The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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Community effort needed for local mental health crisis

New advisory committee lays out plans, urges community involvement

Nick Griffin
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CULLMAN – The newly-formed Cullman County Mental Health Advisory Committee held a press conference at the Cullman County Courthouse Friday morning to share its three-phase plan for tackling the mental health crisis in the community. The committee was formed in response to Cullman County's high suicide rate in 2017. Last year, a record 25 people took their own lives, jumping up from 15 in 2016.

Cullman County Probate Judge Tammy Brown, Cullman Regional's Vice President, Marketing Lindsey Dossey, WellStone COO Chris Van Dyke, WellStone CEO Jeremy Blair and advisory group leader Neal Morrison made up Friday's panel. Morrison opened up the discussion by talking about the challenges people face when seeking mental health care.

"The hospital is there to help people, but at CRMC they're really not designed to handle » PAGE 5



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Members of the new Cullman County Mental Health Advisory Committee address the media on Friday.

Will Harding named Rotarian of the Year

Brian Bradberry
Contributor

CULLMAN – The Cullman Rotary Club has named Will Harding Rotarian of the Year.

Harding earned a degree in agricultural business and economics from Auburn University. Since September 2014, he has been employed by Merchants Bank, where he serves as vice president-loans.

Harding is a member of the Cullman Regional Foundation Board and the Cullman City Park and Recreation & Sports Tourism Board.

He and his wife Lauren are lifelong residents of Cullman.

They are the proud parents of Veronica and Chip.

"Thank you for all you do in the community and for the Cullman Rotary Club!



BRIAN BRADBERRY

The Cullman Rotary Club this week named Will Harding Rotarian of the Year. Harding is pictured here with his family.

Cullman County Farm-City Committee named best in state for 6th straight year

Marlee Moore
Contributor

BIRMINGHAM – Cullman and Pike counties claimed the top prizes at the Alabama Farm-City Awards Luncheon April 5 in Birmingham.

The overall award for Best Farm-City Committee went to Cullman County for the sixth consecutive year. Program highlights included a farm-to-fork dinner with 400 attendees and a Farm-City musical at Holly Pond Elementary School featuring 60 talented students.

Alabama Farm-City Committee Chairman Jeff Helms said volunteers statewide invested thousands of hours to foster understanding between farmers and townspeople.

"Generations ago, America was a largely agrarian culture, and almost everyone was involved with the production of food and fiber," Helms said. "Today, less than 1 percent of Americans farm. Farm-City programs give us an opportunity to reconnect people with their food and the families who grow it."

Farm-City Week was first observed in 1955 and is celebrated the week before Thanksgiving. However, many county » PAGE 7



CONTRIBUTED

From left are Cullman County Farm-City Committee Chairman Lynda Hankey and Alabama Farm-City Committee Chairman Jeff Helms.

West Point Elem. School kindergartner Lyric Antone honored in statewide poster contest

Marlee Moore
Contributor

BIRMINGHAM – Art and agriculture combined to close the gap between farm and table as creative young people were recognized at the Alabama Farm-City Awards Luncheon April 5 in Birmingham.

Students from Autauga, Barbour, Coffee, Houston and Marshall counties were presented medals and cash awards for earning top honors in the state Farm-City poster, essay and multimedia contests.

"The creativity and talent of these young people is inspiring," said Alabama Farm-City Committee Chairman Jeff Helms. "Our judges could tell these students researched the topic and took time to produce compelling and informative artwork, videos and essays. Their parents and teachers should be proud, and we all should be encouraged about the future of our state and industry."

Autauga County seventh-grader Audrey Teaster won first-place in the seventh- through ninth-grade division of the essay contest while Barbour County senior Lauren Garlits took top honors among 10th- through 12th-graders. Each received $300, as did their schools, Autauga Academy and Garlits » PAGE 2



CONTRIBUTED

From left are AFC's Jim, Antone and Alabama Farm-City Chairman Jeff Helms.

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Holly Pond man jailed for selling meth

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

HOLLY POND – The Cullman Police Department's Crime Suppression Unit this week arrested Robert Clifford Hood, 60, of Holly Pond, charging him with two counts of unlawful distribution of a controlled substance for allegedly selling methamphetamine.

Hood was arrested at his residence near Holly Pond and transported to the Cullman County Detention Center where he was booked in and still remains incarcerated.

At the time of this week's arrest, Hood was out on bond for two previous unlawful distribution of a controlled substance charges.



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Robert Hood

Hanceville man arrested for selling meth

Wendy Sack
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CULLMAN – Christian Sellers, 21, of Hanceville was arrested recently by the Cullman Police Department's Crime Suppression Unit and charged with unlawful distribution of a controlled substance.

Sellers allegedly sold methamphetamine.

Sellers was arrested in Hanceville and transported to the Cullman County Detention Center where he was booked in and has since been released.



CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Christian Sellers

Arrest reports: April 4-5

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests reported for April 4-5. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4
CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Edwards, Stacy Dion, 41
• third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Gilley, Colton Chase, 21
• probation revoked-first-degree criminal mischief
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Hathcock, Elizabeth Ann, 51
• possession of drug paraphernalia

McGregor, Ronald Lloyd, 62
• probation revoked-unlawful distribution of a controlled substance

Owens, Chad Michael, 33
• FTA- driving while revoked (2 counts)
• FTA- speeding

Sanford, Breana Michelle, 30
• second-degree bail jumping- second-degree domestic violence

Thompson, Destiney Kiah, 20
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA- first-degree unlawful possession of marijuana not for personal use

Walker, Jackie Lee Jr., 21
• possession of drug paraphernalia

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Long, Craig A. Jr., 22
• fourth-degree theft of property

Owens, Chad M., 33
• FTA- driving without a license

Brown, Andrea N., 35
• FTA- third-degree domestic violence

Goodrich, Charity L., 42
• FTA- public intoxication

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No arrests reported.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5
CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Beebe, Tyrone Daishawn, 20
• probation revoked-third-degree burglary

Elliott, Charles David, 40
• FTA- driving while suspended

Graves, Steven Keith, 29
• unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle (4 counts)
• FTA- third-degree burglary

Hyde, Bryanna Sumone, 22
• FTA- driving while suspended
• FTA- proof of liability insurance required

King, Dusty Jordan, 18
• public intoxication

Lovell, William Jason, 36
• FTA- second-degree theft of property

Mabry, Kanitha Renae, 37
• probation violation-second-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Swann, Jamie Deann, 36
• probation violation-unlawful possession of a controlled substance (2 counts)

Swann, Johnny Gregory Jr., 36
• GJ- third-degree felony domestic violence-harassment
• fourth-degree theft of property

Young, Jimmy Lee, 46
• probation violation-unlawful manufacture of a controlled substance

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Waldrop, Amanda R., 31
• DUI- controlled substance
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Likos, Andrew G., 30
• third-degree burglary
• first-degree theft of property

Swann, Fallon M., 29
• giving false information to a law enforcement officer

Palmer, Jason A., 21
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Holland, Brandon W., 21
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Holland, Trevor W., 26
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Ford, James A., 26
• FTA- expired tag

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No arrests reported.

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

Antone (from Front)

Homeschool. Second-place essay winners were Fayette County High School ninth-grader Alisha West and Autauga Academy 10th-grader Emma Wendland. They and their school each received $200.

All student prizes were provided by Alabama Farmers Cooperative (AFC), which serves farmers, gardeners and homeowners through about 80 Quality Co-op stores.

A highlight of the Awards Luncheon was the first-place multimedia video entry of Marshall County senior Kaleigh Backstrom. About 400 Alabama Farmers Federation Women's Leadership Division members and Farm-City volunteers perched on the edge of their seats as Backstrom illustrated this year's theme of "Agriculture: Food for Life."

Backstrom and her school, The Way Home Christian School, each received $300 from AFC. Second place went to Ty Rickard of Rehobeth High School in Houston County. He and the school received $200.

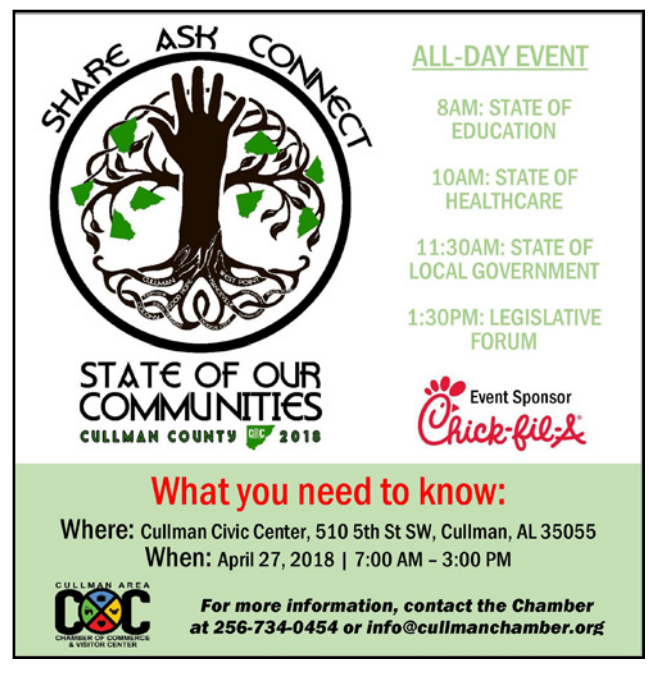
The most popular youth Farm-City competition was the poster contest.

Third-grader Zayden Merry of Montana Magnet School in Houston County won first place in the kindergarten to third-grade division, and fifth-grader Bowen Lee Jones of Zion Chapel School in Coffee County placed first among fourth- through sixth-graders. Each received $200 from AFC, as did their schools.

Second place winners and schools received $100. They were Lineville Elementary School second-grader Hudson Foster of Clay County and sixth-grader Hannah Lee, who attends Baldwin Arts and Academics Magnet School in Montgomery County.

Additionally, the 2019 Alabama Farm-City Calendar will feature the artwork of 10 honorable mentions from the poster contest.

Each student was awarded $50 by AFC. They were Yaley McClendon of Pike Liberal Arts School in Pike County, Sophie Novalee Knight of Haleyville Elementary in Winston County, Lyric Antone of West Point Elementary in Cullman County, Braden DeLoach of Fayetteville School in Talladega County, Emma Shelton of Pickens Academy in Pickens County, Jordan Renee' Dukes of South Lamar School in Lamar County, Anna Grace Black of Hatton Elementary in Lawrence County, Lily Gracelyn Moss of Horseshoe Bend School in Tallapoosa County, William Thornton of Heard Magnet School in Houston County and Alana Smith of Ariton Elementary in Dale County.



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Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STATE OF ALABAMA
CULLMAN COUNTY
CASE NO.: AD2018-021

IN RE: THE MATTER OF ADOPTION OF K.B.C.
A MINOR CHILD.

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: **BOBBY CHRISTOPHER CROWE,** ANY KNOWN, UNKNOWN, OR UNDISCLOSED PERSONS, WHO MIGHT BE THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER:

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of K.B.C., a minor child born on the 29th day of May, 2001, in Lexington, Virginia, to biological mother Dana Ashley Thrower Recher, was filed on the 9th day of March, 2018, in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, by Shane Stewart Recher, Petitioner. Please be advised should you intend to contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama, 35055.

DONE THIS 12th DAY OF March, 2018.

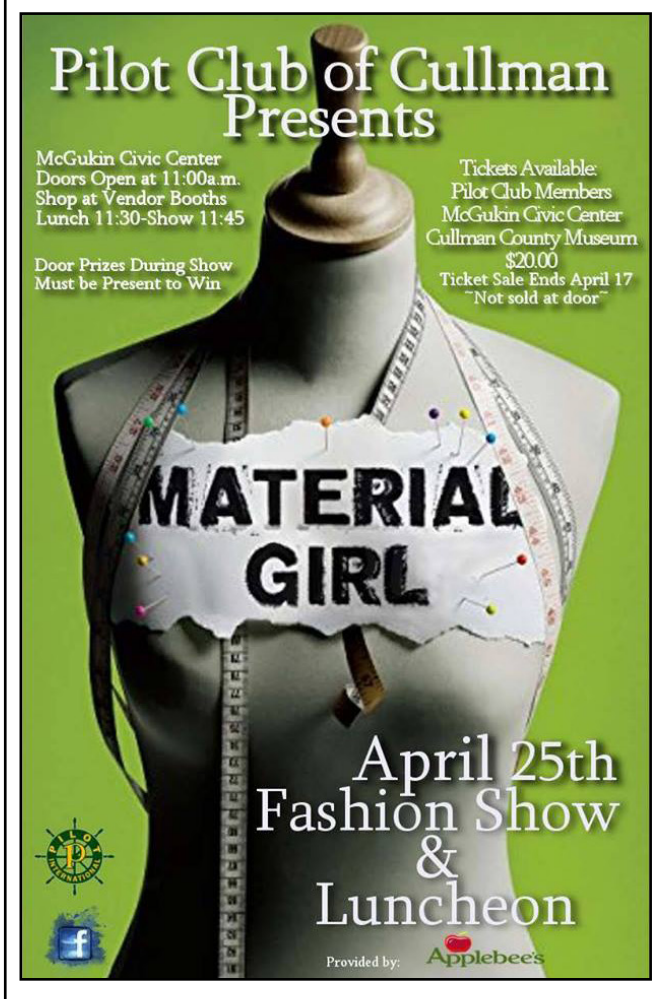
Shane Stewart Recher
Petitioner

Andria Richter
Attorney for Petitioner
300 1st Avenue SE, Ste. 104
Cullman, Alabama 35055
(256) 775-7757

TO: CULLMAN TRIBUNE

PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR (4) SUCCESSIVE WEEKS.
Send proof of publication to the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama.

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



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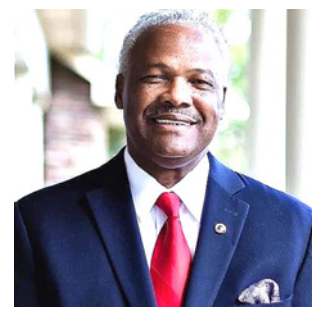
Tommy Battle



Sue Bell Cobb



Scott Dawson



James Fields



Bill Hightower



CONTRIBUTED

Walt Maddox

POLITICS

WVTM 13 to broadcast live Republican, Democratic gubernatorial debates April 11, 12

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

BIRMINGHAM – Birmingham news station WVTM 13 announced this week that it will broadcast two live debates ahead of Alabama's June 5 primary election. Candidates for Alabama governor will participate in the one-hour debates.

Former Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court Sue Bell Cobb, Former Alabama State Representative James Fields and Tuscaloosa Mayor Walt Maddox will meet in a Democratic Gubernatorial Primary Debate live on Wednesday, April 11 at 9 p.m.

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, evangelist Scott Dawson and Alabama State Senator Bill Hightower will meet in a Republican Gubernatorial Primary Debate live on Thursday, April 12 at 7 p.m. Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey was invited to debate but declined.

Both primary debates will be broadcast on WVTM 13. The debates will also be streamed on the station's website, www.wvtm13.com and affiliated mobile products. The debates will be moderated by WVTM 13's Lisa Crane and feature a panel including WVTM 13's Guy Rawlings, Ian Reitz and Mark Hughes Cobb from The Tuscaloosa News.

According to a media release from WVTM, the debates will emphasize state issues facing all Alabama voters. From the concerns of the gulf communities to the needs of northern communities, the panel of journalists will take an hour to ask candidates tough questions.

"These debates are an important part of WVTM 13's 'Commitment 2018' coverage," commented Hank Price, president and general manager of WVTM 13. "Commitment 2018 is our station's promise to broadcast important political discourse in our newscasts from now to the general election."

Both debates will be held at Vulcan Park and Museum in Birmingham.

WVTM 13 is The Cullman Tribune's Birmingham news partner.

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From The Files Of 1954

Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Henry celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on August 21st. Their children are: Harold Henry, Mrs. Lois Holcombe, Mrs. Vera Berry and Mrs. Verna Butler.

Added to the list of those "over 80," who are helping the Cullman Tribune celebrate its 80th Anniversary are: J.M. Persall, 85, of Cullman, Mrs. W.H. Watts, 81, of Route One, Holly Pond and J.K. Williamson, of Route Ten, Cullman.

Mr. Persall, who was born in Newton County, Georgia, on February 6th, 1869, came to Cullman County when he was 19 years old.

His parents decided to return to Georgia, but he bought a farm and remained here.

Five children were born to Mr. Persall and his first wife, who was Maudenie Calvert. The four of them living are Mrs. Bertha Whitlock, Mrs. Pearl Taylor and Calvin Persall, all of Cullman and Ted Persall, of Akron, Ohio.

Mr. Persall's second wife was Roxie Sawyers, to whom he was married 29 years and to whom were born six children (five living). They are Lewis Persall, of Michigan, Mrs. Elmer Dee Eddy, of Athens, Mrs. Edna Jones, Mrs. Thelma Jordan and Mancel Persall, all of Cullman.

His third wife, the former Lizzie Woodley, died four months ago, after they had been married 20 years. He has forty-two grandchildren and thirty great-grandchildren.

Mr. Persall, a retired farmer, now spends his time visiting his friends and neighbors and reading. He has been a subscriber of The Tribune ever since he moved to this county. He is a member of Sardis Baptist Church.

Mrs. W.H. Watts was born 81 years ago, in Blount County. She was married 66 years ago in Cullman County and has lived in Cullman since. Her children are Cora Garrison, of Albertville, Estelle Garrison, of Holly Pond, Pearl Sleaner and Oma Watts, of Route Seven, Cullman, Henderson Watts, of Blountsville and Henry Watts, of Akron, Ohio.

Mrs. Watts says crocheting is her hobby. She attends the Pleasant View Church. When asked how many grandchildren she had, she said, "It would take a long time to count them." She also has a number of great-grandchildren.

J.K. Williamson, born on March 14th, 1874, in Randolph County, moved to Cullman County, at the age of 17. Fifty-seven years ago he married Jerusha Guthery. She died three years ago.

He has six living children, Mrs. Naomi Hopper, Mrs. Netie Hyde, Mrs. Vivian Hale and Bud Williamson, of Cullman, Mrs. Leola Jones, of Arab and Mrs. Vera Hale, of Ypsilanti, Michigan, thirty grandchildren and twenty-two great-grandchildren. He is a retired carpenter and attends the Church of Christ.

Dear Sir:

I wish to extend my congratulations on the eightieth birthday of The Cullman Tribune. The writer is a bit older, having been born in Cincinnati, on December 8th, 1873. I began to read newspapers at the age of seven years, namely the New York Daily Sun and the Cullman Tribune and have been reading the latter ever since.

The first printing shop was operated by Julius Damus, which was located on Second Avenue and Second Street east and on the same block was the first post office, I remember in Cullman. The Postmaster was J.W. Whatlington, a native of England. Also a lawyer. He always wore a silk hat and broadcloth Prince Albert coat – a goatee and mustache. Up until the time the old building was removed, there was a slot in the door to deposit out-going mail.

Besides the editors you mentioned, I want to add Captain Beckert, who I am under the impression also was the editor at one time. Captain Beckert was an elderly man, who had a beautiful young bride, a sister of Al Keys. They lived in a long one story building, then located on first avenue, north of the Von Werdt place and about that time, Crist Fricke had a shoe shop in the same building and Mr. and Mrs. Elsheimer also lived there. After she became a widow, she married Billie Weigand.

I believe that Judge Johnson, father of Searcy Johnson was editor for more years than one. The building he used as an office was then located at the Ponder corner. Or, was it at the bridge "Over the Rheie"?

May the Tribune note many more years of printing the news and happenings in Cullman County.

Yours very truly,
J.A. Dreher

Editor's Note: The year 1994 is the 120th anniversary of the Tribune. We are proud to be the oldest weekly newspaper in Alabama and Cullman's oldest business. Thank you for your patronage.

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

We bought a school

Bill King
Tribune
Contributor



Can you imagine a small church buying a fifty-four year old, vacant 118,000 square feet school building, on eighteen acres of land? How would they pay for such an enormous building and then what would they do with it?

In the movie "We Bought a Zoo," Benjamin Mee (played by Matt Damon) bought a closed eighteen acre zoo – complete with animals. About the same time that movie showed, Pastor Steffan Carr and Christ Memorial Church, in Westernport, Maryland, bought a school. Unlike the zoo, the school did not come with animals, students, or church members. Bruce High School closed its doors in 1987. Westmar Middle School occupied the building until 2007.

For the next six years the colossal complex sat vacant. In 2011, Allegany County put the building up for bids. The leadership of the church encouraged Pastor Carr to submit a bid. Because of his reluctance, he submitted a bid that was so low he felt sure they would laugh. Instead, they accepted his bid of $50,000. Then the county turned around and gave them $20,000 for capital improvements.

Pastor Carr had served Christ Church for seventeen years. In 2011, with the blessings of the church, he led thirty members to assume the school mortgage from the church. The next year, they launched their ministries there and Bruce High School became Bruce Outreach Center.

The school auditorium became the worship center for a new church, but this massive building would become much more than a church.

Five years after their beginning, they now have five times as many active church members. Four of the school rooms house a clothing ministry, where needy families can shop for clothes – for free.

A four armed food ministry operates out of the building. This includes: 1). A stocked pantry for those needing food immediately. 2). A ministry for children who risk going to bed hungry. These children receive free lunches at school, but the church provides backpacks filled with food for their weekends. 3). Twenty-five pounds of food each month for $5.00. Sixty to eighty families currently use this ministry. 4). A one day food distribution day that gives away 6000 pounds of food monthly to approximately 150 families.

Under the supervision of co-pastor, David Cowan, the church is currently building three, two bedroom cycle-breaking apartments inside the building. Families receiving welfare support may live there for up to three years.

During that time they are mentored in budgeting and family relationships, learn a trade, secure a job and attend church. The goal is that they leave financially independent of government support.

The church has also opened a capacity filled daycare center for children. Rec league basketball is housed in the gymnasium. A community room is available for birthday parties and other events. The church youth minister, Brian Hogan and his family live in an apartment inside the school.

How will they ever pay for all this? Well, the building is paid off. For the first three years, the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention partnered with the church financially.

Then a lady in Monroe, Louisiana read about the center and its ministries. She sent a personal check for $100,000! The extra money from her is helping to build the apartments. Church members give and others partner with the ministry to send donations.

Last week a mission team from Tuskegee Lee Baptist Association, in Opelika, and Lake Pointe Baptist Church, in Dadeville, volunteered a week of our time to help.

We hung sheetrock in the apartments and sorted and stocked donated clothing. I also had the privilege of sharing some of my humor and music with the church on Wednesday evening. Thank you, Bruce Outreach Center, for making a difference and for allowing us to be part of your ministries.

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

Poet's Corner

The Coal Pile

By: Randy C. Hale

In my grandparents back yard,
a short trail from their house,
a mound of black coal was stored.
It was as common as green grass
and the chickens scratching
and pecking in the yard each day.
Inside was a chest high cast iron stove,
the centerpiece of a simple room
we called the den.

To this day I can describe each item's
exact place;
my grandfather's blue chair
with the cloth arms worn slick;
the sofa with the homemade gunwrack
cradling the old 4/10 shotgun above;
An old fashion dark walnut desk
and a the picture of little Samuel
on the wall at prayer.

From the stove's top, reaching to
and through the ceiling was a sheet metal
pipe which carried the billowing smoke
from a fire that smoldered and burned
to the cloud fleeced winter sky above us.
The heat producing warmth outside you
and within, bringing comfort
like the hand sewn quilts piled high
over you the night before.

When the coal scuttle got low,
a familiar trip was made outdoors.
I often carried it to and fro when I
had formed the muscles to do so.
The trip in my mind, providing
the required fuel for the old locomotive,
raising its hood and shoveling
in the black gold that would soon glow red,
keeping those frosty mornings away.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Rumors Deli owner Annette Harris cuts the ribbon to mark the restaurant's official grand re-opening at 601 Fourth St. SW on Thursday, April 5, 2018.

Rumors Deli: ribbon cut on grand (re)opening in new, historic location

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – On Thursday morning, Rumors Deli officially completed its move from the Warehouse District with a ribbon cutting at its new location at 601 Fourth St. SW, at the intersection of Main Avenue and US Highway 278. The 18-year old Cullman eatery now occupies the former Nearen Construction office in a historic one-time mercantile store, many elements of which were preserved in the remodeling of the facility.

"There's a lot of history in the building," said Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce President Leah Bolin.

"We always appreciate any business who comes in and takes care of all of our well-loved buildings and revitalizes them."

Cullman Mayor Woody Jacobs told owner Annette Harris and her staff, "We look forward to y'all being over here. Cullman's seen some growth, more growth over on this side, and we appreciate y'all stepping out."

Harris thanked Nearen Construction for the facility and its renovation, Cisco Systems for its help in the set up and stocking of the kitchen and the Chamber of Commerce for its support and advice. She also offered special recognition to her employees, who stayed loyal to Rumors despite a five-week layoff during the move.

"I'm excited," said Harris, "and I'm proud to have them. Then we've got about five more new employees, and so we hope to keep adding to the workforce here."

Rumors had already been up and running for three full days prior to its official grand opening on Thursday. On Wednesday, Harris posted photos on social media of a line stretching all the way through the dining area and out the front door.

After the ribbon cutting, she told The Tribune, "The first day was good, kind of quiet, but it was steady. The second day was crazy, and we worked out some more kinks. Yesterday was absolutely wild, and we loved it! (The line) went out the door for two hours. Packed it out; I loved it!

Harris continued, "It's a beautiful building. I love every minute of it. I love this building; every time I come in, I love it more. It's got such character, and we hope to keep it to where people can remember how it used to be, and we tried to keep as much of that as we could."

Pointing to the east wall with its original shelving units, she added that she has future plans to offer locally-made goods such as homemade candies, honey, soap and other items that will allow visitors to take a little Cullman home with them.

Concluded Harris, "The community has been amazing. My friends, they've been amazing. I've got so many people surrounding me, supporting me, giving me positive thoughts all the time. So, it's meant to be; it's a good thing."













Crisis (from Front)

people with mental illness. They'll be the first to tell you that they don't have the space and they don't have the qualified employees to actually address mental health problems. Now they do have the ability, and they do it quite well, to actually triage an individual and makes sure they're medically clear," Morrison said. "So, what was happening is all these partners up here, because of the federal government the first thing you have to do to is you've got to send someone to a medical facility to get them medically cleared before you can do anything else. That's where, as you probably have seen, these individuals go to the emergency room and sometimes they're stuck there literally for days because it's a hard process trying to find a bed in the state of Alabama right now."

Morrison talked about the community's role in improving mental health care standards and what the community can do to help.

"We no longer can wait on the federal government or the state, we've got to get on top of this immediately. Now saying that doesn't mean we're not going to need help from the federal government or the state. We are, and they will need to play a vital role in this and if they don't it's going to make it a lot harder, but we all decided that we needed to start locally. If you all remember when the tornadoes came through in 2011, what did Cullman do? We didn't wait around two or three days or even a week on the state or the federal government, we got up the next morning and people came together to help each other. That's one thing we're blessed to have here in Cullman, we have a community that cares. With this plan, we plan on being held accountable to the public, we plan on showing them results, and then that will also help legislators in Montgomery spend more money."

Blair agreed that mental health care is an issue that requires local attention and support as much as anything else and is excited to be part of the committee.

"Health care is local," Blair said. "Health care issues are local, it takes local community support and local community partners to solve those problems so we're happy to be a part of that and we're going to continue to work with the coalition to solve these issues."

Brown is happy to see some steps being taken to address the mental health issue and pointed out Cullman Regional's role in getting the ball rolling.

"I'm glad that we have started a group that involves everybody in mental illness and that we're going to move forward with a plan that will alleviate some of the problems with beds and placement and holding people in the ER at Cullman Regional for so long," Brown said. "I have to commend Cullman Regional for all that they do and actually initiating something where we can come together and make all of this happen."

Van Dyke is excited to be part of the mental health committee as well, pointing out that addressing the problem head on and starting the search for funding is the first step.

"I'm happy to be working on this issue, we look forward to being able to develop some more funding sources to do these things in the plan," Van Dyke said. "We've known for a while that these issues exist, and getting a concrete plan together is the first step toward addressing it. The next step is going to be finding the funding so that's going to be a big part of it."

The committee is also including additional training for law enforcement as part of its plan in order to better equip officers to handle situations involving people with mental health issues.

"We're about to start doing some training for our local first responders to make sure that they're better prepared to deal with individuals with mental illness or at least be able to recognize when a person might have some issues we need to deal with," Morrison said.

"Part of this stuff is criminal and of course you get involved with the criminal justice system and unfortunately some of the things we are doing now might now help folks that are already in the system, but our goal is to reach that individual before they do anything that throws them into the criminal justice side of it. Long-term, our whole goal is to address this and help people before they get to that point."

Morrison started to break down the steps to improving care locally for people struggling with mental illness, starting with finding more beds in Cullman.

"Our first step is how do we relieve the stress at the hospital because we have folks sitting out there unnecessarily. So, Chris (Van Dyke) is heavily engaged with the hospital, Judge Brown is heavily engaged with the hospital and we did find some beds. One of the issues was trying to find beds and we have beds here in Cullman," he said. "We have beds at The Sanctuary (at the Woodlands), there's plenty of beds there; unfortunately because those beds are not connected to a hospital, Medicaid at this time says they can't pay for them. I'm working with the folks that own that facility and we're going to try to get the federal government to give us a waiver. In the meantime, though what we hope will come out of this is that we raise enough money here locally to help place an individual down there to get them stabilized and then we're going to connect them back with Cullman Mental Health (WellStone) to receive these day programs."

Continued Morrison, "The other part of the first phase of this is generating some extra revenues so that Chris and Mr. Blair can expand existing programs. A lot of people forget that if you're struggling with mental illness it's nothing to be ashamed of. That's one of the issues that we're facing right now is there is still a stigma out in society that if you have mental illness you can't talk about it, don't ask for help, stay in the closet, which is unfortunate because if people don't come out and start talking about it, we can't solve the problem. So, part of the concept of this whole idea is to add more day programs to help individuals that are struggling with mental illness."

Morrison continued, expanding on the committee's ideas to find funding for the plan.

"The funding here in Cullman has not really changed in the last 13-15 years. We're still trying to do what we did 13-15 years ago with the same amount of funding, yet we have an increase in mental health problems. Then we have less state facilities to send people to so it's hard to say one thing that caused this. Let's take the state dollars and shift it back down to the local level, put all the money you can back out into the communities and you'll solve these problems. Obviously the first group of folks that we're going to reach out to are our local governmental entities i.e. the Cullman County Commission, who over the years have been very supportive of what Chris has done here in Cullman and also the hospital through the indigent care funding. Sometime in the future we will set up a meeting with our three county commissioners, present them with what we're proposing to do, explain to them the steps, and in the long term, actually save the county money. That's also the local townships, municipalities, etc." Morrison said.

"We know Cullman can't take care of all this financially and we understand that. We're not asking them to bear the burden of all of it. What we're asking is for them to chip in and help with this and then at the appropriate time we'll sit down and start looking at grants that might be available in this country, but most of those grants will not do anything unless you can show local community buy-in. In other words, we've got to find the money and our first steps are with local government entities first, then our local civic groups, churches and all along we're asking individuals to contribute."

Continued Morrison, "Look at this from the standpoint that not only is it just the right thing to do but look at it from an economic impact. Do you realize that every year in this country we lose hundreds of millions of dollars in work time from individuals and their families struggling with mental illness? So even if you don't care about this from the humanistic side of it, look at it from an economic standpoint. Plus, this will relieve some of the pressure they have presently at the Cullman County jail. Unfortunately, when individuals who happen to have mental illness or struggle with mental problems, sometimes they do things that they shouldn't, and that puts them into the criminal courts system and they end up in the county jail or the state correctional facilities and as we know, our penal system is not designed to work with people with mental illness. So now you have someone sitting in the jail or state facility that are not receiving the proper care."

Morrison and the committee's message was that the mental health crisis in Cullman has to be taken seriously and talked about openly in order to find solutions before the problem continues escalating.

"If we do not put more money into helping our children, we're going to have a tragedy that's going to hit us down the road in this community," he said. "We're very blessed nothing bad has happened in Cullman and I pray every night that nothing will, but if we don't step it up soon, God forbid what could because there are young people here that are struggling and need help."

The committee's three phase plan

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.

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

Direct contributions can be made at https://cullmanregional.com/community/make-a-donation/.

200 ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL
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Wallace State, Cullman Parks and Recreation join together to help Kenya Relief

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State Community College and City of Cullman Parks and Recreation have teamed up to help provide Kenya Relief with computers and smart devices for their classrooms and prevent such devices from being placed in landfills.

The Lions Share Technology Drive will be held throughout the month of April in conjunction with National Community College Month and Earth Day. The drive will provide laptop computers and smart devices for staff and students at the Kenya Relief Academy in Migori, Kenya, which serves more than 500 students.

Donations will be accepted daily from April 7 to May 8 at the Cullman City Civic Center and Cullman Aquatic Center, with special donation events planned for April 7, April 21 and May 5-6 at the Festhalle Market in downtown Cullman.

Laptops, tablets and smartphones with WiFi capability and digital cameras are sought for donation. A packet listing the preferred specifications is available at the Civic Center and Aquatic Center, but in most cases, any device that is less than five years old would meet the specifications. Computers and screens in need of repair or with faulty batteries and AC adaptors cannot be accepted at this time.

All items must be unlocked with pin numbers and passwords removed and, if possible, restored to factory default. Contributions of accessories such as cases, tripods, additional camera lenses, original software discs or memory cards would be welcome.

For more information, contact Mandy Shea Riggins at 256.339.7952 or mandyshea@kenyarelief.org.



IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF HANNAH NICOLE BATES, Deceased,) CASE NO. PC2018-113

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to **LIONEL J. BATES** and **SONYA L. BATES**, Personal Representatives on the estate of **HANNAH NICOLE BATES** on the 3rd day of April, 2018, by the **HONORABLE TAMMY BROWN, Judge of Probate Court 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 the law or the same will be barred.

Gregory A. Johnson (JOH 152)
Attorney for Petitioner
1430 County Road 842
Cullman, Alabama 35057
Phone (256) 615-5318

TO: Publisher of The Cullman Tribune

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

HONORABLE TAMMY BROWN
JUDGE OF PROBATE

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF BILLY GLEN FREEMAN, deceased. * IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA * CASE NO. PC2018-107

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that Letters of Administration having been granted to Sue Freeman, as Administratrix of the Estate of Billy Glen Freeman, deceased, on the 3rd day of April, 2018, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all persons having claims against the said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Done this the 3rd day of April, 2018.

TAMMY BROWN, PROBATE JUDGE

TO: Publisher
The Cullman Tribune

Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for 3 consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

Attorney for Administratrix:
J. Bradley Wilson
BAGGETT & WILSON, LLC
206 Ninth Street Southwest
Cullman, AL 35055
256/737-0740

Obituary Announcements: April 5 - 13

Memorial services are incomplete at this time for Codi Rebecca McGuire, 26, of Cullman. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Codi passed away April 5, 2018. She was born September 19, 1991 to Mark & Lori Perdue. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Horace & Geneva Shockley and grandfather, Donald Perdue. Survivors include her parents, Mark & Lori Perdue; her husband, Blane McGuire; son, Kole Davis; grandparents, David & Pat Mooney; grandmother, Sheila Perdue; brother, Justin Perdue; Father & Mother-in-law, Randy & Jo Ann McGuire; and a host of family and friends.

Patricia Ann Nix Sutton, 68 of Garden City, passed away on Friday, April 6, 2018 at her residence. No services are planned at this time. She is survived by her siblings, Tim Nix, David Nix, Linda Miscovich, Margie Girard, Joyce Nail, Tammy and Dinah Wisinger and a host of nieces, nephews, other family and friends. Hanceville Funeral Home directing.

Funeral services for Wiley Alvin Pike, Jr., age 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.

Funeral services for Joey Wayne Thompson, 59, of Hanceville are Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 2 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home; with interment in Hopewell Cemetery. Visitation on Saturday from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Mr. Thompson passed away on Tuesday, April 4, 2018 at his residence. He was born on July 4, 1958 in Cullman to J.W. & Jacqueline Gaye Thompson and is preceded in death by his father; an infant daughter, Josie Thompson and a brother, Tim (Bess) Thompson. Survivors include his mother, Jacqueline Thompson; two children, Rachel Thompson and Christopher Thompson (Amanda); two grandchildren, Kalissa & Alyssa Thompson; brother, Rick Thompson (Gwen Headrick); sister, Karen (Don) Garner; and a host of other family and friends.

Funeral services for Donna Carol Davenport McGraw, 81 of Hanceville, will be at 2 p.m., Monday, April 9, 2018 at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel with interment in Valley Springs Cemetery, Rev. James H. McGraw officiating. Visitation will be Sunday evening at the funeral home from 5:30 until 8 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Ms. Donna McGraw passed away April 4, 2018 at Cullman Regional Hospital. She was born March 25, 1937 to Dock Hence and Mary Ruby Knight Davenport in Good Hope, Alabama. Donna retired from the Broward County School Board, Broward County, Florida with more than 20 years of service. She was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Lillis Davenport; husband, Jack Huffman; son, Barry Huffman and granddaughter, Sabriana Ann McGraw. Survivors include four sons, James (Barbara) McGraw, Allan (Peggy) McGraw, Bruce (Jo) McGraw, Randy (Jeanette) McGraw; three daughters, Shirley (Bobby) Looney, Shelley Auletti, Shawn McGraw; eight grandchildren, Barry (Tamara) McGraw, Jonathan (Amber) McGraw, Adam Tenenbaum, Kylie (Zach) Stephens, Shianne (Donald) Marlar, Dustyn Auletti, Anthony McGraw, Chase McGraw; one great-granddaughter, Aubree Renee Stephens; three sisters, Evelyn Aaron, Selma Barnett, Thelma (Ken) Milligan, one brother, Bobby (Carolyn) Davenport and countless other family members.

Memorial services for James Laney Burkett, 82 of Cullman, will be at 3 p.m., Friday, April 13, 2018 at the First United Methodist Church of Cullman. The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at the church. Cullman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Burkett passed away April 5, 2018 at Cullman Regional. He was born March 10, 1936 to Rev. Herman James & Margueritte Laney Burkett. He was preceded in death by his parents; and a sister, Joanne Burkett Mischke. Survivors include his wife, Penny Henderson Burkett; sons, John (Leeanne) Burkett, Stevens Burkett, Kyle Burkett; step-son, John Bates; step-daughter, Sharon Bates; grandchildren, Kyle (Jennifer) Burkett, Melissa Burkett, Kevin Burkett, Jordan Burkett, Galt Bates; great-grandchildren, Sarah Burkett, Erik Burkett; a host of family and friends.

Free Obituary Listings

Have your funeral home contact us

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

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EDUCATION

Cullman-area students step into 'shark tank' to kickstart their own businesses

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday evening gave students in its Young Entrepreneurs' Academy (YEA!) the chance to compete for business start-up money and the potential for more at the national level. Participants pitched ideas and plans to established business leaders in an event similar to the television show "Shark Tank."

According to the Chamber, "YEA! is a class taught in both Holly Pond and Cullman High Schools. Our YEA! students have been working on their business ideas all year, and this Investor Panel could bring them one step closer to becoming actual business owners. Winners of this event will receive real seed money to help start their business, and one winner will have the opportunity to travel to New York to compete for The Saunders Scholarship."

What is "YEA!"?

YEA! gives students the opportunity to start their own real businesses with advice and assistance from real business leaders in their community, while learning just what it takes to be successful in the business world and American workforce.

On its Facebook page, the Chamber explains that "YEA!'s mission is to develop and deliver exciting, experience-based entrepreneurship programs to young people to enable them to transform their ideas into real enterprises that create economic and social value for a better world, develop the character or tomorrow's leaders, and enable educational institutions to provide successful entrepreneurship and social innovation training programs for youth between the ages of 11 and 18 around the country."

Cullman area YEA! participants

Thursday's presenters included:

- "Worship Warrior" - Averi Wallace and Hannah Sanchez
- "Overtime" - J.T. White, Lawson Bach and and Sam Brand
- "Lawn Defenders" - T.J. Fallin
- "Pixie Fudge" - Lindsey Lowery
- "Shay's Grill" - Adriana Martin
- "Cullman Personal Carriers" - Brock Story
- "Paradise City Equine Facility" - Hannah Heatherly and Jackson Chambers
- "Squeez'ems Lemonade" - Jake MacAfee, Trey Tucker and Will Morrison
- "Instruct, Inc." - Parker Van Dyke and Zane Manly
- "Cam's at Your Convenience" - Camden Moore and Preston Gunter
- "GARS" - Edgar Medina, Amberdestiny Menendez and and Claudio Rameriz



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Parker Van Dyke and Zane Manly were the overall winners with "Instruct, Inc.," a service intended to connect learners and tutors.

Judges

The panel included:

- Leah Bolin - Chamber of Commerce
- Stephen Skinner - In-N-Out Self Storage
- Blinda Walker - American Proteins, Inc.
- Kay Stewart - Carquest Auto Parts/Stewart's Auto Supply
- Zac Smith - AGCOR Steel
- Gary Nunn - Premier Bank
- Eddie Canaday - Alatex

At the end, the panel selected the following students' businesses to sponsor:

- "Worship Warrior," a faith-based T-shirt business by Averi Wallace and Hannah Sanchez - $300 for inventory, plus a booth at 2nd Fridays this summer, and assistance with incorporation
- "Lawn Defenders," a lawn care service by T.J. Fallin - $200 to attend leadership course
- "Pixie Fudge," by creative flavor fudge maker Lindsey Lowery - $500 for inventory, plus a booth at 2nd Fridays this summer
- "Cullman Personal Carriers," a grocery delivery service by Brock Story - $450, plus help working on credit
- "Squeez'ems Lemonade" - Jake MacAfee, Trey Tucker and Will Morrison - $200 for inventory, plus a booth at 2nd Fridays this summer

And the winner was...

"Instruct, Inc.," a service developed by Parker Van Dyke and Zane Manly to connect learners with tutors online, but for face-to-face instruction in academics, arts, etc. - $1,000 plus assistance with web design and other startup matters. Instruct, Inc. will also represent Cullman County in national competition in New York for The Saunders Scholarship, which provides money for college and business startups.

For more information about the Chamber's YEA! program, visit www.facebook.com/YEA-Cullman-Area-Chamber-of-Commerce-1637295246300118/.

Best (from Front)

Farm-City committees conduct educational activities year-round.

In addition to winning the overall award, Cullman County was judged Best Farm-City Committee in Division I (larger population counties) and earned division awards for Best Farm-City Dinner and Best Innovative Idea.

Lee County was named runner-up for Division I Best Farm-City Committee and earned the Target Award for emphasizing this year's theme of "Agriculture: Food for Life."

Finishing a close second for the overall award was the Pike County Farm-City Committee, which was judged in Division II (smaller population counties). This year, Pike County had an impact statewide by proposing a partnership between Farm-City committees and local Rotary Clubs to plant a tree for each Rotarian. Informational packets about trees were distributed statewide, and Gov. Kay Ivey joined Farm-City and Rotary officials for a tree planting on the Alabama Capitol grounds.

Pike County also won division awards for Best Media Coverage and Proclamation, Best Farm-City Tour and Best Special Activities. The Division II runner-up was Chambers County, which also earned the division Target and Scrapbook Awards.

In addition to county awards, Pike County Farm-City Committee Chairman Randy Hale was honored as Alabama's Farm-City Volunteer of the Year.

A founding member of the county committee, Hale has served 40 years inspiring others to share the Farm-City vision. Helms said Hale's tireless work and enthusiasm for Farm-City helped grow the committee from 10 dedicated people to more than 40 leaders representing all sectors of the community.

Also receiving individual recognition was Dr. Richard Guthrie, former dean of Auburn University's College of Agriculture. He received the Farm-City Service Award for going above and beyond his professional duties in fulfilling the Farm-City mission.

Helms described Guthrie as "a leader not afraid to get his hands dirty." A member of the Lee County Farm-City Committee since 2010, Guthrie has planned and worked at Farm-City events, including farm tours and educational booths at Ag Roundup and Ag Discovery Day.

Other Farm-City awards

Division I

- Autauga County, Scrapbook Award
- Coffee County, Best Media Coverage / Proclamation
- Colbert County, Best Civic Club Activities
- Houston County, Best National Ag Day Promotion
- Lauderdale County, Best Farm-City Tour
- Russell County, Best Special Activities

Division II

- Cherokee County, Innovative Idea Award
- Franklin County, Best Farm-City Dinner
- Lawrence County, Best Civic Club Activities

For photos of all Farm-City award winners, visit the Alabama Farmers Federation's Flickr and Facebook pages.



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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

PATRICIA L. BROWN,
Plaintiff

Vs. Case Number: DR-2018-000072.00

ANTHONY L. HOLLOMAN,
Defendant

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION

Anthony L. Holloman, defendant, whose whereabouts is unknown, must answer Patricia L. Brown's Complaint for Divorce by May 14, 2018 or, thereafter, a Judgment by Default may be rendered against him in Case Number 25-DR-2018-000072.00 in the Circuit Court of Cullman County.

Done this the 9th day of March, 2018.

Lisa McSwain
Clerk of Circuit Court

PETITIONER:
PATRICIA BROWN
120 COUNTY ROAD 1116
VINEMONT, AL 35179

TO PUBLISHER: BEGINNING MARCH 22, 2018 PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR (4) SUCCESSIVE WEEKS IN THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE.

*PLEASE BILL PLAINTIFF FOR THE COST OF PUBLICATION IF SHE DOES NOT PAY WHEN THIS IS DELIVERED TO YOU.

PB ADT BK 48 PG 634 - 03/22/2018 03:02 PM
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate, Cullman County, AL

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STATE OF ALABAMA
CULLMAN COUNTY **CASE NO.: AD2018-020**

IN RE: THE MATTER OF ADOPTION OF S.E.F.,
A MINOR CHILD.

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR ADOPTION

TO: **WHITNEY NICOLE FAULKNER THURSBY**
Address Unknown

Please take notice that a Petition for Adoption of S.E.F., a minor child born on the 23rd day of April, 2013, in Cullman, Alabama, to biological mother Whitney Nicole Faulkner Thursby, was filed on the 9th day of March, 2018, in the Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, by Keith Morrow and Reeta Morrow, Petitioners. Please be advised should you intend to contest this adoption, you must file a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the last publication herein with the Clerk of the said Probate Court of Cullman County, Alabama, 500 2nd Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama, 35055.

DONE this 22nd day of March, 2018.

J. BRADLEY WILSON
BAGGETT & WILSON, LLC
Attorney for Petitioners
206 Ninth Street Southwest
Cullman, AL 35055

To: The Cullman Tribune

PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE A WEEK FOR FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS.

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, JUDGE OF PROBATE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION
DATE OF ELECTION: JUNE 5, 2018
ALL CULLMAN COUNTY 51 VOTING PRECINCTS
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF REGISTRATION AND VOTING AIDS

State of Alabama
County of Cullman
Probate Court

Pursuant to 21-4-23 (b), of the Code of Alabama (1975), notice is hereby given of the following requirements for and the availability of this registration and voting aids.

(b) The appropriate election officials of each county shall issue public notice in each voting precinct of the requirement for and the availability of these registration and voting aids, which notice shall be notification for all handicapped and elderly individuals. This notice shall be issued as early as practicable, but in any case, not later than 60 days before any state election or the registration deadline for such election.

Tammy Brown
Judge of Probate

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
APRIL 7, 2018

County cuts ribbon on expanded 6-lane boat ramp at Smith Lake Park

Nick Griffin
Tribune Correspondent



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The first boat slips into the waters of Smith Lake from the newly-expanded boat ramp on Thursday morning, April 5, 2018.

TRIMBLE – There was a small crowd gathered at Smith Lake Park Thursday morning for the official ribbon cutting of the park's brand-new boat ramp. The new ramp is three times the size of the original, making for a much more convenient launching spot for people looking to enjoy the lake.

Cullman County Parks and Recreation Director Doug Davenport was excited to see the project come to fruition and start serving the community. Several factors delayed the project over the last few months, but they were able to complete the project in a relatively short time nonetheless.

"This project came from the state, the game and fishery department (Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources), so there weren't any local tax dollars used for it. It is a six-ramp, we did have a two-ramp facility here before and we always had complaints from people during tournaments or during the Fourth of July, so we got a permit and got this process going to bring us to today's adventure five and a half years ago," Davenport said.

"The project kept getting delayed for different studies of the different species in the water and getting permits and finding the funding and when we finally got to the time to break ground we ran into a winter freeze and rain. Our goal was to get it completed in 95 days and we were about two and a half weeks beyond that, but the state actually told us they were very happy with the timeframe that we were able to complete the project."

Although the grand opening celebration took place Thursday morning, there are still some more features that will be added in the near future.

"The second phase will take place starting about mid-October. There'll be all the piers put in, there'll be a little 8-foot-wide foot bridge and there'll be more parking as well," Davenport said.

"We're basically going from 93 parking spaces to 198 and from two slips to six so this is a great day for Cullman County. This is kind of a once in a lifetime deal that you and I won't see take place again and this should last for generations to come, too."

The new boat launch will not only serve as a state-of-the-art convenience for casual boaters and fishermen in the community, Davenport is optimistic that the new facility will allow the department to host events on the lake and bring in an economic impact that it couldn't before.

"We reached out about five years ago to FLW (Fishing League Worldwide) about hosting a tournament here and even to the Bassmasters. They just told us up front that our facilities couldn't accommodate what they need. Walker County gets the majority of the big tournaments down there because of all the ramps so we wanted to be able to have the same opportunity in Cullman and give anglers a better place to launch out of," Davenport said.

"Even our tournaments here, a lot of them still launch from the dam and come up to this end, but this facility with all the docks we'll have, I think it's going to be close to 300 feet of dock, we're just very excited for it. It's a great day for the community and for the park."

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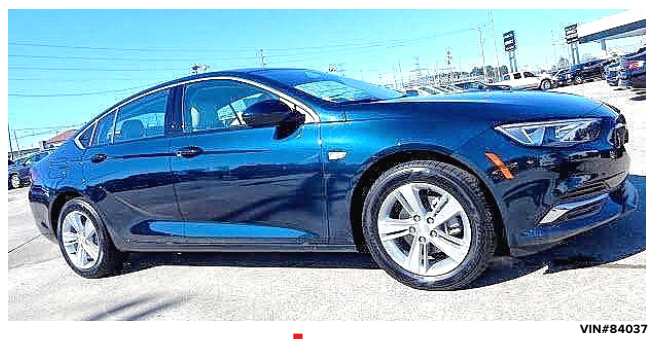


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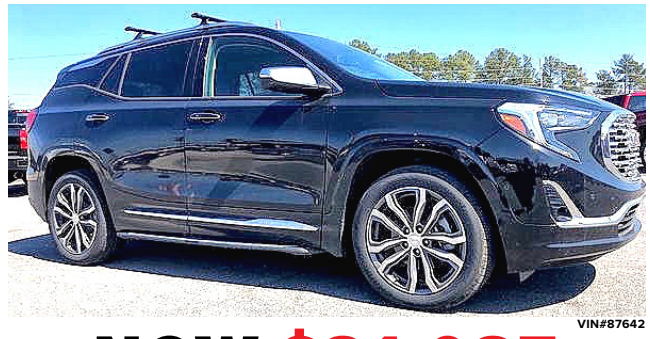
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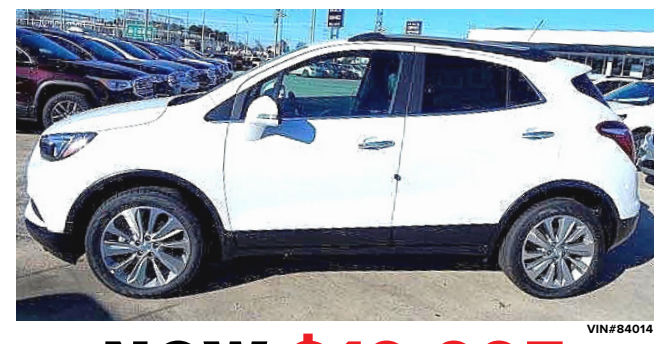
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