elaine Cummings of Arkansas; Curtiss South (Curtis) of Georgia; two brothers, Paul Butler (Dorothy) of Georgia and Gerald Butler (Carol) of Arkansas; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins. Jean was a very devoted and loving wife, mother and "Nanny." She enjoyed going to church and was a long time member of New Hope No. 2 Baptist Church. She loved her family, friends, and neighbors and they were in her prayers daily. The world is a little less bright with her passing. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, at 1 p.m. in the Holly Pond Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow in Holly Pond Cemetery. Friends and neighbors are invited to visit with the family prior to the funeral on Wednesday. The family will begin receiving guest at 11 a.m. Holly Pond Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mrs. Taylor.

Funeral services for Mr. Billy Ray Threadgill, 82 of the Goldridge Community, will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 6, 2018 in the Cullman Funeral Home Chapel. Burial with Military Honors will be held at 2 p.m. at Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo. Cullman Funeral Home directing. Mr. Threadgill passed away on Saturday, March 31, 2018 at his residence; he was born on July 9, 1935. He is preceded in death by his parents, William Dallas Threadgill and Beatrice Mae McCullar; wife of 53 years, Jacquline Hayes Threadgill; and a brother, John Paul Threadgill. Billy is survived by 2 – Sons – Rodney Carl Threadgill & Dallas (Malinda) Threadgill; 2 – Granddaughters – Margaret Eula Threadgill & Sarah Nicole Mooney; 2 – Sisters – Anette Busby & Barbara Robbins; and one Brother – Danny (Edith) Threadgill; and a Host of Nieces & Nephews. The family will receive friends for visitation at the funeral home on Thursday, from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Funeral Service for Wiley Alvin Pike, Jr., 71 of Logan, will be at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 3 p.m. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Pike passed away on Monday, April 2, 2018 at. He was born February 17, 1947 to Wiley Alvin and Dorothy Inell Pike, Sr. He is preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Nancy Pike, daughters; Deborah Jean Pike (William Self) and Jeanetta Inell Pike, grandchildren; Taylor Shae Pike, Justin Pike, and Malena Self, great grandchild, Brier Briscoe, sister, Lavera Beunk, brothers; Wayne (Coreen) Pike and Frank (Charlene) Pike. Visitation will be from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Free Obituary Listings

Have your funeral home contact us

Email: robin@cullmansense.com • Fax: 256-739-4422

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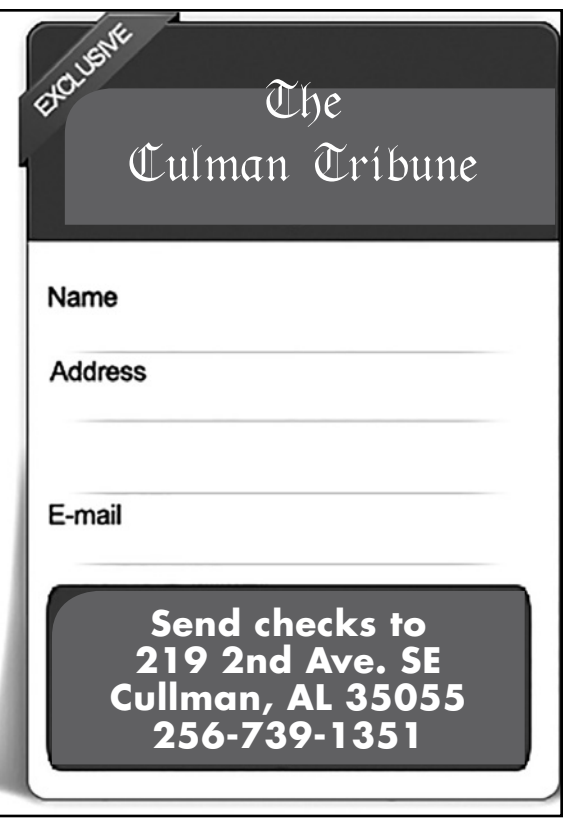
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EDUCATION

Wallace State's Christine Wiggins and Karen Morris selected for NISOD Excellence Awards

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Two Wallace State employees–Christine Wiggins, success coach coordinator, and Karen Morris, English instructor–have been named recipients of the 2018 NISOD Excellence Awards.

NISOD, a professional development organization for community college faculty, staff and administrators, which is affiliated with the University of Texas at Austin, annually recognizes the contributions and achievements of educators who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment and contribution to their students and colleagues.

"Recognizing those individuals who have contributed to student success and their college's mission is something we look forward to doing each year," said Dr. Edward J. Leach, NISOD's executive director. "The extraordinary work of these men and women includes not only what they do for their students and colleagues, but what they do for the communities in which they live and work. We're honored to be able to play a part in celebrating their achievements."

Wiggins works as a Capstone Certified Success Coach and Coordinator. She, who has been with the Wallace State Success Coaching Program since it began in 2013, is known as a constant innovator.

For example, she began utilizing Civitas software and predictive analytics to create a tiered system for coaching to increase retention of the most at-risk students.

She also created Start Right Coaching to boost conversion rates of 'applied to enrolled' for fall enrollment increases. "My desire to see students reach their goals and live the life they imagined is my motivation," she said.

As a member of the English faculty, Morris is also committed to student success.

She promotes best practices through her instruction to engage and prepare students, thus enhancing their success. She is supportive of the college's learning community activities and can be seen personally guiding her students to the Student Resource Center to ensure they are comfortable and knowledgeable about the supports available to them. She serves on Wallace State's Pathways Team and Is leading a newly formed Transfer Committee, which hosted its first Transfer Summit in March, with the goal of enhancing partnerships with four-year Institutions and to provide more guidance for students in articulation and scholarship.



WSCC

Christine Wiggins, left; Karen Morris, right

The pair will be celebrated during NISOD's annual International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence, May 26-29, in Austin, Texas.

For more information about NISOD, visit nisod.org. To learn more about Wallace State, visit www.wallacestate.edu.

PREP BASEBALL

Cullman takes 2nd place in Buccaneer Classic; scoring roundup

Sammy Confer
Tribune Correspondent

HOOVER – Cullman looked to keep on rolling in Hoover when the Bearcats took on Grissom on Saturday in the Buccaneer Classic. They got a little bit of a test early, but behind some sloppy Grissom defense and a six-run fifth inning, the Bearcats quickly got the momentum back and cruised to the 13-5 win.

Grissom quickly got something going against Cullman starter Samuel Baker. Benjamin Walls got it started with a one-out single, then Tyler Davis hit a single of his own. Will Childers lined a single to center field, but Davis got thrown out at second by Hayden Henderson. Baker got Garrett Nielson to pop out to Brady Patterson at first to get out of the inning unscathed.

Cullman got its offense going in the bottom of the second. Peyton Colvard reached on a dropped line drive by right fielder, Evan Knob, and advanced to second on the throw-in. Taylor lined a single to right field to put runners on the corners with no outs. Back-to-back RBI groundouts by Brennen Norton and Patterson put the Bearcats on top, 2-0.

Jacob Kingsford reached on a Taylor error at short to lead off the third. Nathaniel Sanderson moved him over to second on a sacrifice bunt. Kingsford moved to third on a bad throw by the catcher, Weston Norton. Walls then drew a walk and Davis hit a three-run home run to give Grissom a 3-2 lead.

The Bearcats, though, got the lead right back in their half. Henderson reached on a Sanderson error at short to lead off the inning, then one out later, Cooper Beck gave Cullman a 4-3 lead as he lined a two-run home run over the right-field wall; they quickly took over after that; after being hit by a pitch, Dylon Wallace later scored on a Beck sacrifice fly. Henderson and Norton got back-to-back singles in the inning and scored on an error by Sanderson to make it a 7-3 advantage.

Childers added an RBI single in the top of the fifth to make it a 7-4 game. But a big fifth inning by the Bearcats quickly erased any hopes of a Grissom comeback and it all came with two outs. Two more errors by Sanderson, who moved over to second, a Will Morrison two-run single, a run scored on a wild pitch and a Brennen Norton RBI double put Cullman up, 13-4, the final score of the game.

Beck hit a home run and finished with three RBIs for Cullman. Morrison and Brennen Norton each added a hit and two RBIs. Patterson collected an RBI. Henderson finished with two hits; Taylor and Weston Norton each collected a hit. Henderson scored three runs for the Bearcats. Beck, Colvard and Wallace each scored two runs. Weston Norton, Seth Gable, Morrison and Taylor each scored a run. Baker pitched the whole game and allowed seven hits, five runs, three of them earned, walked four and struck out four.

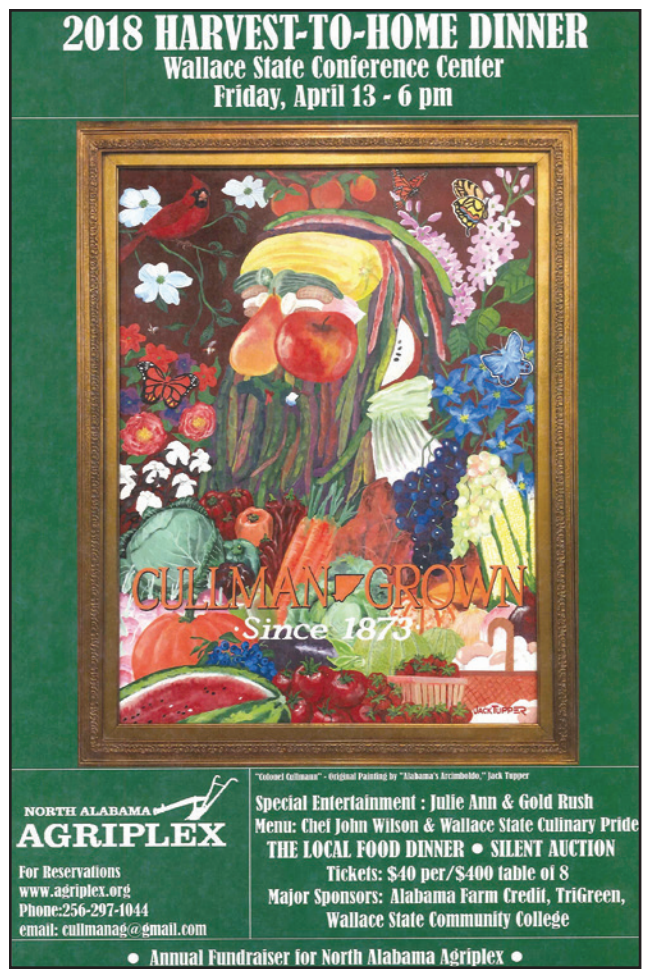
The Bearcats also defeated Grissom, 2-0, on Friday. Cullman lost, 8-3, later in the tournament to Hoover, finishing the Buccaneer Classic with an impressive 6-1 record to take second place. The Bearcats are now 16-8 on the season.

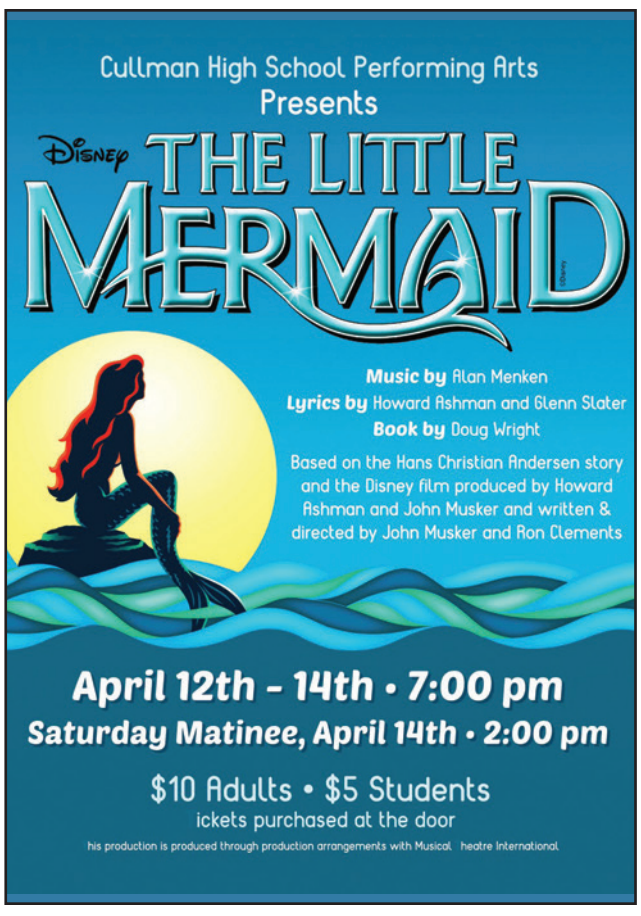
Scoring roundup

- Bob Jones 11, Cullman 3 (SB) (Friday) Sparkman Classic
- America Christian Academy 12, Cullman 3 (Saturday)
- Auburn 15, Cullman 3 (Saturday)
- Lady Bearcats 2-15
- Jackson 8, Fairview 6 (BB)
- Fairview 6, Clarke County 4 (BB)
- Aggies 13-10
- Next game: April 3 @ Hayden

Good Hope's Tucker Putman and Will Dickerson had a big day on Saturday as well, finishing in fifth place out of 157 boats in the Alabama Student Angler Bass Fishing Association (ASABFA) Tournament at Wheeler.

Check www.CullmanTribune.com for the latest scores.









THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
APRIL 3, 2018

Giant Cullman hailstones to be preserved at UAH Earth System Science Center

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W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Large hailstones collected in rural Cullman County will be preserved at UAH for research and possibly even future display.

WALTER – Five hailstones collected in the Walter community of rural Cullman County, including the state's still "officially unofficial" largest recorded hailstone, were threatened with reduction to snowcones or refrigerant for iced tea, but they've been given a new lease on life by the National Weather Service Huntsville office (NWSH) and the University of Alabama Huntsville (UAH).

NWSH Science Operations Officer Kristopher White came to Walter Sunday evening and collected the hailstones.

He told The Tribune that the collection will be temporarily housed at the weather service office, which has emergency backup generators to ensure that the stones will be preserved, even in the event of a power outage.

There the hailstones will be preserved for the UAH Department of Atmospheric Science and the Alabama Office of the State Climatologist, also located at UAH.

Once the state climatologist gets them, they will be available for research and could even end up in a climate-controlled display.

"I talked to the state climatologist, John Christy," said White.

"He's the head of the (Earth System Science) Center at UAH. They're going to try to come up with, maybe, some longer-term solution. They have a quasi-museum-ish thing there now, and they're going to see if they can figure something out: like maybe they can come up with some sort of a more permanent freezer storage for this thing there, maybe part of their museum."

The hailstones were also recently scanned by technicians from the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, both to develop better tools for testing the resilience of building and roofing materials, and to help meteorologists develop better means of interpreting hail on weather radar.

See: www.cullmantribune.com/articles/2018/03/31/cullman-hail-storm-s-silver-lining.

Further reading: www.cullmantribune.com/articles/2018/03/22/nws-huntsville-march-19-hail-storm-historical-magnitude

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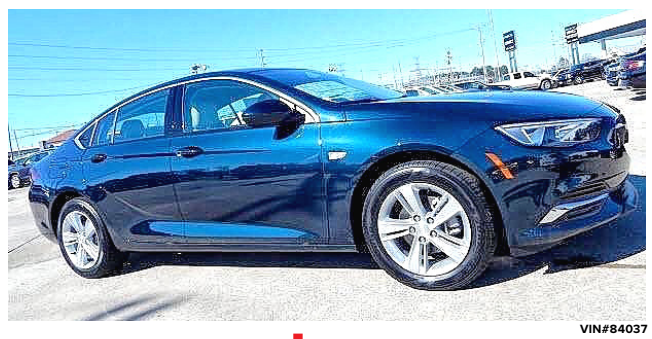


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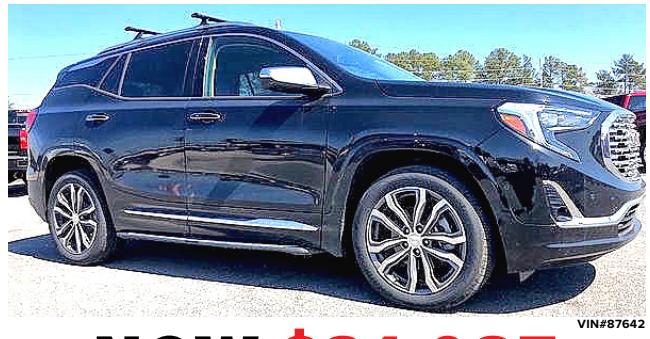
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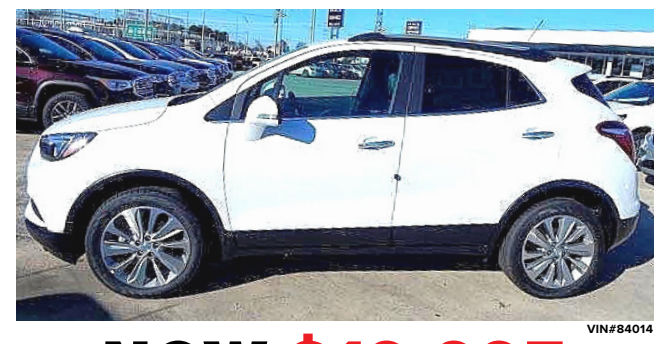
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