
Elect CAROL BERRY
PROBATE JUDGE
CULLMAN COUNTY
Committed to community; Dedicated to progress
Pd. Pol. Adv. for Carol Berry, 103 Greenview Circle, Cullman, AL 35057
VISIT ELECT CAROL BERRY PROBATE JUDGE ON FACEBOOK

The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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Saints MC donates funds to Miracle League



NOAH GALILEE/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Participants from the Cullman Parks and Recreation Therapeutic Recreation Program and Miracle League gathered at the Field of Miracles Thursday evening to accept a $5,250 donation from the Saints MC (Motorcycle Club). The funds will be used to pay the registration fees for all participants and for purchasing new equipment. The Saints MC will be hosting an additional fundraiser on June 16, 2018; be sure to keep up with The Cullman Tribune for more information.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Cullman Police host forensic blood analysis class

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – The classroom and training house at the Cullman Police Department (CPD) have been a bloody mess this week, and with good reason. Investigators from multiple law enforcement agencies came there to take part in a 40-hour class from Monday through Friday, learning how to read blood stains like a fortune teller's tea leaves. Students studied and practiced analyzing the patterns of blood spatter, gathering and preserving blood evidence, photographing and sketching blood stains at a crime scene, and even presenting blood evidence in a mock court setting.

The class included officers from CPD, the Cullman County Sheriff's Office, Jasper Police Department, Hoover Police Department, Huntsville Police Department, Calera Police Department, Alabaster Police Department, a forensic investigator from Birmingham, and even an officer from the Elkhart, Indiana Sheriff's Office.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Forensic specialist Jan Johnson describes different patterns of blood spatter

Jan Johnson, a forensic specialist with training company Forensic Pieces, talked about what the students were learning:

"I've set up mock scenes for the students, reproducing patterns that we've discussed in the class. So, their job is to go in and document: photograph, sketch, do measurements, sample the blood, and then identify the patterns. And again, the patterns within the scene can give you volumes of information regarding the scene reconstruction.

"Without this training, a lot of times people don't understand » PAGE 6

BUSINESS

Bargain Hunt open in south Cullman



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

The ribbon was cut on Bargain Hunt in Cullman on Friday, April 13.

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Bargain Hunt's brand-new Cullman location opened its doors to a long line of customers Friday morning but not until they donated to a local nonprofit. Bargain Hunt kicked off its grand opening with a $1,000 donation to Karma in Cullman. Karma in Cullman works with those in the community who need a hand up, whether that be through food assistance, yard sales, clothing, furniture, household items, books or toys. Its founder, Rachel Bryant, was moved by the contribution and accepted a check from Bargain Hunt at Friday morning's ribbon cutting.

"I know that stuff like this happens for a lot of other organizations, but this is a life-changing $1,000 » PAGE 6

BUSINESS

Upscale eatery and pub 412 Public House opens downtown

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Cullman's newest eatery, 412 Public House, this week quietly opened its doors at 412 Second Ave. SE, near Christ Lutheran Church. Stephen Gannon and Trey Jordan, along with husband-wife chef/mixologist team Rico and Christine Nishimura, hosted a few private functions early in the week, but welcomed their first regular guests just in time for lunch on Thursday.

Jordan said, "Monday, we had a few hiccups. And then Tuesday went phenomenally, as smooth as we could have asked for it to go--certainly didn't expect it to go that smooth! And then Wednesday lunch was relatively reserved . . . Each night has probably provided us an opportunity to learn different paces of how to work, so it was a great way to start, in terms of today."

"I always have to give all credit, in terms of the inspiration and the idea, back to Trey," said Gannon, "and I always thought it was a fantastic idea from the outset. But, most recently, obviously, it's been a sprint to the starting line, for sure, as far as just getting it all pulled together. And of course, we have fantastic partners with Christine and Rico, who we could not be doing this without."

Deep and narrow with tables arranged around a massive bar, the eatery has more of the cozy feel of an upscale pub than a formal restaurant. The team offers a variety of foods, but hopes to be known for its steaks, signature cocktails, and especially for its seafood dishes.

Said Gannon, "I think Chef Rico is just absolutely known for just amazing seafood- his flavors. I know he keeps » PAGE 6



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Co-Owner Stephen Gannon talks with Mayor Woody Jacobs, who stopped by for lunch.

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Ivey awards grants to equip police in Addison, Double Springs, Hanceville



HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

MONTGOMERY – The office of Gov. Kay Ivey announced Thursday that Ivey has awarded grants totaling $41,371 to provide equipment for three police departments in Addison, Double Springs and Hanceville.

According to a media release, the Town of Addison will use a $13,500 grant to purchase bulletproof vests for police officers along with laptops and in-car docking stations for the laptops.

A $16,893 grant will help the Town of Double Springs purchase in-car video camera systems for their police officers.

The City of Hanceville will use a $10,978 grant to purchase Tasers, bulletproof vests, weapon racks and reflective traffic cones for the police department.

"Our police officers put their lives on the line every day to protect and serve our communities, and it is imperative that we provide them the tools and equipment to do their jobs safely and effectively," Ivey said. "I am pleased to provide this funding for the police departments of Addison, Double Springs and Hanceville."

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) is administering the grants from funds made available by the U.S. Department of Justice.

ADECA administers a wide range of programs that support law enforcement, economic development, water resource management, energy conservation and recreation development.

Arrest reports: April 11-12

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests reported for April 11-12. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11
CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Asherbraner, Leslie Carlton, 45
• parole violation- third-degree burglary

Colburn, Dakota Chance, 22
• second-degree theft of property

Hildebrandt, Madonna Lee, 40
• violation of domestic violence protection order

Ogle, Harold Jason, 44
• FTA- public intoxication

Otwell, Crystal Lee, 38
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• trafficking in cannabis

Otwell, Susan Marie, 59
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• trafficking in cannabis

Pittman, Dustin Jerome, 32
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• trafficking in cannabis

Pope, Jeremy Marvin, 38
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Thursby, Whitney Nicole, 30
• first-degree theft of property

Watson, Rhonda S., 52
• FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calhoun, Jonathan F. 22
• DUI
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Mitchell, Brittany Stockman, Jessica R., 31
• FTA- fourth-degree theft of property

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No arrests reported.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12
CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Aaron, Benjamin Lee, 39
• FTA- third-degree domestic violence-harassment

Bates, Mary Ellen, ,53
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• speeding- reasonable & prudent
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Brasher, Tracy Nicole, 27
• FTA- DUI
• improper lane usage
• illegal possession of prescription medicine

Campbell, Joshua Adam, 34
• first-degree receiving stolen property

Cupp, Terry Dewayne, 47
• probation violation- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Floyd, Jeremy Dewayne, 35
• FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Hobbs, Justin Matthew, 36
• first-degree unlawful possession of marijuana not for personal use
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Johns, Deann Elaine, 53
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Jones, Jonathan Ray, 38
• FTA- second-degree assault

Lanier, Mikeal Steavin, 23
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Mitchell, Brittany Thomas, 28
• obstructing government operations

Newsome, Marcus Wendell, 25
• probation violation- third-degree burglary

Paulino, Claudius, 30
• obstructing government operations
• resisting arrest

Pearson, Bridget Dawn, 44
• FTA- driving while revoked

Stanton, Jason Adam, 30
• FTA- liability insurance required

White, Charles C. Jr., 44
• FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Wood, Mason lee, 27
• indecent exposure

Wynn, Gregory Paul, 42
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• unlawful manufacture of a controlled substance

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Jones, Jonathan R., 38
• FTA- resisting arrest
• FTA- driving while suspended
• FTA- insurance violation

Montgomery, Christopher E., 30
• FTA- fourth-degree theft of property

Sterling, Harry W., 63
• DUI

Siniard, Billy J., 40
• unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
• driving while suspended
• switched tag
• insurance violation

Woods, Arron B., 17 (adult status)
• unlawful breaking and entering of a motor vehicle (4 counts)

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No arrests reported.

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

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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.: AD2018-020**

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.

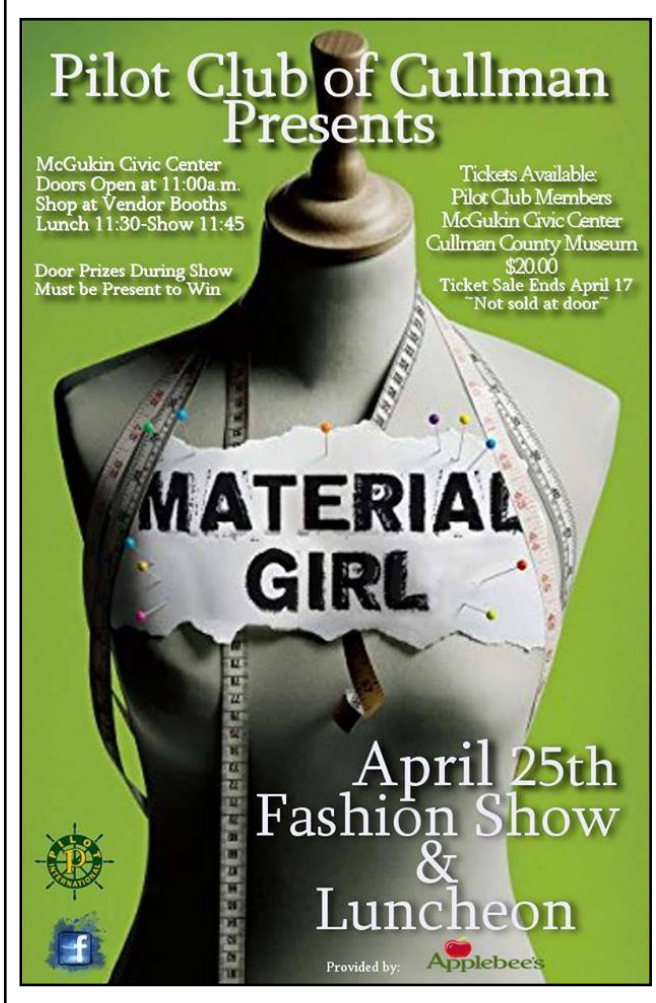
J. BRADLEY WILSON
BAGGETT & WILSON, LLC
Attorney for Petitioners
206 Ninth Street Southwest
Cullman, AL 35055

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



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CULLMAN COUNTY 2018
ALL-DAY EVENT
8AM: STATE OF EDUCATION
10AM: STATE OF HEALTHCARE
11:30AM: STATE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
1:30PM: LEGISLATIVE FORUM
Event Sponsor Chick-fil-A
What you need to know:
Where: Cullman Civic Center, 510 5th St SW, Cullman, AL 35055
When: April 27, 2018 | 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM
CULLMAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER
For more information, contact the Chamber at 256-734-0454 or info@cullmanchamber.org

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Ivey requests FEMA assistance for Calhoun, Cullman, Etowah and St. Clair Counties due to March 19 storms

Office of Gov. Kay Ivey
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Gov. Kay Ivey on Thursday signed a letter formally requesting disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Calhoun, Cullman, Etowah and St. Clair counties due to the March 19, 2018 storms. This request for assistance covers two areas: all categories of Public Assistance and Individual Assistance. If approved, Public Assistance will provide municipal and county governments assistance with debris removal, emergency protective measures and disaster damage restoration of infrastructure. Individual Assistance may also be provided as financial or direct assistance to individuals and families whose property has been damaged or destroyed as a result of a federally-declared disaster, and whose losses are not covered by insurance.

"After seeing the damage first hand, I believe that Alabama does qualify for assistance to help with the recovery from these devastating storms," Ivey said. "I appreciate the hard work of the first responders and all the volunteers who have helped in the cleanup. There has been such an incredible partnership between communities, counties, state agencies and FEMA and I know that through this partnership we can get people back in homes, businesses back up and running and get Jacksonville State University back to normal, as quickly as possible."

This request follows recently concluded damage assessments performed by local, state and federal personnel. Assessments have indicated that governments at all levels have collectively incurred millions of dollars in combined costs for expenses such as debris removal and damage to infrastructure.

"I have visited and talked with the local EMA directors in the impacted areas several times and I know first-hand the amount of devastation the communities faced, but I've also witnessed how the whole community came together and assisted each other," Alabama EMA Director Brian E. Hastings said. "The approval of this request is very important to repair the major damage to the public infrastructure as well as provide individual assistance in the areas of crisis counseling, disaster case management, and disaster unemployment assistance."


OFFICE OF GOV. KAY IVEY

Ivey is also requesting the Small Business Administration (SBA) provide federal assistance to Morgan County due to the April 3, 2018, storms that impacted the city of Decatur. If the SBA request is granted, homeowners, renters and business owners will have access to low interest disaster loans. The SBA declaration will benefit the affected counties and their adjacent counties.

According to the National Weather Service offices in Alabama, 17 tornadoes occurred during the March 19, 2018 severe weather period.

Tribune Files from Yesteryear

From The Files Of 1933

The Hi-Y Club of Cullman High School was organized in 1929. This club is a Christian organization promoting clean speech, clean thoughts and clean athletics. Only boys of high character are invited to join. Officers for the present year are: president, Alvin Camp, vice-president, Norman Bender, secretary, Rob Roy Latta and treasurer, Athel Hyatt.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Calvert, of Bremen, attended the birthday dinner at Mr. and Mrs. Will Calvert's at Brushy Pond, on Sunday.

Misses Ruby, Grace and Hazel Sandlin, Altie Pearson and Mathlee Wilson spent Sunday with Misses Essie, Bessie and Tressie Stricklin.

Carl Calvert, of Brushy Pond was the Saturday night visitor of Lowton Willoughby.

Mrs. Opal Veenstra, of Florida, is spending a few weeks with Mrs. Ella Doss and family.

Reverend Harvey Edwards, of Prospect, preached at Valley Springs, last Saturday.

Mrs. John Rimel visited her brother, Oscar Compton, at Arkadelphia, last week. Miss Clara Mae Compton visited in Hanceville, on Saturday afternoon.

Those elected to the National Honor Society at Cullman High School for last semester of 1933 were: Dorothy Reinstadler, Ella Schuman, Clema Self, Betty Stiefelmeyer and Wynelle Taylor.

Reverend Virgil Sizemore, of Holly Pond, spent Thursday with Reverend M.H. Love and family, at Longview.

Reverend M.H. Love is attending the Bible school at the Baptist church in west Cullman.

Mr. and Mrs. Novie Chaney, of Cullman, were the dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Howard recently.

Some of the early gardeners are braving the cold to set out cabbage and onion plants.

The Judge Tankersley family has moved to the Ebenezer community.

I couldn't wait for success so I went on without it.

From The Files Of 1955

George John Beyer, age 75, who served two terms as mayor of Cullman in the early 1900's, died in Birmingham, on Monday. Mr. Beyer was retired from the hardware business.

Returning home after two years of military service in Alaska are Corporal Leo Hasenbein and Corporal Louis Hasenbein, twin sons of the Frank Hasenbeins.

Garley C. Chapman, Police Chief in Cullman is happy with the new speed limits.

Dane Estes, age 20, of Holly Pond is pictured in a wheelchair.

Dane was stricken with polio, last February 13th while playing basketball for Saint Bernard College. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Norris Estes.

The building committee for Trinity Evangelical Church in Hanceville is Albert Burkart, C.T. Burkart, Paul Fox, Henry Fuchs, Albert Jochum, Edwin McNutt, Herbert Michelfelder, G.W. Thom, Henry Warren and Otto Michelfelder. Reverend C. Burkart organized the church in 1885.

The registered Hampshire Hog sale will be held at Ponder Warehouse, on February 6th.

Reverend Sim Calvert is pastor of Bethany Baptist Church and is teaching a Bible study this week.

J.A. Perdue has opened a store at Wheat in the L.H. Perdue Storehouse.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cobb and boys are spending the winter in Florida.

Herbert Otto Reinhardt and Alma Edith Marie Richter were married, on January 20th.

Mrs. Marvin Ashwander and Miss Dorothy Jackson spent Thursday in Birmingham.

Doctor and Mrs. Allen Gray, of Schnectady, New York, announce the birth of a daughter, on January 16th. Doctor Gray is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Gray.

From The Files Of 1992

Jack Sides Returns To Cullman

Former Cullman Mayor Jack Sides and likely Mayoral candidate this year, has returned to Cullman from a Birmingham Hospital, following treatment in a coronary care unit.

Sides will return to Birmingham for additional tests to be sure he does not have arterial blockage in about a month. The Cullman business man is apparently feeling better than he has in months. Welcome home, Jack!

BILLY BOB'S STORIES AND STUFF

Sometimes you simply have to make do



Bill King
Tribune
Contributor

On our recent mission trip to Maryland, I realized that I had not brought everything I needed. We spent our first night at a church in Virginia. At bedtime, when I went to remove my one contact lens, I realized I had forgotten my storage cup. Rather than go out in falling snow to find a store late at night in a town I wasn't familiar with, I decided to make do. The room we were "camping in" must be where they prepare for communion. Do you know that a contact lens is a perfect fit in the bottom of a communion cup? I poured in a little contact solution, covered the top of the cup with a piece of duct tape, and called it a day! Sometimes we simply have to make do. Have you ever brushed your teeth with toothpaste and your finger? If you forget your shaving cream, shampoo will work, but Ben Gay is not a good idea.

There is an old story about guitarist Chet Atkins. When he was a kid he had a guitar but no strings. He didn't have money to buy strings so he took wires out of a screen door, wound them together and strung up his guitar with them. I'm not sure how that might sound but with the ability of Chet Atkins, it probably sounded great. I've also heard of others who used fishing line to string up a classical guitar.

I asked some friends to share their stories with me. I received so many that I may have to share some more of them in next week's column. Roger knew a man who owned a truck with a leaking windshield. His floorboard filled up with water when it rained. Since he didn't have caulk or glue to stop the leak, he shot a hole in his floorboard. The water drained; problem solved! Rick knew a carpenter who drove an old Studebaker truck with no glass in the driver's door or door handle. He drilled a hole in the drip rail over the door and dropped a screwdriver through it to hold the door shut. To get out he reached out the window and pulled out the screwdriver. This one reminds me of the fellow who made his own electric truck window. He removed the interior handle, welded a bolt in its place, and then used a battery powered drill to roll his window up and down.

When Melissa was twelve, she baked a birthday cake for her mama. She had canned frosting, but no decorations, so she decorated it with Fruit Loops. Her Mama still says it was the best cake she ever ate! Years later, she and her husband purchased a power pole, but didn't have any way to get it home. He wired it to the center of the front and rear axles of their truck. I hope he tied a red flag to the end!

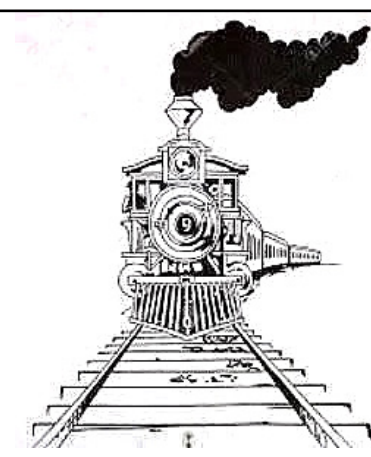
Speaking of communion, Vince told about a church that used prune juice for communion because they didn't realize they were out of grape juice and that was all they had. It led to a moving service. I hope there were no contact lenses in the cups.

Sometimes the best we can do is to simply make do with what we have. There are other times when "making do" simply won't do. At those times we have to do our best or give our best. This is especially true when it comes to the things we do and give to God, not to mention our family.

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



Poet's Corner



The Vain Train

By: Randy C. Hale

The Vain train runs early down
the uneven tracks.
Never picking up others or bringing
them back.

It blows it's whistle loud and says
look out for me.
How it shines and sparkles
for the crowds to see.

But just like us all, in the tunnel
it will go.
There in the darkness, the end
of the show.

And in few years, a forgotten
old heap.
Abandoned and rusty,
not making a peep.

Only to the driver will its greatness
remain.
Just setting like rubbish,
that pompous old train.

THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
APRIL 14, 2018

Cullman County hailstone now official state record, 1st entry in state's new hail dataset

Dr. John Christy, Chris Darden, Phillip Gentry



W.C. MANN /THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

This hailstone, collected March 19 by Tribune reporter William Craig Mann (shown) in his yard in the community of Walter, has been officially declared the largest recorded hailstone to fall in Alabama. The hailstone had a maximum diameter of 5.38 inches along its longest axis. It weighed 9.8 ounces (almost 5/8 of a pound) and had a total volume of 19.8 cubic inches. According to the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IIBHS) in Tampa, a baseball has a volume of about 13.4 cubic inches, while a 12-ounce soft drink can has a volume of 25 cubic inches.

HUNTSVILLE – A large hailstone that fell in Cullman County on March 19 is now officially the largest recorded hailstone to fall in Alabama.

An ad hoc committee that included the Alabama state climatologist and officials from both the National Weather Service and the National Centers for Environmental Information reviewed data about the hailstone and unanimously agreed it will set the initial state hailstone record for Alabama in four parameters: diameter, weight, volume and circumference.

"Based on federal guidelines and with the coordination of federal and state officials, we established this as the first Alabama hailstone record," said Dr. John Christy, Alabama's state climatologist and director of the Earth System Science Center at The University of Alabama in Huntsville.

The record-setting hailstone in Walter (about 10 miles southeast of Cullman) had a maximum diameter of 5.38 inches along its longest axis. It weighed 9.8 ounces (almost 5/8 of a pound) and had a total volume of 19.8 cubic inches. According to the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IIBHS) in Tampa, a baseball has a volume of about 13.4 cubic inches, while a 12-ounce soft drink can has a volume of 25 cubic inches.

The hailstone fell in the front yard of Cullman Tribune writer Craig Mann, who notified the National Weather Service office in Huntsville. Staff meteorologists from the IIBHS scanned and measured five hailstones Mann collected (including the record setter) as part of its research on hail. The other four hailstones ranged in size from 4.55 to 3.61 inches in diameter.

"Was this the largest hailstone that fell that day or from this event?" asked Victor Murphy, climate and co-op services program manager at the National Weather Service's southern regional headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas. "We don't know, but it is the largest one that was kept and recorded."

"It gives us a baseline in terms of a maximum hailstone that's been measured in the state," said Chris Darden, meteorologist in charge of the National Weather Service office in Huntsville. "This is also the first hailstone measured for volume in the U.S., and that's a pretty neat thing. It sets a standard for other records in other states going forward."

"To see that kind of measurement being done, that was cool," said Deke Arndt, chief of the Climate Monitoring Section at the National Centers for Environmental Information in Asheville, North Carolina. "That technology eliminates a lot of the things that can go wrong when you're using a measuring tape."

The east southeastern edge of Cullman continuing to Walter was "kind of the ground zero for this hail storm, where the damage was the worst," Darden said. Several heating and air conditioning units on the roof of the Cullman County Sheriff's Office and jail were destroyed by hail. Several cars parked outside were damaged or destroyed.

"The jail has an industrial type freezer it uses to store food for the inmates," Darden said. "It had hailstones go through its roof and into the freezer. There were several houses that had hail go completely through their roofs, including some with metal roofs. There was one building with a metal roof not far from the jail, and it looks like someone took a jackhammer to it. It's a total loss."

Based on surveys after the storm, Darden said the heavy damage was caused not only by the size of the hailstones but also by the number of them.

"That's probably what did the most damage, was just the sheer number of hailstones," he said.

Knowing a hailstone that fell March 19 in Walter was the largest to fall in Alabama — and one of the three largest ever documented east of the Mississippi River — is only half of the story.

The other half is learning how the record-setting hailstone compares to others that fell on Alabama in the past. The Cullman County hailstone is the biggest, but how much bigger than other hailstones? Where did those other hailstones fall and what can we learn from those storms to improve predictions of hail, which causes billions of dollars in damage each year?

To document the record and learn how it compares to hailstones from the past, the Alabama Office of the State Climatologist is establishing a state hailstone record.

"We are investigating earlier reports of large hailstones, but these reports are for information only and won't be part of the official record," Christy said.

With a record-setting hailstone in hand, researchers would like more information about large hailstones that fell in the past and those that fall in the future.

"For past storms, send documentation by email that must include a photo of the hailstone beside a ruler or tape measure for evidence of the size," Christy said. "Please include contact information, the date of the event, the exact location and the time of day the hailstone fell.

"We have several historic accounts of 4-and-a-half inch hailstones falling in Alabama. But we don't need stories. We need evidence. Then we can compile a list of unofficial reports as background."

"You always have to remember that after an event like this, someone is suffering," Arndt said. "But one of the things that is unique about hailstones is that anyone can pick up a hailstone and put it in the freezer. It's very democratic. Anybody can do that."

For hailstones that fall in the future, "please immediately put the hail in a zip lock bag and put it in the freezer," Christy said. "Unless it is bagged, hail sublimates (evaporates) directly from ice to water vapor even if it is stored below freezing."

Information about past and future hailstones can be emailed to: weather_record@nsstc.uah.edu

If the report of a new record hailstone is deemed to be reliable, officials at either the state climatologist's office or one of the state National Weather Service offices will begin the process of reviewing the data and making a decision about the possible new record.

The largest hailstone ever recorded in the U.S. fell on July 23, 2010, in Vivian, South Dakota. It was 8 inches in diameter, 18.62 inches in circumference, and weighed 1.93 pounds.

The State Climate Extremes Committee — which reviewed the record-setting hailstone — was composed of:

- Deke Arndt, National Centers for Environmental Information, Asheville, North Carolina
- John Christy, Alabama state climatologist, UAH
- Chris Darden, meteorologist in charge, Huntsville WFO, NWS
- Jordan McLeod, Southeast Regional Climate Center, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- Victor Murphy, Southern Region HQ NWS, Fort Worth, Texas

Background Reading

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

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

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Showcasing the History of Alabama and Cullman County
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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION, ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY, AND CULLMAN COUNTY MUSEUM



TWITTER/CULLMAN SOCCER

PREP SOCCER

Cullman clinches Class 6A, Area 14 title with 4-2 win over Albertville

Sammy Confer
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – Cullman clinched the Class 6A, Area 14 title Thursday night. After a slow first half, the Bearcats picked it up in the second, scoring three goals on the way to a 4-2 victory over the Albertville Aggies.

Cullman scored its first goal of the game with 22:27 remaining in the first half as Isaac Rodriguez threaded a nice pass to Miguel Tizapa, who put it in the back of the net. Some great defense and some big saves by Jaron Potter kept Albertville off the scoreboard in the first half, but the Bearcats couldn't add to their lead, going into the half with a 1-0 lead.

Cullman started the second half out strong; at the 33:04 mark, Washington Sheffield put in a short-handed goal after the goalie couldn't handle the ball. Just more than a minute later, Rodriguez put in another short-handed goal and Sam Vermillion added another goal at the 21:02 mark to give the Bearcats a 4-0 lead. The Aggies got on the scoreboard with 9:25 remaining in the game when Christian Ramirez put it in the back of the net; he added another one with 49 seconds remaining. But it was too little, too late as Cullman went on to clinch the title.

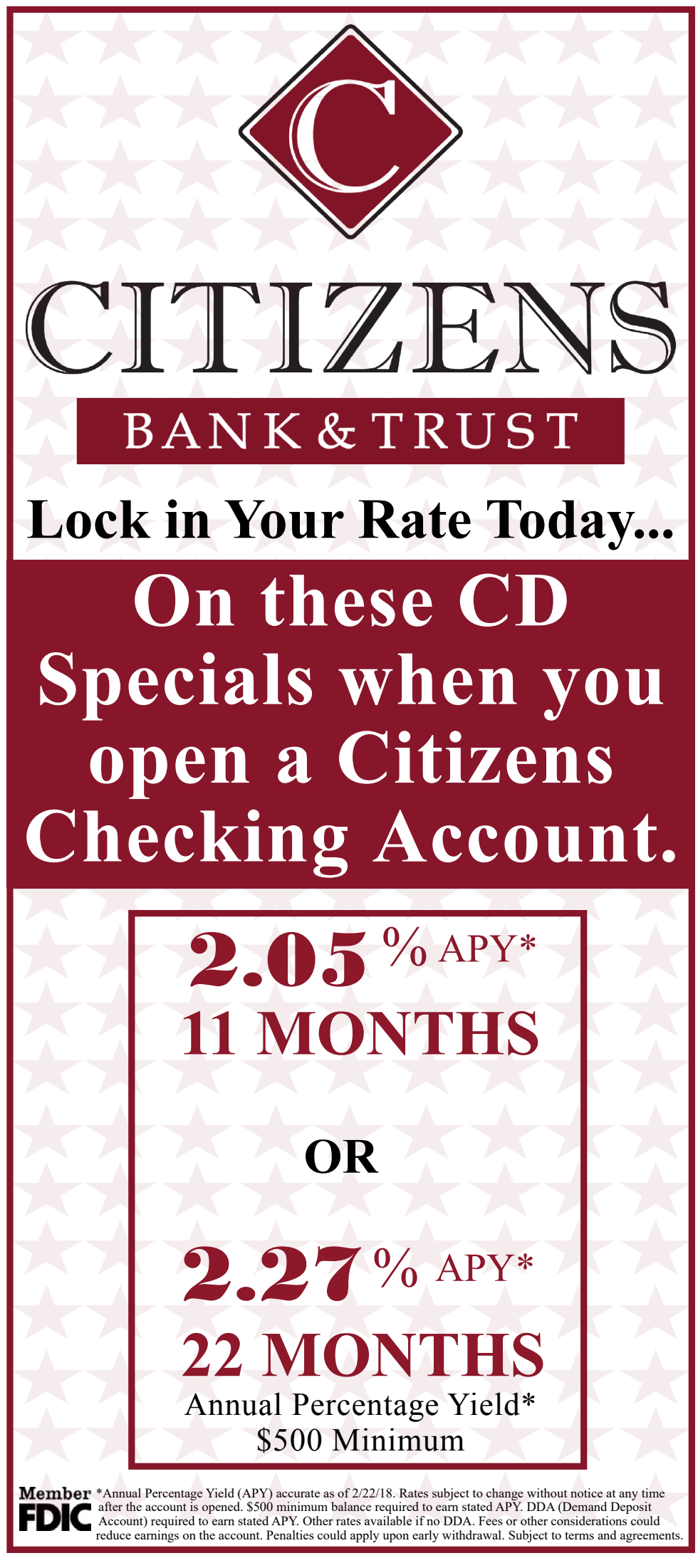
"We stuck to the same things that we did in the first half," Cullman coach Casey Harbin said. "We have been playing physical teams week after week after week, so we are getting used to that a lot. It feels really good to win the sectional title; Albertville won it last year, so this was kinda a revenge game for us. We just have to keep improving game by game. We played good tonight, but the question will be, can we win on Monday? Can we win on Thursday? We just have to keep improving step by step to win our remaining games."

Cullman improves to 8-6-2 overall and will face off against Russellville at home next Monday at 7:30 p.m.









Eatery (from Front)

those recipes close to his vest."

Gannon and Jordan also credited a number of local contractors and crafters who built and furnished the building, including architect/designer Frank Fagg, builders Jacob and Debbie Wood from Nearen Construction, Tim Rutherford and sons who built the backbar storage and display, Paul Moss who built the tables and bar top, Mandy Maples who supplied artwork, Amy Wood who did the interior design, BarkLey Plumbing and Baird Electric.

412 Public House will be open Tuesday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday 11 a.m. to midnight, Saturday 10 a.m. to midnight, Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and will closed on Mondays. Find out more at www.facebook.com/412publichouse.

Bargain Hunt (from Front)

for us," Bryant said. "When they called me, I was just speechless and I'm about to cry now but this is going to be life-changing in this community."

Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce President Leah Bolin addressed the staff and management of the new store before the ribbon cutting and explained why she and the chamber are excited about Bargain Hunt joining the community.

"We're really happy that you're here and we can see that you're happy you're about to open. I had so many people call the chamber and ask about when Bargain Hunt was going to be open. I think you're going to do really, really well here; we're very excited and we want you to know that we are here for you and we are your resource," Bolin said. "I know you're already giving back through charitable donations, so we know that you're going to be a great community partner with the city of Cullman."

Bargain Hunt Store Leader Stuart Downing spoke to the chamber representatives and his staff just before the ceremony and reiterated their excitement for opening the new location.

"We're just really excited to be a part of the Cullman community," Downing said. "We're very thankful for the opportunity to bring the business here and we think we're going to do really well because we have a lot of great things to offer at a great price. We've got so much enthusiasm to be a part of the community and we're just really looking forward to being here with you guys."

Bargain Hunt is located at 1721 Second Ave. SW next to Planet Fitness.

Class (from Front)

the patterns. They can't interpret it, and you can come up with a solution to the crime by looking at the blood patterns. The blood will give you volumes of information for crime scene reconstruction."

According to Johnson, blood patterns on victims, walls, floors, ceilings, furniture and on suspects' clothing are keys to establishing the truth in many violent crime cases.

One out-of-town investigator, who could not be identified due to his department's policy, told The Tribune, "This is a great class. It helps us, on a scene, to be able to tell--where I see the value in it--is being able to tell perhaps what happened. When we're interviewing someone that may be a suspect in a crime, we can see whether their statements are consistent with the scene--what we see at the scene--or whether they're not, and actually hold them accountable to it.

"Also, when it comes to court now, it takes more training to do this, but the hope is that, over time, that you get to a point where you can actually reconstruct what happened by looking at the blood."

According to CPD Capt. of Investigation Becky Boyd, upcoming forensic classes this year include crime scene photography and sketching.

Said Boyd, "I'm grateful to have this opportunity to have this kind of training here in the department. The investigators that are in this class are doing a really good job, and I'm proud of them, obviously.

"But, unfortunately, it's the times we live in, where this type of skill set is necessary, you know, and it's part of our job. So we're really glad to have this opportunity to get this training, and continue moving forward with it.

"Our commitment is always to do the best we can on any crime scene. You know, any time you're working that type of scene, there's obviously some type of tragedy involved. But we want to come in, and sometimes what we do may seem like we're insensitive. But really it's the most sensitive thing we can do, to work that scene to the very best of our ability--to be the truth finders, the fact finders, to be able to tell, because that victim has got a loved one, and we want to be able to be an advocate for that victim."

Obituary Announcements: April 14 - 20

Mary "Marge" Goodwin of Cullman passed away on April 8, 2018 at the age of 87. She was born in Cullman on October 8, 1930 to R.C. Phillips Sr. and Gladys Caple Phillips. She is preceded in death by her parents and her husband James C. Goodwin. She was a charter member of the Lioness Club of Cullman, the Red Hat Society, Garden Club and Cullman First Baptist Church. Funeral services are Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 3 p.m. at Moss Funeral Home Chapel with Dr. Lloyd Stilley officiating. Interment will be in Cullman City Cemetery. Survivors are her sons Eddie (Melanie) Goodwin of Panama City Beach, Florida, Mark (Stacey) Goodwin of Jasper, Alabama, sister Betty Smith of Cullman, brother R.C. Phillips Jr. of Cullman. The family wishes to express special thanks to the staff at Pine Place Assisted Living in Arley for the loving care they provided to Mrs. Goodwin. In lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made to the Lioness Club of Cullman or Pine Place Assisted Living in Arley at 150 Hickory Lane, Arley, Alabama 35541. Visitation is on Saturday from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at Moss Funeral Home.

Earline Trapp Shelton, 75 of Cullman, passed away on April 13, 2018 at Woodland Village Nursing Home. She is survived by her sister, Willine Wilson; aunts: Christine McClendon, Margie Trapp, May Jo Whaley and Ruby Whaley; special cousin/friend, Lenda Whaley and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins. Ms. Shelton was preceded in death by her parents, Hurschell and Valine Trapp and her sister, Carol Stricklin. Her family will receive friends on Sunday, April 15, 2018 from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home with the celebration of life for Ms. Shelton to begin at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Moss Service Funeral Home. Burial will follow at New Prospect Cemetery. Moss Service Funeral Home is in charge of the services.

Memorial service for Jammie Donette Kilgo, 43, of Cullman, will be Sunday, April 15, 2018, at 2 p.m., at LifePoint Church in Falkville, with Tim Kinney officiating. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Kilgo passed away on Monday, April 09, 2018. She was born June 13, 1974 Jimmy Lovell and Mary Sue Parks. She is preceded in death by her grandparents, Savola (Joe) Mooney, and PawPaw and MawMaw Lovell. Survivors include her life partner, Kenny Snyder, her daughter, Haley (Harley Stewart) Lynn, her parents, grandchildren, Aaliyah and McKinlee, sisters, Jennifer (Michael) Stapp, Delisa (Renita Cook) Sullins, Mary Ann (Pam Smith) Jermalowicz, and Mellissa (David) Hopkins, brother, Derrick Lovell, 6 nieces, 6 nephews and a host of other family and friends.

Odell Nail, 93 of Cullman, passed away on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. Mrs. Nail is survived by her daughter, Donna Boatright; son, Larry (Cindy) Nail; granddaughters, Leann Boatright, Katie (Buchanan) Jackson, Leslie (Jeremy) Faulkner and Callie (Nathan) Walston; great grandchildren, Riley and Ty Jackson, Micah, Karina, Zayne, and Tayvin Faulkner, and Colton and Lillie Walston. She was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Bertis Nail; parents, Alfred Otto and Leona Manolyar Willingham; sisters, Opal Smith, Ivy Fulks, Eula Mae Tucker and Mamie Lee Bishop; and brother; Otto Willingham. Her family will receive friends on Sunday, April 15, 2018 from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Moss Service Funeral Home. The celebration of life for Mrs. Odell Nail will be on Monday, April 16, 2018 at 11 a.m. in the chapel of Moss Service Funeral Home with Bro. Buchanan Jackson officiating. Burial will follow at Cullman Memory Gardens. Moss Service Funeral Home is in charge of the services.

Funeral services for Ella Grace Byrd, 87, of Hanceville will be held Monday, April 16, 2018 at 1 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home Chapel, Leon Mauldin officiating, with interment at Duck River Cemetery. The family will be receiving friends on Monday from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. Mrs. Byrd passed away on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at Cullman Regional Medical Center. She was born on July 14, 1930 in Clarke County to Ollie Lee Perkins, Sr. & Lula Elizabeth Everett and is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, George Byrd; and a daughter, Kelly Byrd. Survivors include two daughters, Kay Walley and Susan Childs; three grandchildren: Douglas Childs, Nikki Davis and Alex Walley; and five great grandchildren: Joshua Childs, Aaron Childs, Timothy Childs, Sarah Childs and Axton Davis.

Debra Ann Hallmark, 62, of Haleyville, entered into rest on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at Russellville Hospital. Mrs. Hallmark was born on November 19, 1955 in Cleveland, Ohio. Debra enjoyed singing Karaoke and playing Bingo. Visitation will be held on Monday, April 16, 2018 from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m. at Nichols Funeral Home in Haleyville, where services will be held at 2pm. Burial will follow in Middle Cemetery, Hackleburg. Debra is survived by her daughter, Beverly Hallmark; brothers, Gary Irwin, Jackie Irwin, Robert Irwin, Ricky Irwin, Mickie Irwin; sisters, Linda Kelley, Carol Taylor, and a host of nieces and nephews. She was "Mawmaw" to 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roger Dale Hallmark; daughter, Diana Hallmark; parents, Jack Arthur and Opal Irwin.

Rebecca Landrum, age 51 of Holly Pond, passed away on Friday, April 13, 2018 at her residence. She was born, March 13, 1967 to Donnie Ray and Glenda Briscoe. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is assisting with the family. She is preceded in death by her parents, granddaughter, Selena Martinez. Survivors include her, husband, Darrin Lindsey, sons, Joseph Millwood, Barion Millwood, Joshua Millwood, daughters, Jessica Baker, Misty Martin, grandchildren, Asia Millwood, Nelson Hernandez, Adriana Martin, Anna Martinez, Brionna Martin, Austin Millwood, Caden Parker, Maycie Millwood, Karmyn Millwood, Strycker Millwood, Bryson Millwood, Kendra Millwood, Lakelyn Millwood, sister, Tammy Edwards, brothers, Tim Briscoe, Tommy Fuqua, Billy Joe Martin and a host of family and friends. Memorial services will be Friday April 20, 2018 at 1pm at Hilltop Church of God in Hulaco, AL.

Free Obituary Listings

Have your funeral home contact us

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

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

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POLITICS

CAMPAIGN 2018: Cullman GOP hosts 1st in series of town hall meetings

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

GOOD HOPE – On Thursday evening, the Cullman County Republican Party held the first in a series of town hall meetings, this one at Good Hope City Hall. The next two meetings will be held at Fairview Town Hall (Thursday, April 26) and at West Point Town Hall (Thursday, May 10).

Secretary of State John Merrill, visiting from Montgomery, kicked off the event with a quick review of accomplishments of his office over the last three years, including:

- 948,101 new Alabama voters registered, for a state total of 3,361,906 registered voters
- Almost 400,000 ineligible voters (died, left state, or other reasons) removed from voter roles
- Six convictions and three elections overturned for voter fraud, and Merrill said that number could go up
- Online voter registration via a smartphone app
- 25 percent reduction in his office's staff and payroll while reducing business filing schedules from nine months to same day

The discussions between candidates were not purely off the cuff; county party chairman Waid Harbison told the crowd that some of the questions were repeated from ad videos shot recently by the party. After the candidates made their presentations, members of the audience were allowed to ask questions. Below are highlights of candidate positions.

Good Hope School Board representatives

Jason Speegle (incumbent)

- Install air conditioning in school gyms, which are increasingly employed as multi-use facilities
- Continue support for performing arts
- Expand Good Hope school facilities to avoid use of portable buildings
- Continue financial programs begun during his first term that created an operating fund surplus of over 30 days
- Work with Superintendent to make sure all schools have same type and quality of curriculum
- Supports arming selected and approved teachers who undergo law enforcement-approved training

Jerry Neighbors

- Plan for growth in Good Hope schools
- Promote school growth through matching fund projects
- Examine budget to stop wasteful spending and find the best ways to use available funds
- Make sure that students are prepared for college
- Reduce complacency in the system to increase motivation among students
- Against arming teachers for school security, prefers use of volunteer military veterans

State House of Representatives District 12

Corey Harbison (incumbent)

- Limit creation of new city school systems by requiring new city system central offices to be funded locally, and not from the state fund, in order to save money.
- Invest in vocational education programs
- Let citizens vote on a state lottery, to avoid new taxes
- Continue work on House economic development and commerce committees to promote local business and industrial growth

Alex Chaney

- Examine the education budget to see what needs to be there and what waste can be removed
- Bring in a state Education Superintendent who can do the job
- Make schools safer through increased numbers of resource officers or armed teachers
- Citizens should be allowed to vote on any proposed new tax
- Opposes state lottery, but would support a statewide vote by citizens
- Recruit new businesses and industries with incentives, but offer incentives to support existing businesses and industries as well
- Improve and maintain infrastructure to support industries and businesses

County Commissioner, west

Garry Marchman (incumbent)

- Develop an organized plan to repair and maintain roads
- Promote public trust in the county government
- Eliminate duplication of services between county departments
- Make sure department heads have proper training and resources to lead
- As new economic development takes place, make sure to take care of long-term existing businesses
- Promote farming as a Cullman County industry



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman County Commissioner Garry Marchman greets an attendee at Thursday night's town hall meeting in Good Hope.

Andy Coffee

- Repair roads from the base up; do the job right the first time
- Create a spirit of community, cooperation, and friendship between county authorities and new industries
- Foster communication between county and municipal authorities and businesses/industries

Circuit Judge

Martha Williams (incumbent)

- Make judicial processes more efficient by organized division of caseload between judges, use of mediation instead of trial whenever possible
- Avoid legislating from the bench; keep judicial and legislative functions separate
- Ask legislature for truth-in-sentencing laws; avoid arbitrary sentence reductions just to alleviate overcrowding
- Work to resolve mental health issues locally; don't rely on unreliable state help Melvin Hasting
- Use a common juror pool to handle both civil and criminal trials during a jury week, to make the best use of jurors' time and get more cases processed
- Follow the law and avoid legislating from the bench
- Make sure people who need to be in prison stay in prison, and work to find alternatives for those who don't, like the mentally ill
- Expedite hearings for people locked up in local jails

Probate Judge

Challenger Carol Berry came for the event but had another commitment and had to leave before the Probate candidates were called to make their presentations.

Tammy Brown (incumbent)

- Spent over two years getting the Probate Court caught up on caseload; wants to continue progress
- Move forward with mental health services at a local level, not waiting or relying on the state
- Create a mechanism for long-term outpatient supervision of people with mental health issues

State Senate

Paul Bussman (incumbent)

- Improve leadership at the State Board of Education and eliminate Common Core curriculum
- Remove "stupid" items from the education budget, such as the use of K-12 funds to pay for projects at state colleges and universities
- Don't create new taxes until current spending is brought under control
- Get the mentally ill out of prisons and into facilities where they can receive proper help, to improve mental healthcare and to reduce prison overcrowding
- Support fair and enforceable sentencing guidelines for prisoners
- Provide infrastructure development and incentives for new industry, and create incentives for expansion of existing industries

Garlan Gudger

- Address the education system by both "priority spending" on worthwhile projects and "priority cutting" of wasteful spending
- Emphasize vocational training in community colleges and high schools, and remove "trade school" stigmas to get skilled workers into the workforce as quickly as possible after high school
- Citizens should vote on any new taxes
- Create funding for mental health services
- Take Cullman's "growth template" for industry and business to Montgomery to create a mechanism for statewide industrial and business growth

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City of Cullman
NOTICE OF EXAMINATION FOR FIREFIGHTER

The **City of Cullman,** Alabama, is accepting applications for the **Firefighter** exam. Duties consist of general firefighting work in combating, extinguishing and prevention of fire and operating firefighting apparatus. Applicants must be at least 19 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, and must have a valid Alabama driver's license. Individuals must be able to successfully complete the physical requirements of the Alabama Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education Commission. Applications must be received in the City of Cullman Personnel Office by **4:00 P.M. on Friday, April 27, 2018**, to be eligible to take the written exam.

Upon successful completion of the firefighter written exam with a passing score of 70%, confirmation of successful completion of Alabama Fire College approved CPAT or State of Alabama Firefighter I/II Certification, eligible applicants may be called for a panel interview. **PREFERENCE MAY BE GIVEN TO CERTIFIED FIREFIGHTER I/II & EMT ADVANCED OR HIGHER.** Upon recommendation by the Fire Chief, applicants must pass a pre-employment drug and alcohol screening, pass a NFPA 1582 physical exam, and submit an employment background screening.

Starting base pay is $32,824. Employee/Firefighter benefits include, but are not limited to: paid individual health, dental, and life insurances, retirement, city matching FICA/Medicare benefits, annual uniform allowance, and accrual of vacation and sick time based on years of employment. Other benefits which augment base pay include: paid Kelly days ($1697+) 9 paid holidays ($1756), annual PT benefit ($500), EMT-Advanced incentive pay ($1300), Paramedic incentive pay ($2600), 5% Associate's Degree or Military incentive, and 10% Bachelor's Degree incentive. Employees will serve a probationary period for up to one year.

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200 ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL
Cullman County Bicentennial Committee

STUDENT ART COMPETITION & SHOWCASE

For K-12
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Deadline to Enter: April 24, 2018
Awards Presented: May 14, 2018

Entries accepted at Wallace State's Burrow Center and The Cullman County Museum

MAKING 200

Legal Notice

Pursuant to Alabama Code 32-13-1 Earl's Body Shop Inc. will offer for sale at public auction the following vehicles on May 24th, 2018, at 7:00 a.m.

2007 Pontiac Grand Prix, Vin. #2G2WP552171218982.
1997 Kia Sportage, Vin. #KNDJA7237V5549545.

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

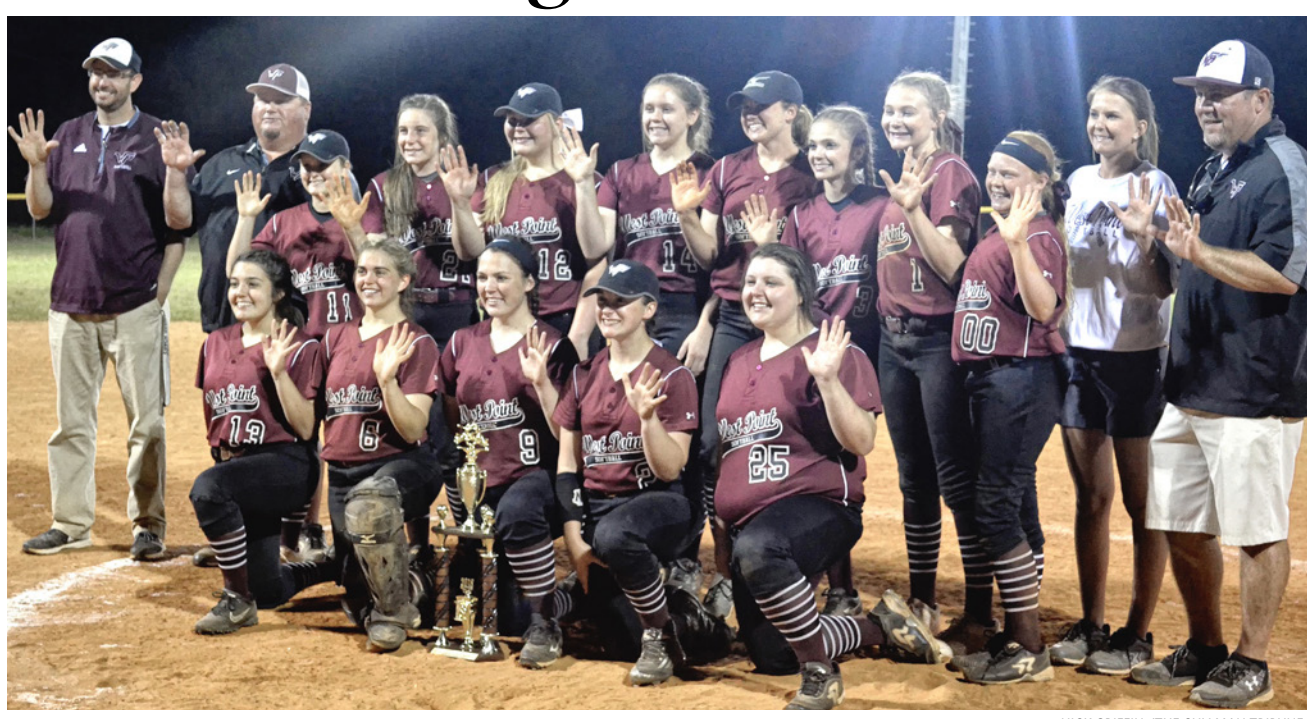
Please publish the foregoing notice once a week for 3 consecutive weeks and send an Affidavit of Publication to the Judge of Probate.

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

PREP SOFTBALL

CULLMAN COUNTY SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT: Lady Warriors claim 5th straight title

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com



NICK GRIFFIN /THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

West Point High School claimed its fifth straight Cullman County Softball Tournament championship title with a 13-6 win over Good Hope tonight. Olivia Ball led the way for the Lady Warriors, going 3-for-4 with two home runs and five RBIs.

HANCEVILLE – The Lady Raiders of Good Hope played their way into this year's title game with a 13-7 win over Fairview to start Thursday's Cullman County Softball Tournament action. Bailey Swann led Good Hope at the plate, going 3-for-4 with a double and an RBI, and the Lady Raiders got a big lift on the mound from Skylar Tucker in the fourth. After scoring seven runs in the first three innings, Tucker held the Lady Aggies scoreless for the rest of the game and allowed Good Hope's bats to take over and pull away.

The championship matchup with West Point was back and forth early on. After the Lady Warriors pushed one across in the top of the first, Good Hope responded with three runs in the bottom half of the inning. Some errors from the West Point defense allowed the first two runs to cross and Rebecca Norris brought Angelina Flanagan home for a third run with a sac fly into center field.

Before Good Hope could get comfortable with its 3-1 advantage, West Point answered quickly with three more runs in the second to retake the lead. Carlie Wilkins made it home on an error in the outfield just before Avery McClure tripled into right field and plated another run. Olivia Ball collected her first RBI of the day later in the inning with a single to left that brought McClure around to score and gave the Lady Warriors a 4-3 lead after two.

West Point managed to bring in another run on a bases-loaded walk in the third, but after that, the Lady Raiders started swinging the bats again. Jacqueline Hays drove in Flanagan with a single up the middle to make it 5-4 and Swann tied it at five when she crossed the plate on a fielder's choice.

With the game tied at five, both defenses cruised through the fourth and fifth innings with no scoring, but the Lady Warriors started to blow the game open in the top of the sixth. Ball barreled up a two-run shot to give West Point a 7-5 lead and two more bases-loaded walks brought two more runs in to make it 9-5 after six.

The Lady Warriors weren't done after that. Ball sent a second pitch over the center-field fence to put West Point ahead 11-5 and just a few pitches later Makayla Brown followed with a solo shot of her own. Hope Shedd made her way home on a fielder's choice later in the seventh and gave West Point a healthy 13-5 lead with just three outs remaining for Good Hope. The Lady Raiders got one run home on a fielder's choice but couldn't put together a rally to get back into the game, falling 13-6. After the Lady Raiders put up five runs in the first three innings, West Point's starter on the mound Carlie Wilkins held them to just one run on five hits in the final four frames.

After the game, West Point's Ball talked about the pitches she saw on her home run swings and how important they were for taking the momentum late in the game.

"They were perfect. I was just up there waiting for my pitch and I was hoping I wouldn't get walked," Ball joked. "That just got the momentum going, got everybody up and going and just got everybody ready for the next inning."

Ball has been part of three Cullman County Softball Championships, but for her, the most satisfying part of the wins is sending the seniors out with the streak intact.

"I just love it for all the seniors," Ball said. "I love keeping it going for them, that's the big thing."

Lady Warriors Head Coach Steven Harbison talked about how important the energy of the dugout was for his team late in the game when they had an opportunity to get back in front.

"They were awesome. They were really fired up in the dugout and that makes all the difference for the team, just having that support there to help them out," Harbison said. "We've been struggling this season, but they really turn it on at the right time and it was awesome. Great game, Good Hope really played well."

Ball was named the tournament's offensive MVP after the game and Harbison is happy to have her in the lineup and as a leader in the dugout.

"She's great, she's my hero," Harbison joked. "She does that for us on a regular basis. She's just a great hitter, a great ball player, a great influence in the dugout and just a great kid all around."

This is Harbison's first year with the Lady Warriors but he's already becoming very familiar with the program's winning tradition.

"It's amazing, just amazing. This is my first year here and I'm just now getting a taste of this culture, but they've always had this winning culture and tradition going on here and it's just great to be a part of it," Harbison said. "It's great, I'm just so proud of our girls."

2018 Cullman County Softball All-Tournament Team, awarded after the Championship Game, voted on by the coaches

- Olivia Ball, West Point (Offensive MVP)
- Hope Shedd, West Point
- Avery McClure, West Point
- Makayla Brown, West Point
- Katie Ball, Fairview
- Ally Hogeland, Fairview
- Bailey Swann, Good Hope (Defensive MVP)
- Erika Woodall, Good Hope
- Skylar Tucker, Good Hope

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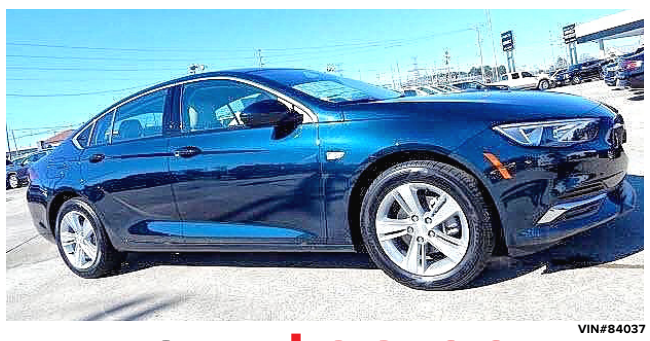


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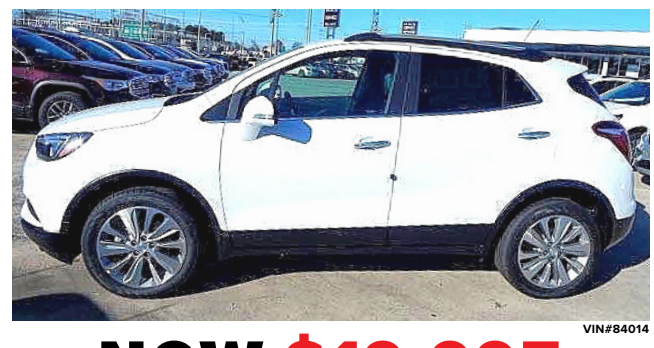
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