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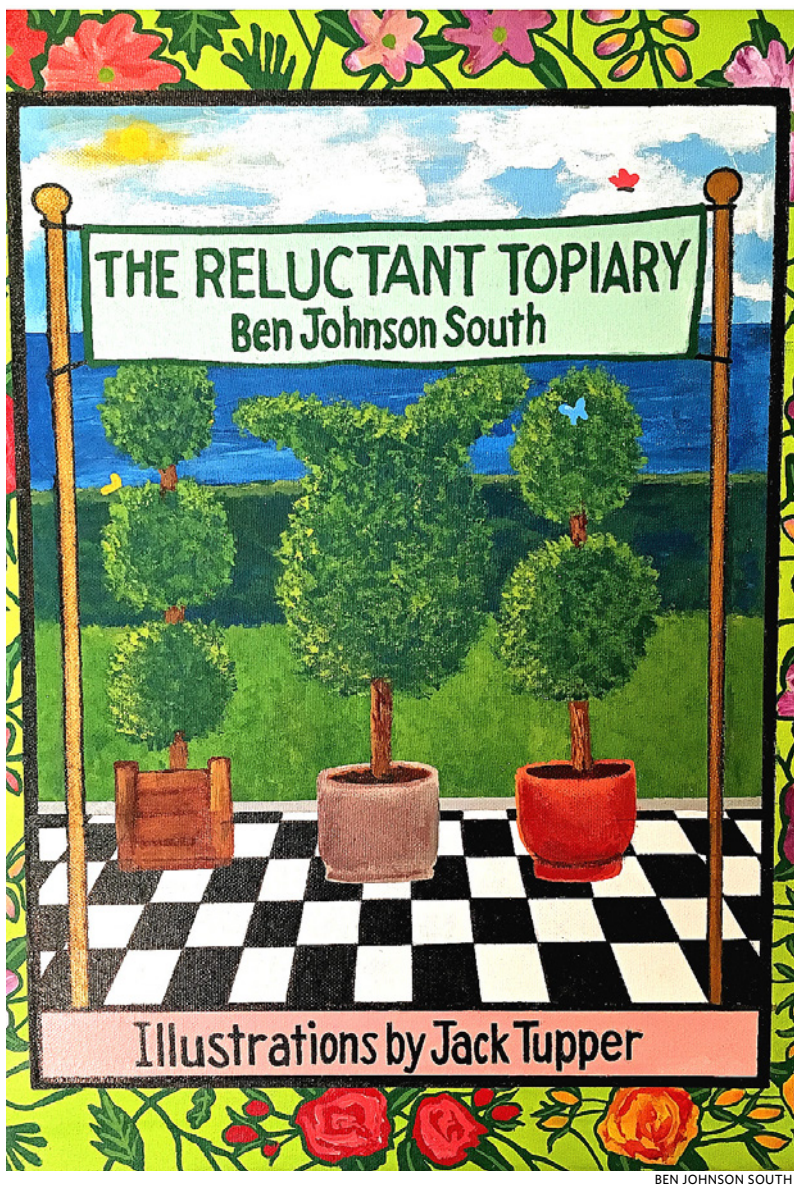
The Cullman Tribune

SERVING CULLMAN – IN THE HEART OF DIXIE – SINCE 1874

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Cullman library to host premiere of original Ben South children's story at 'book walk'

Cullman's state champion young author Anna Kate Allcorn also scheduled to read her prize-winning story



BEN JOHNSON SOUTH

"The Reluctant Topiary" was written by Cullman's hometown author and playwright, Ben Johnson South.

» PAGE 7



WSCC

Brye Forbes is the first Wallace State student from the Academy of Culinary Arts program to win a gold medal at the state SkillsUSA competition. She's now preparing for the national SkillsUSA event, which begins June 25.

WSCC student Brye Forbes 1st Academy of Culinary Arts SkillsUSA gold medal winner, preparing for national event

Russell Moore
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Brye Forbes feels at home inside the kitchen. Forbes, a Wallace State Academy of Culinary Arts student, made history last semester, becoming the program's first individual to win a gold medal at the state SkillsUSA competition, a year after the program garnered its first medals overall.

"It was an awesome feeling to win. I'm proud to be the first gold medal winner in the program and to represent Wallace State at the national competition," Forbes said.

Forbes was among 31 Wallace State students to collect gold medals at SkillsUSA as the college had 55 winners overall and won the Highest Participation and Highest Membership Award. Forbes and the first-place winners are preparing to compete at the 54th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference held in Louisville, Ky., on June 25-29.

Forbes, 27, enrolled at Wallace State last fall after spending the better part of a decade working in multiple restaurants throughout Athens and Decatur. She is currently among the chefs at The RailYard and Whisk'D Café in Decatur.

"I've been cooking in the kitchen since I was about 16 years old. I've worked every position you could possibly work in a restaurant, and about four years ago I started working for a chef where I learned to make things from scratch," Forbes said. "The passion has always been there in the kitchen. I've always enjoyed making food taste great and making people happy. I decided I need to take an extra step and get an education behind it. If the companies I'm working for are growing, I need to grow as well. I have to set myself up for success."

In previous years, Wallace State's Academy of Culinary Arts program has competed in multiple cooking and baking competitions and succeeded. No win was as satisfying, however, as Forbes' accomplishment in Birmingham.

"This is the most professional competition we could possibly enter, and it just so happens our college is a big part of it. Industry leaders know about it," said Wallace State Academy of Culinary Arts instructor Aaron Nichols. "The publicity that comes from it is a big deal and Brye deserved it. She worked hard for it and beat strong competitors from other colleges."

At the state SkillsUSA event, Forbes had to prepare a meal and complete a written exam as part of her competition.

During the cooking demonstration portion, Forbes had 20 minutes to set up her station, 20 minutes to perform knife cuts and 40 minutes to complete her dishes with the ingredients provided.

Forbes ultimately concocted a bacon liver pate stuffed airline chicken breast as the entrée with Hasselback potatoes and green beans.

"Everyone had the same list of ingredients they had to incorporate into the dish and each was able to put their own spin on it," said Forbes, an Athens High graduate. "I

» PAGE 6

FEMA registration period ends next Monday

Kenneth Brown
FEMA

ANNISTON – If you are a survivor of the tornadoes and severe storms that struck Alabama's Calhoun, Cullman and Etowah counties March 19-20, you have a week to register for federal disaster assistance. The registration deadline is Monday, June 25 at 11:59 p.m.

As a homeowner or renter, registering with FEMA makes it possible for you to be considered for grants to help pay for home repairs, temporary housing and may help pay for disaster-related expenses such as replacing lost furniture, auto repairs for damage caused by the storms.

FEMA offers three ways for you and other disaster survivors to get help: register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov; call 800-621-3362; or download the FEMA app from your cell phone's app store and register.

If you use TTY, call 800-462-7585. Those who use 711 or Video Relay Service should call 800-621-3362. Help is available in many languages and phone lines are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. local time every day.

FEMA will ask for the following information so have it handy when you call:

- The telephone number(s) where you can be reached
- The address where you were living at the time of the disaster and the address where you are staying currently (if different)
- Your Social Security number. If you are applying with another person, such as a spouse, you will need their social security number, too
- A general description of damage to property and other losses
- If the property is insured, the name of your insurance company and policy number
- Bank account routing information for direct deposit of

» PAGE 7

Pet of the Week: MacGyver will figure out how to win your heart

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

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

MacGyver is a hound/Anatolian Shepherd mix who's around 1-year-old. He's a laid-back, low-energy pet who could make a great therapy, service or comfort dog.

He likes playing in the yard and is as industrious as his namesake, burying toys and treats for later enjoyment.

He might get a little dirty while digging, but he enjoys bath time!

MacGyver is very skilled on his leash and craves human company.

Ruttkay said that MacGyver's an "all-round swell guy!"

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

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



CULLMAN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

MacGyver

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

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

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Addison woman pronounced dead at scene of wreck on CR 946

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

JONES CHAPEL – An Addison woman was pronounced dead at the scene of a single-vehicle wreck shortly before 1 p.m. Sunday, according to Cullman County Coroner Jeremy L. Kilpatrick.

Dorthy J. Williams, 67, was the lone occupant of the vehicle, which ran off the roadway and eventually struck a tree.

Kilpatrick said, "She suffered a medical emergency prior to the accident."

No further details have been released. Alabama State Troopers are investigating.

Arrest report: June 15-17

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests reported for June 15-17. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Armstrong, Jason Eric, 43
• FTA- third-degree domestic violence- menacing

Boone, Timothy Aaron, 23
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia (2 counts)

Clarke, Marshall Steele, 58
• menacing
• reckless endangerment

Davis, Katherine Dawn, 36
• FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Dean, Kimberly Diane, 34
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• illegal possession of prescription medicine
• second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance (4 counts)

Freeman John Steven, 53
• violation of domestic violence protection order

Hamm, Brandon Adam, 33
• driving while suspended
• GJ- false reporting to law enforcement
• GJ- felony leaving the scene
• GJ- manslaughter

Hester, Bradley Dewayne, 36
• third-degree burglary
• third-degree theft of property

Isbell, Rocky Joe, 37
• public intoxication

Johnson, Michael Lee Thomas, 23
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Jones, Hannah Azalea, 26
• bondsman process- attempting to elude

Jones, Michael Patrick, 39
• probation violation- unlawful manufacture of a controlled substance

Kugler, Karla Denise, 20
• GJ- first-degree criminal possession of a forged instrument (2 counts)

Matter, James R., 39
• third-degree domestic violence- harassment

McLeod, Randy Isaiah, 35
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• illegal possession of prescription medicine
• second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
• unlawful possession of a controlled substance (4 counts)
• probation violation- unlawful possession of a controlled substance (2 counts)
• attempting to elude

Neely, Robin Mayhall, 55
• FTA- obstruction- using a false ID
• second-degree bail jumping- obstruction- using a false ID

Overton, Timothy Wayne, 32
• DUI- influence of alcohol

Pearson, Julia Kristin, 36
• second-degree bail jumping- unlawful possession of a controlled substance (2 counts)
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Spahn, Anna Christine, 55
• FTA- littering
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Thomas, Marissa Ann, 27
• public intoxication

Walker, Jeffery Lee, 37
• third-degree receiving stolen property

Woods, Ashley Denise, 33
• third-degree receiving stolen property

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chaney, Greggory L., 32
• third-degree criminal mischief
• third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Villa, Kamie C., 38
• third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Calhoun, Candace A., 27
• FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Wilhite, Desiree K., 19
• possession of drug paraphernalia

Perkins, Kismet S., 36
• fraudulent use of a credit/debit card (10 counts)

Alexander, Doris A., 46
• FTA- fourth-degree theft of property
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia

Tostado, Alma A., 43
• FTA- third-degree theft of property

Nunnelley, Jacky L., 43
• FTA- improper lane usage

Campbell, Joshua A., 34
• FTA- third-degree domestic violence

Beasinger, Tonya M., 43
• FTA- third-degree theft of property

Beebe, Tyrone D., 21
• FTA- third-degree criminal trespassing
• FTA- failure to register vehicle (2 counts)

Bevington, Brian A., 51
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA- carrying brass knuckles

Thornton, Zakariah D., 26
• FTA- failure to register vehicle
• FTA- insurance violation (2 counts)

Curvin, Meschach J., 22
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA- fourth-degree theft of property

Minor, Henry O. III, 38
• FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
• FTA- driving while suspended
• FTA- expired tag

Neely, Robin M., 55
• FTA- insurance violation
• FTA- switched tag
• FTA- driving while suspended (2 counts)

Holder, Donald W., 50
• possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance
• possession of drug paraphernalia
• third-degree theft of lost property

Holder, Shelly D., 50
• third-degree theft of lost property

Booker, Gregory B. Jr., 25
• DUI- combined substance

Hamby, Jamey L., 34
• FTA- DUI
• FTA- driving while revoked

Thomas, Marissa A., 27
• FTA- third-degree theft of property
• FTA- improper equipment

Jones, Michael P., 39
• FTA- DUI
• FTA- driving while revoked
• FTA- failure to signal

Allaire, Richard L. Jr., 58
• FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Malin, Stephan C., 50
• fourth-degree theft of property

Gillian, Wendy M., 54
• fourth-degree theft of property
• third-degree criminal trespassing

Malin, Cindy D., 59
• fourth-degree theft of property

Piper, Stewart A., 56
• DUI

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
No report provided.

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

EARL'S BODY SHOP
2251 Decatur Ave., N.W.
734-2406

THE BARN
Portable Storage Buildings
Hanceville, AL
352-2737

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF K.J.A., D.O.B. 11-06-2013, A MINOR CHILD. CASE NO: PC2018-169

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR MINOR NAME CHANGE

TO: WILLIAM SKYLAR AKER, OR ANY KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, UNDISCLOSED PERSONS OR THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER.

A PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE OF MINOR CHILD WAS FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA BY KALYN DEANN AKER ALLEN, BIOLOGICAL MOTHER. IF YOU SHOULD CONTEST THIS NAME CHANGE, YOU MUST FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE. THE RESPONSE MUST BE FILED WITH COUNSEL FOR SAID PETITIONER, WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS ARE SHOWN BELOW, AND WITH THE CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA, 500 2ND AVENUE SW, ROOM 101, CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35055.

DONE THIS 24th DAY OF May, 2018.

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

ALEX CHANEY
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER
P.O. Box 1052
Cullman, Alabama 35056

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Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Mullins Body Shop, LLC
11042 US Hwy 31 South, Cullman, AL 35055

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ETHELEE LAND BRYSON, Deceased) Case No. PC2018-140

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Letters of Administration for Ethelee Land Bryson, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned on the 8th day of June, 2018 by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of the 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 time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Tammy Brown
Probate Judge

C. Blake West, Attorney for Petitioner
1701 Main Ave, SW
Cullman, AL 35055
256-734-0026

City of Cullman
Building Inspection Department
201 SECOND AVENUE, NORTHEAST
P. O. BOX 278
CULLMAN, ALABAMA 35056-0278
(256) 775-7203

City of Cullman
Planning Commission

On Monday, July 2, 2018, at Cullman City Hall Auditorium at 5:30 P.M, at the regular meeting of the City of Cullman Planning Commission, a public hearing will be held to allow affected parties to voice their concerns related to the following items:

1. Short-form subdivision – 1418 14th Street SE
2. Preliminary Subdivision – Meadowview Subdivision
3. Preliminary Subdivision – The Grove of Fischer Farms Phase III – Planned Housing Development

For further information contact Rick Fulmer or Amber Duke at the City of Cullman Building Department at 256-775-7203.

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN ANTHONY CRAWFORD, deceased CASE NO. PC2018-114

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

THE ESTATE OF JOHN ANTHONY CRAWFORD, DECEASED.

Letters of Administration of said deceased have been granted to Katelyn Crawford Dooley on the 6th day of June, 2018, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate of Cullman County. Notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

Katelyn Crawford Dooley, Personal Representative

TO: Publisher of *Cullman Tribune*:

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

Tammy Brown
Tammy Brown, Judge of Probate

Sherry H. Barrett
Smith & Smith, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioner
P. O. Box 398
Cullman, Alabama 35056-0398
Phone: (256) 734-4721
Fax: (256) 734-4774

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CAMPAIGN 2018

July runoffs to determine election outcomes in multiple campaigns

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Several of June's 2018 election primaries failed to produce a clear majority winner, meaning that runoffs will be required. Where needed, runoffs will take place on July 17.

Do not vote across party lines in the runoff

Crossover voting rules apply during runoffs. According to Act 2017-340, "if an elector votes in a primary election, he or she may vote in a subsequent primary runoff election only if he or she voted in the primary election of the same political party for which the runoff election is being held. For those persons who did not vote in a Primary Election, they may choose either party's ballot in a Primary Run-Off Election."

This means that if you voted as a Democrat in the primary, you may not vote in the Republican Party runoff. If you did not vote in the primary, however, you are free to take part in the runoff. There are very few Democratic Party runoffs taking place in the state, and none that will come before Cullman County voters.

Voters who are found to have crossed lines between the primary and runoff could face felony charges, fines, and even prison terms; though local probate judges in 20 counties declined to pursue charges in 140 cases of crossover voting in 2017's special Senate election runoff. Those names were retained by the Secretary of State's Office and could be used to show a pattern of intentional violation if those voters cross party lines again in the future.

Come November, though, feel free

It is important to note that this rule will not apply in November's general election. Voting for a candidate of a different party is allowed in general elections.

State offices

Offices whose candidates are not facing July runoffs are not included in this list. A comprehensive general election candidate list will be released after runoffs.

Lt. Governor

Alabama Public Service Commission President Twinkle Cavanaugh faces State Rep. Will Ainsworth in a Republican runoff. The Republican runoff winner will face Democratic Party nominee and Florence minister Will Boyd in November.

Attorney General

Former Attorney General Troy King faces incumbent Steve Marshall in a Republican runoff. The Republican runoff winner will face Democratic Party nominee and Birmingham attorney Joseph Siegelman in the general election.

Alabama Supreme Court, Place 1

Incumbent Kay Ivey appointee Brad Mendheim faces Mobile County Circuit Court Judge Sarah Stewart of Mobile in the Republican Party runoff. The winner of the runoff faces no Democratic challenger.

Alabama Court of Civil Appeals, Place 1

Alabama Tax Court Judge Christy Edwards faces Baldwin County District Judge Michelle Thomason in a Republican runoff. The runoff will determine the election, as there is no Democratic candidate.

Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 2

Chris McCool, who serves as District Attorney for Fayette, Lamar, and Pickens Counties, faces Rich Anderson, an appellate prosecutor with the State Attorney General's Office in a Republican runoff. There is no Democratic candidate; the Republican runoff winner will have the office.

Agriculture Commissioner

Lowndesboro Mayor Rick Pate and State Senator Gerald Dial will compete in a Republican Party runoff. The Republican nominee will win the office; no Democrat candidate ran.

Local races

The only local election going to a runoff is for the Cullman County Board of Education's Fairview district seat. Shane Rusk led Michael Knop by eight percent after the primary; but 17 percent (302 votes) of the vote, which went to William Ballew, is up for grabs. Both candidates are products of Fairview schools and currently have children in the system. With no Democratic candidate, the Republican runoff will decide the election.

POLITICS

Cullman County Democrats discuss future events, campaign support

Heather Mann
Tribune Correspondent

CULLMAN – The June meeting for the Cullman County Democrats saw heavy discussion on the group's participation in county-wide events such as the Sweet Tater Festival, the Cullman County Fair (and fair parade) and even next year's Strawberry Festival. Chairwoman Karen Johnson opened the meeting by announcing that a committee will be appointed soon to find new officers, with elections to take place during the November meeting.

With no old business to discuss, Johnson moved straight into discussion about the Democrats' booth for the fair. Treasurer Cindy Angle asked for members who wanted to work the booth and stated that it would need to be manned all 10 days of the fair, and the members running it would have plenty of items and signs to hand out to visitors. While on the topic of the handouts, member Roger Duke said that the group should start thinking about what items to hand out and getting the items ordered before it's too late. Ideas ranged from pins and toy footballs to spray bottles, hand sanitizers, and nail files to go with the usual stickers and signs. The handouts would also have just the Cullman County Democrats' information rather than any campaign information to help get the word out about the group as a whole. Johnson also suggested creating a presentation with a short feature from all the Democratic candidates around the state.

After a brief discussion about possible fundraisers, the group moved on to the other event it plans to attend: the Sweet Tater Festival.

This discussion was shorter than the one for the fair booth since they only need volunteers for two days, but a general report about last year's booth stated that it was fun for the volunteers and it greatly benefited the Democrats, except for one memorable heckler. When that topic had been settled, talk moved back to the county fair, except this time it was for the fair parade.

While the Democrats have not participated in the parade for the last few years, Johnson felt it would be important to join again because of the election. Several aspects about participation raised concerns with meeting attendees, such as the need for a vehicle and driver, as well as general audience reactions. Duke stated that, due to previous experiences, CCD participants could unfortunately expect heavy profanity from the parade audience and should prepare for it. Other concerns were met with more positivity: one member volunteered herself and her truck for the driver/vehicle job, leaving just the need for decorations and volunteers to ride.

After the event participation discussions were settled, Duke (who is also the president of the North Central Alabama Young Democrats) brought up a recent achievement by a CCD member. On June 10, Josh Coleman was appointed as the first LGBTQ Liaison for the City of Birmingham, where he will work with Mayor Randall Woodfin to "build upon the relationship between the LGBTQ community and the City of Birmingham by focusing on the public safety of the LGBTQ communities, and by helping to prevent LGBTQ discrimination in the city wherever it may exist." Many members at the meeting took pride in the news, and briefly talked about finding some way to congratulate him.

Another announcement was that the CCD will soon be doing a lot of work for Lee Auman's campaign for U.S House of Representatives in Alabama's 4th Congressional District. Duke stated that Auman had learned and developed a lot since the start of his campaign, going to as many counties and talking to as many people as he could, and that he (Duke) believed that Auman stood a very good chance of upsetting incumbent Rep. Robert Aderholt. "He might not win," Duke said, "but we're not gonna let Aderholt just have the election handed to him this year."

STATE

Ivey: Facebook to invest $750 million in new data center in Huntsville

Office of Gov. Kay Ivey
Contributor

HUNTSVILLE – Gov. Kay Ivey announced on Thursday that Facebook will invest $750 million to build a data center in Huntsville, creating 100 high-paying jobs. Ivey was joined for the announcement by Facebook representatives and local leaders.

The official announcement was made Thursday afternoon during a ceremony at the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber.

"Every day, millions of people around the world use Facebook's products, and this new Alabama data center will soon play a role in keeping the company's popular platforms running flawlessly," Ivey said.

"Facebook has found a great location in Sweet Home Alabama, and we'll do our best to help the company grow and prosper here."

Once construction is complete, the Huntsville data center will employ approximately 100 people with an average annual salary of $80,000.

"We are excited to be joining the Huntsville community. As one of the fastest growing tech hubs in the country, we knew it would be a great location for our newest data center," said Matt VanderZanden, director of site selection at Facebook. "We are committed to having a positive impact at the local level and look forward to a strong partnership with the Huntsville community."

Greg Canfield, secretary of the Alabama Department of Commerce, said Facebook is a great addition to the state's growing roster of high-tech companies.

"Facebook's decision to locate its new, state-of-the-art data center in Huntsville reflects Alabama's attractiveness to technology companies, and marks another important chapter in the growth story of our tech sector," Secretary Canfield said.

"Facebook is a world-class company, and we look forward to building a lasting partnership that sets the stage for even more growth."

To facilitate the project, Facebook will receive an investment credit under the Alabama Jobs Act with an estimated value of $86.25 million, over 10 years.

Total new revenue over thirty years from the Data Center is estimated to be $297.3 million that will be divided between the state, county and city.

The company said it chose Alabama and the Huntsville area because of quality of life, a pro-business environment, and a talented and available workforce.

The Huntsville City Council gave unanimous approval on May 24 for Facebook's project entity, Starbelt LLC, to purchase 340 acres at $8.5 million in North Huntsville Industrial Park.

"Huntsville's Gig City strategy to sustain our position as a leader in the knowledge economy has brought us a company that knows something about creating connections," said Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle.

"Facebook has built its business on connecting friends to family, businesses to customers, and people to the world. Huntsville is proud to be the center of these connections with the construction of this data center."

Madison County Commission Chairman Dale W. Strong said the north Alabama county continues to excel in job creation and in the diversification of its workforce.

"Today's partnership with Facebook and their leadership once again shows our community is perfectly positioned for today's high-tech market. While our mission here in North Alabama has never been clearer, I feel we are setting conditions for greater success for generations to come."

"The Huntsville metro is being recognized internationally as a smart place to do business," said Lucia Cape, the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber's senior vice president of economic development.

"Today's announcement of a Facebook data center in North Huntsville is possible because our community has invested in the infrastructure, focused on quality of life, and made economic diversity a priority."

Facebook has established a new page for this project: Facebook.com/HuntsvilleDataCenter. Please 'Like' the page for updates specific to the Huntsville data center, including job postings, information on how to join in the construction process, and more.

Subscribe to The Cullman Tribune today and have it delivered to your door!

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS
• In County - $75
• Out of County - $85



PREP FISHING

CITY-COUNTY CLASSIC: Student anglers honor late peer, Jackson Lambert

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Ninety-four high school anglers on 47 boats hit Smith Lake early Saturday morning for this year's City-County Classic High School Bass Tournament. Eight local high schools had boats on the water, loaded with young people sporting special wristbands for this year's tournament.

The wristbands read "Fishing with Friends," representing the Cullman fishing community coming together after the tragic death of Bearcats angler Jackson Lambert last October.

Lambert's family was on-hand for the tournament, and before the weigh in, Cullman Fishing coach Kyle Morris spoke briefly about how much the fishing community has meant to the Lambert family and Cullman High School.

"You see a lot of the guys out here wearing the "Fishing with Friends" wristbands, and that is to honor one of our anglers at Cullman High School who tragically lost his life this year, and all these guys rallied together around our team.

"At the end of the year we really wanted to take a moment to thank the whole Cullman County fishing community for supporting us and supporting their family. Jackson Lambert's mother and sister and family are here with us to support all these guys because you have all been a huge part of helping us heal," Morris said.

"We just want to thank all of you and we're going to be able to remember Jackson through this tournament, through a scholarship that we can put into and we're going to continue to honor him through this.

"Mrs. Tanya Arnold got together the black wristbands for all of us to be able to remember him and it does say "Fishing with Friends" because all of us rallied together as a community and that's what its all about, is fishing with friends," said Morris.

"I feel like that's a great way to honor Jackson and on behalf of his family, the Cullman High School Fishing Team and the Cullman community,

"I want to thank everyone for rallying around us, and like I said, we're going to have a scholarship in Jackson's name."



NICK GRIFFIN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cullman High School anglers had special "In Memory of Jackson Lambert" messages on the backs of their shirts at Saturday's City-County Classic High School Bass Tournament. All of the fishermen wore "Fishing with Friends" wristbands in memory of Lambert, who died last October.

FINAL RESULTS

Individual Boat

- **First place** – Sawyer Daniel and Cody Cox, Fairview. 11.60 pounds
- **Second place** – Tucker Putnam and Will Dickerson, Good Hope. 11.35 pounds
- **Third place** – Drake Phillips and JC Thomas, West Point. 9.11 pounds

Big Fish

- **3.65 pounds** – Coby Sullins/Hunter Kramer, West Point

Team

- **First Place** -West Point High School – 25.99 pounds
- **Second Place** - Good Hope High School – 22.68 pounds
- **Third Place** - Cullman High School – 15.82 pounds

YOUTH SPORTS

CULLMAN SWIM TEAM: Tritons bring home several 1st-place finishes

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

GUNTERSVILLE – The Cullman Swim Team had several first-place finishers at its meet in Guntersville on Thursday.

Individual events

- Madeline Dowdy- (8 and Under) 100 yard IM, 25 Yard Backstroke and 25 Yard Butterfly
- Mason Fuller- (9-10) 100 Yard IM and 50 Yard Butterfly
- Sarah Woods (9-10) 100 Yard IM, 50 Yard Butterfly
- Aubrey Helms (11-12) 100 Yard IM, 50 Yard Freestyle, and 50 Yard Breaststroke
- Caroline Haigh (11-12) 100 Yard IM, 50 Yard Freestyle, and 50 Yard Breaststroke
- CJ Arnold (13-14) 100 Yard IM, 50 Yard Backstroke, and 50 Yard Butterfly
- Ruby Hudson (13-14) 100 Yard IM and 50 Yard Freestyle
- Colby Hutson (15-18) 100 Yard IM and 50 Yard Butterfly
- Kelly Warren (15-18) 100 Yard IM and 50 Yard Freestyle
- Tate Tysinger (6 & Under) 25 Yard Freestyle and 25 Yard Backstroke,
- Lauren Windham (8 & Under) 25 Yard Freestyle, 25 Yard Breaststroke and 50 Yard Freestyle
- Cameron Martin (9-10) 50 yard Freestyle, 50 Yard Backstroke and 100 Yard Freestyle
- Brody Schaffer (13-14) 50 Yard Freestyle, 100 Yard Freestyle and 50 Yard Breaststroke
- Claire Ogstad (15-18) 50 Yard Breaststroke
- Georgia Dowdy (6 & Under) 25 Yard Backstroke
- Colin Hyde (8 & Under) 25 Yard Backstroke
- Morgan Fuller (11-12) 50 Yard Backstroke and 50 Yard Butterfly
- Madison Clements (13-14) 50 Yard Backstroke
- Lacey Fischer (15-18) 50 Yard Backstroke
- Clark Freeman (8 & Under) 25 Yard Butterfly
- Luke Johnson (11-12) 50 Yard Butterfly and 100 Yard Freestyle
- Anna Page (13-14) 50 Yard Butterfly
- Charis Peek (15-18) 50 Yard Butterfly and 100 Yard Freestyle
- Mollie Woods (13-14) 100 Yard Freestyle

Relays

- Girls 8 and Under 100 Yard Medley Relay: Joyanna Borden, Lauren Windham, Madeline Dowdy, Edie Hudson
- Boys 9-10 200 Yard Medley Relay: Rhett Tysinger, John Luke Hornsby, Mason Fuller, Cameron Martin
- Boys 11-12 200 Yard Medley Relay: Aubrey Helms, Caden Hornsby, Luke Johnson, Chase Duncan
- Girls 11-12 200 Yard Medley Relay: Morgan Fuller, Clare Windham, Caroline Haigh, Elizabeth Hazard
- Boys 13-14 200 Yard Medley Relay: CJ Arnold, Brody Schaffer, Jacob Hilb, Rhett Tucker
- Girls 13-14 200 Yard Medley Relay: Madison Clements, Ruby Hudson, Anna Page, Mollie Woods
- Girls 15-18 200 Yard Medley Relay: Charis Peek, Claire Ogstad, Kelly Warren, Hannah Ogstad
- Girls 8 and Under 100 Yard Freestyle Relay: Madeline Dowdy, Edie Hudson, Joyanna Borden, Lauren Windham
- Boys 9-10 200 Yard Freestyle Relay: Mason Fuller, Rhett Tysinger, John Luke Hornsby, Cameron Martin
- Boys 11-12 200 Yard Freestyle Relay: Luke Johnson, Chase Duncan, Caden Hornsby, Aubrey Helms
- Girls 11-12 200 Yard Freestyle Relay: Elizabeth Hazard, Morgan Fuller, FK Kruger, Caroline Haigh
- Girls 13-14 200 Yard Freestyle Relay: Anna Page, Mollie Woods, Kyleigh Potter, Ruby Hudson
- Girls 15-18 200 Yard Freestyle Relay: Charis Peek, Hannah Ogstad, Anna Hilb, Kelly Warren

Information and photo provided by CST parent Joey Duncan.







Hanceville welcomes new shop and gathering spot for card and board gamers

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

HANCEVILLE – Last week, Hanceville's downtown revitalization efforts took another step forward as the city welcomed Outbreak Games (OG) to the old Hanceville Herald building at 111 Commercial St. NE. Brothers Clint and Nikolaos McCormick opened the business as a retail outlet for card, board and other games, and as a gathering spot for local gamers, some of whom were already hard at play when The Tribune stopped by Thursday evening.

"To make a long story short," said Nikolaos McCormick, "this is a childhood dream come to fruition. From the time that we were about 10 years old, we made jokes to each other about opening a card shop. So, it's long-term planning that we never thought would actually happen, and here we are, finally of age and able to do something, and we saved up the money and decided to finally take a go at it."

What's your focus?

"The main priority is trading cards, but we're also interested in doing card games, board games, video games. We're going to be building out and slowly expanding and diversifying our stock over time, so hopefully sooner rather than later, we'll have a bigger variety in here."

The back half of the shop is furnished with tables and chairs, as well as restrooms and a snack bar, to create what McCormick hopes will become a family-friendly destination for gamers of all ages.

Said McCormick, "Our play space is open to anybody and everybody. The only thing we ask for is kindness, cleanliness, respect, courtesy . . . The focus, even down to the colors of our logo--the purple and gold--is intended to be community-focused.

"These games, most of them, are listed ages 8 and up, and I want this store to be community-friendly. You see a no firearms sign on the door, no smoking sign on the door.

"There's going to be children in here, and we expect them to be in here, hope they'll be in here, and we want to provide a safe and fun environment for everyone.

"Especially the social dynamic with card games and board games, you know, it's a face-to-face experience rather than playing in a chair in your bedroom, over a computer connection.

"It's a little more personal, coming in and playing face-to-face and having to talk to somebody else; so I'm hoping it'll take off and be something good for everybody."



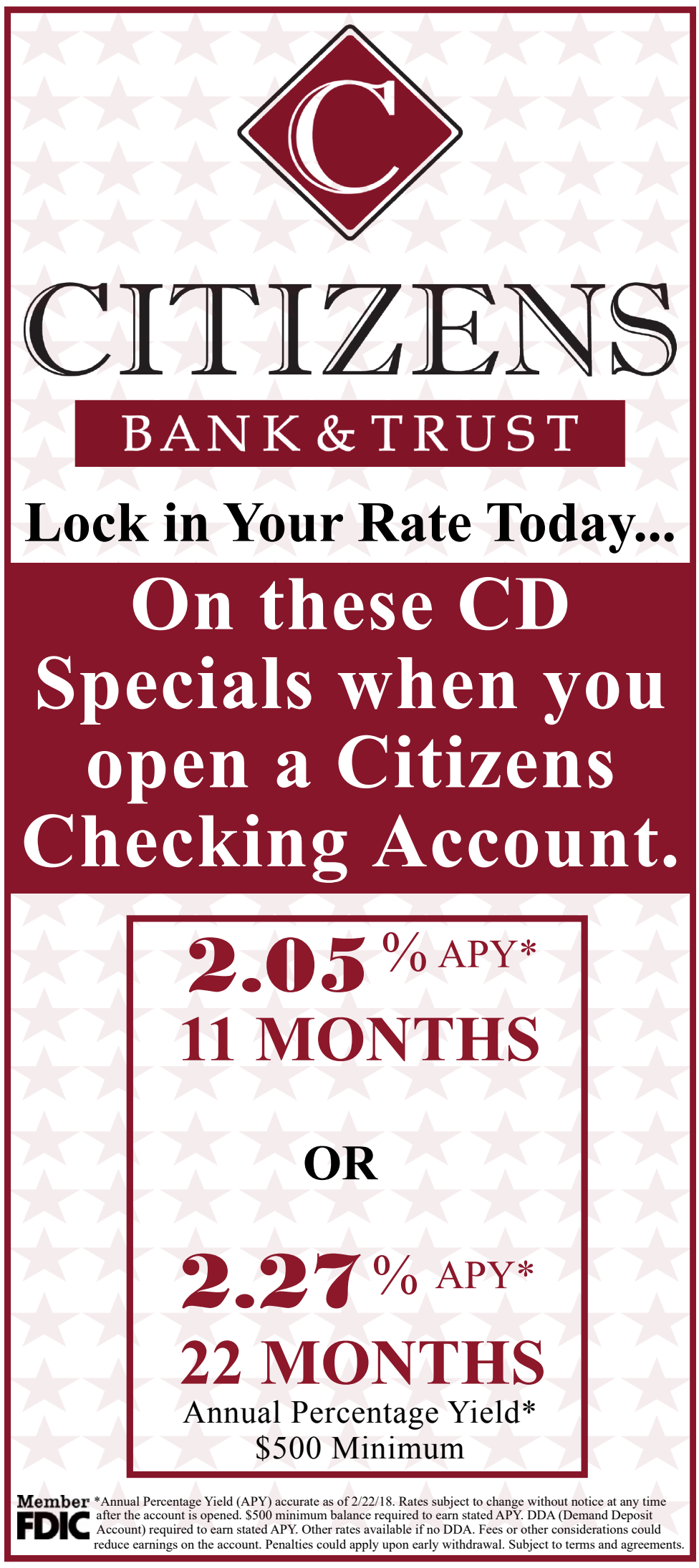
W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Co-owner Nikolaos McCormick welcomes visitors on OG's opening day last Thursday.

OG may emphasize tabletop experiences over the online variety, but the store does have Wi-Fi and more.

For folks who play Pokémon GO, the Historical Hanceville mural on OG's west-facing exterior wall is a Pokestop, and the Old Saloon mural right across the street is a Pokémon GO gym that is accessible from the shop.

OG opened at 2 p.m. on its first day, but its Facebook page indicates that the shop will be open from noon until 10 p.m., and the brothers said that they will be open all weekend. For more, check outbreakgamesog on Facebook or Twitter.









THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
JUNE 19, 2018

2nd annual North Alabama Homeschool Expo held at civic center

Heather Mann
Tribune Correspondent



HEATHER MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Event coordinators Brandy Thomas, Stephanie Pragel and Alanna Johnson (Not pictured: Elizabeth McDowell)

CULLMAN – Saturday marked the second annual North Alabama Homeschool Expo (NAHE), bringing students, parents and outside educators together at the Cullman Civic Center. The expo featured vendors specializing in educational items and homeschooling help, workshops and lectures for attendees to visit (as well as recordings for anyone who missed a lecture) and hands-on activities for children.

Exhibitors ranged from textbook companies and homeschooling organizations (Bob Jones Homeschool, Teaching Textbooks, Paw Print Books, Cullman Homeschoolers, etc.) to performers like Southern Starlets and Seed-Harvest Music Academy. In addition to browsing the books, attendees could listen in on workshops about various topics including "Beginning Homeschooling," "Mentoring Your Daughter," "Financial Wealth for Teens" and "Bible Resources for Homeschoolers."

Children were also given workshops to attend, though these were more activity-oriented than lectures; kids could take part in a creative writing workshop or a "Seed Safari," listen to presentations about the moon from the U.S Space & Rocket Center or learn an introduction to robotics.

Event coordinator Stephanie Pragel said the idea to hold the expo stemmed from a visit to another homeschooling expo she and her business attended in Birmingham. "We were down at the convention and talking to all these people, and we just saw that there was a huge need in the northern part of the state to get the homeschooling community together and know what's available for them," she said. Her family business, 4 the Love of Learning, has been the primary host of the NAHE, but she thanked the event's sponsors for all their help and expressed hope for getting other homeschool groups in the region involved with hosting future expos.

When asked about the homeschooling community here in Cullman County, Pragel said it's larger than most people would expect.

"Homeschooling is always growing, always getting bigger, and Cullman's a great place to homeschool! We have so many activities and so many opportunities within the county."

She also addressed the misconception that homeschooled students aren't properly socialized, saying, "We actually struggled with being over-socialized.

"There are so many opportunities for our children out there that we actually struggle with finding time to stay home. My kids have friends just like children that go to public school."

Forbes (from Front)

was very confident and excited with what I prepared. Of course, I was analyzing and impressed with what others did. I had a good feeling before I heard my name called."

As with all SkillsUSA competitions, Forbes and her classmates devoted hours upon hours of practice in preparation for the event, laying out ideas as early as last December.

Forbes is now diligently preparing for the national event, and Nichols has confidence his student can return as the third Wallace State student to earn a SkillsUSA national championship, joining Joey Foster of welding (2009) and Matthew O'Neal of machine tool technology (2003).

"Brye is a strong student and among the few who join us already as a chef, looking for the paper to complement their names. I knew SkillsUSA was the perfect platform for her to showcase her skills, and we've both learned a lot through the process.

"The sky is the limit for her in Louisville and when she graduates," Nichols said. "This experience with Brye and others who were interested means a lot because it shows they care. I think we'll have a lot more involvement in the future because of it."

For more information about Wallace State, visit www.wallacestate.edu.

Obituary Announcements: June 19 - 21

Mr. Daniel McEachern, 65 of Cullman, passed away on Sunday, June 17, 2018. No services are planned at this time. Cullman Funeral Home directing.

Regina S. Everett, 54 of Addison, entered into rest on Sunday, June 17, 2018 at Grandview in Birmingham. A complete obituary and funeral arrangements will be announced at a later time. Nichols Funeral Home directing.

Dorthy Jean Williams, 67 of Addison, entered into rest on Sunday, June 17, 2018. A complete obituary and funeral arrangements will be announced at a later time. Nichols Funeral Home directing.

Geneva Miller Harden, 86 of Arley, entered into rest on Saturday, June 16, 2018 at Cullman Regional Medical Center surrounded by loved ones. Geneva was born on May 5, 1932 in Winston County, Alabama. She was a member of Liberty Baptist Church for 70 years. Geneva enjoyed spending time cooking and gardening. She loved taking care of her kids, grand kids, and great grand kids. Visitation will be held Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at Liberty Baptist Church, Helicon Community from 12 noon until 2 p.m. with services at 2 p.m. Brother Raymond Baker will officiate. Burial will follow in Liberty Baptist Church Cemetery. Geneva is survived by her sons, Donald Wayne Harden and wife Anita, James Micheal Harden; daughter, Rida Brannon and husband Mack; brother, Carlton (Jan) Miller; sisters, Janette Rooks, Juanita Key, Jewel (Jerry) Pullins. She was "Maw Maw" to 4 grandchildren, Stacey Brannon (Louie) Manasco, Christy Harden (Brian) Waters, Ashley Harden (Jason) Farley, Wesley (Ashton) Harden; and 8 great grandchildren, Colby Manasco, Caleb Manasco, Katie Waters, Colton Waters, Colt Farley, Collins Farley, Zarah Harden, and Zayla Harden. She was preceded in death by her husband, Fred Harden; parents, Samuel and Anice Miller; and brother, J. L. Miller.

Martha Ann Blackwood of Cullman passed away on June 18, 2018 at Cullman Health Care Center at the age of 92. She was born in Akron Ohio on June 8, 1926 to Homer Russell and Teresa Chance Pyne. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband Chester Blackwood, sister Fega Davis. Funeral services are Wednesday June 20, 2018 at 1 p.m. at Moss Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Chuck David officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery at Nesmith. Survivors are: daughter Jennifer Blackwood (Leon) Turner, sons Rick (Monica) Blackwood, Russell (Penny) Blackwood, sister Mega Lindley, 7 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Visitation is Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at Moss Funeral Home from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Funeral service for Curtis Quick, 73 of Cullman, will be at 3 p.m. on Thursday, June 21, 2018 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home with Rev. Wayne Barnett officiating; burial at Fellowship Cemetery. Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Mr. Quick passed away on Sunday, June 17, 2018. He was born December 8, 1944 to James and Katherine Quick. He is preceded in death by his parents, son, Shannon Quick, brothers; Wesley Quick, Jessie Quick, and Barry Gibbs, and sister, Juanita Quick. Survivors include his children; Starlon Quick, Shane Quick, Shawonna Watts, and Amanda Strickland, eleven grandchildren, many great grandchildren, and sister, Ezell Gibbs. Visitation will be from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Free Obituary Listings

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

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June 27 meeting to spotlight Wallace State health programs with fall openings

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – Health Science programs with openings available for the Fall 2018 semester at Wallace State Community College will be on hand at an informational meeting on Wednesday, June 27, at 10 a.m. on the 12th floor of the James C. Bailey Center on the Hanceville campus.

"This meeting is to let students know they do have options for this fall," said Lisa German, dean of Health Sciences.

"Students who didn't get into their first-choice program or anyone who wants more information about our programs are welcome to attend."

German added, "They can learn about other programs that may help them reach their ultimate goal of employment in the medical field or possibly lead them down a path they hadn't considered before."

After a brief overview of each program, students can meet individually with representatives of each program. The meeting is open to the public.

The programs that will be represented at the meeting include: Child Development, Emergency Medical Services, Medical Assistant, Medical Laboratory Technician, Pharmacy Technology and Therapeutic Massage. Completion time for program range from one to two semesters for certificates and up to five semesters for Associate degrees. Not all programs require completion of pre-requisite courses.

Classes for the Fall 2018 semester will begin Aug. 15. Priority registration begins June 19, with registration for all starting June 22. For more information about the meeting or Wallace State's Health Science programs, visit www.wallacestate.edu or call 256-352-8000.

Premiere (from Front)

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – If you're looking for something fun and original (and did we mention FREE?) for kids to enjoy this summer, the Cullman County Public Library will host the premiere of an original children's story, "The Reluctant Topiary," with original illustrations and video, gardening crafts and refreshments at its first-ever "book walk" on Thursday, June 28 at 10 a.m. The event will take place at the library's main branch, located at 200 Clark St. NE in Cullman.

"The Reluctant Topiary" was written by Cullman's hometown author and playwright, Ben Johnson South.

Topiary?

Per South, "Topiary is a fancy word for plants clipped into shapes like animals and spirals.

"The story idea came to me when I was in Mexico almost three decades ago. As I gawked, dropped-jawed looking at these grand, 40-foot-tall, evergreen topiaries of a seal bouncing a ball and giraffes and such, I thought, 'What if you were a tree or shrub and you believed you were just fine without someone trimming you into something else?' The tale, written for children about third-grade age who are beginning to read chapter books, celebrates the unique, super power of special individuality that each person has. It is dedicated to every free-spirited, 'reluctant topiary' who makes the world better."

For the June 28 premiere, Cullman Public Library Director Sharon Townson and Youth Services Librarian Josie Harrington created an imaginative "book walk" where people will be guided through large panels of the printed story and art by Cullman muralist Jack Tupper.

Townson told the Tribune: "If you could picture a book, like a kids' picture book, being taken apart, and you walk up, and you read one page, and then you walk to the next station and read that page and the illustration.

"It's just that; it's just to kind of get them moving a little bit, of course.

"It's just part of what we're doing for our summer library program. We kind of try to keep them reading through the summer, so they don't lose what they learned last school year. This is just a different way to kind of get them involved, and really let them see how a book is put together . . . It's just to help the kids boost their interest in reading and their reading skills."

Weather-permitting, the book walk will take place along the sidewalks around the library.

There will also be an original, storytelling video of "The Reluctant Topiary" by talented Cullman educational couple, Sharon and John Drake. Sharon Drake is a technology integration specialist with the city school system, and John Drake teaches computer science, multimedia production and broadcasting, and business tech, and sponsors the Cullman High School Broadcast Network at Cullman High School.

The video will be available free on YouTube after the live premiere at the library.

After its Cullman premiere, "The Reluctant Topiary" is expected to travel in other parts of Alabama. South imagined the work as a children's ballet story for his adopted daughter, who was then a gifted dancer at the Alabama School Of Fine Arts (ASFA) in Birmingham. This spring, the Cullman writer met with Wes Chapman, ASFA's internationally celebrated dancer/choreographer, to begin exploring how to bring the artistic vision to reality.

State champion first-grade author on the program

As an added treat for kids, according to Townson, Cullman young author Anna Kate Allcorn will also be attending the book walk to read her prize-winning story "The Golden Goat." Allcorn, a Cullman area first grader, took the state championship in her grade level in Alabama Public Television's 2018 Young Writers Contest; after taking third place in the Kindergarten category last year with her story, "Little Fuzzball."

Parents of aspiring young writers are encouraged to bring their kids out to meet one of their peers who's already accomplished in the field.

At a glance

"The Reluctant Topiary" - original Alabama storytelling premiere

Cullman Public Library (Main), 200 Clark St. NE in Cullman

Thursday, June 28 at 10 a.m.

FREE--Suggested for ages 5+

For more information, visit www.ccpls.com or call the library at 256-734-2720.

FEMA (from Front)

funds.

After you register, you will be informed by letter in about 7-10 days as to your eligibility. Be sure to read the entire letter all the way through. If you are being awarded a grant, the letter will state how much you will receive. If you are found to be ineligible for FEMA assistance, the reason why will be given.

If you are ineligible and you disagree with FEMA's decision, you are encouraged to appeal the decision.

If the SBA informs you by telephone that you are eligible to apply for a low-interest disaster loan, it's important that you fill it out and return it by June 25. Returning an SBA application is essential to receiving additional forms of disaster assistance from FEMA if you are not granted a loan. Remember, however, if you are approved for a loan, you are under no obligation to accept it.

SBA is the largest source of federal disaster funds for repairing or replacing damaged or destroyed property. SBA is the largest source of federal disaster funds for repairing or replacing damaged or destroyed property. Businesses, homeowners and renters have until Monday, June 25, to return their completed SBA applications for physical damages.

Survivors must still register with FEMA to be considered for federal disaster assistance.

For more information on disaster recovery, visit Alabama Emergency Management online at EMA.Alabama.gov and Twitter: @AlabamaEMA . You also can follow FEMA on Twitter: @femaregion4, Instagram: @fema, and Facebook: @FEMA.

CORRECTION

In our June 16, 2018 edition, we mistakenly used Kristin Kuykendall Powers' quote with Kristen Kee's photo. Below are the two photos with the correct quotes.

For Father's Day, Tribune readers shared photos of their dads and shared a little bit about what makes them so special.



KRISTIN KUYKENDALL POWERS

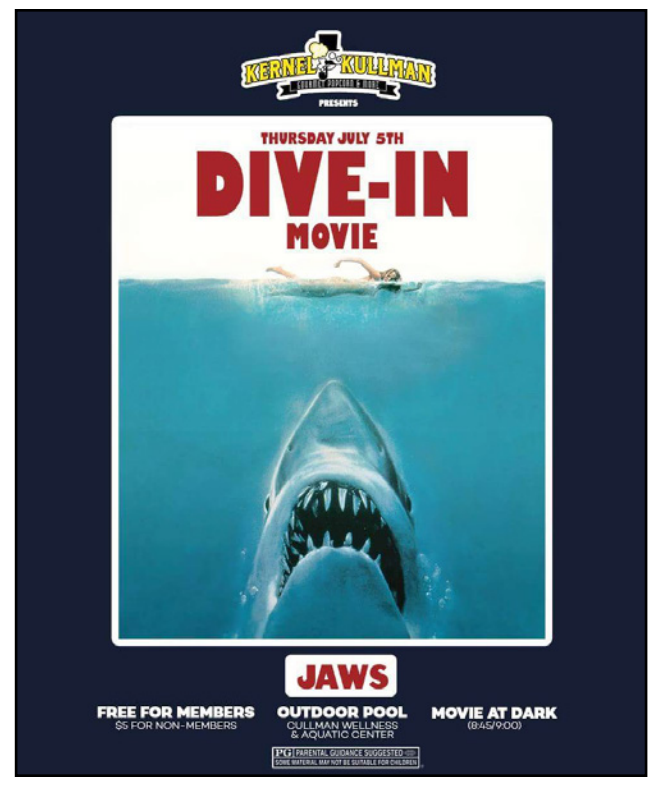
This is my amazing husband Trey. He is a wonderful husband and father. Our daughter couldn't ask for a better daddy. He is hard-working, loving and selfless. He is always so patient with our daughter and caring. He always puts us first and makes sure we have everything we need.



KRISTEN KEE

This is my dad, not by blood, but he took the place when I was 7. He taught me how to fish, how to ride 4 wheelers, and how to do everything else. He does so much for not just me but everyone else; he'll take the shirt off his back to help someone in need. He's the kind of guy that wears cut off shirts because he's a badass first off, but he swore up and down if I ever got walked down the aisle he would NOT wear a tux.. look at this handsome guy.. in a tux. He walked me down the aisle on 12-13-14 and approved of the guy I was dating through high school. I'm lucky enough to have both those great men in my life. But seriously he is the best! I would love this to be in the paper so I could put it on his beer-rigerator! Love him so much! Happy Father's Day, Terry Searcy.





Locals recognized with 2018 Cullman Area Tourism Awards

Nick Griffin
nick@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce handed out its 2018 Cullman Area Tourism Awards Thursday morning.

According to the chamber, "In conjunction with the celebration of the Alabama Bicentennial (Alabama 200), this year's theme was 'Cullman People,' which was observed with commemorative fans spotlighting 20 men and women who've helped put the Cullman area on the map over the years."

The event, held at Stone Bridge Farms was a lively breakfast and was kicked off by 2018 Chamber Chair Susan Copeland and Director of Tourism, Roger Steele.

Steele spoke about some of the plans for the tourism department going forward. Steele and the chamber's plans include ideas for using Smith Lake as an even bigger part of Cullman's tourism industry, religious tourism stemming from attractions like Ave Maria Grotto and the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, agricultural tourism, sports tourism and more.

Tourism Chair Sandy Harris presented this year's awards.

The Exceptional Festival or Event Award recognizes a festival or event that attracts visitors as well as locals, generates regional and/or state media attention and positively promotes the Cullman area. This year's award went to Cullman Oktoberfest.

The Best Attraction Award recognizes a regional attraction (including museums, performing arts, parks, amusement parks, etc.) which attracts visitors and contributes to an outstanding tourism experience and was awarded to Skydive Alabama.

The Rockin' Retailer Award recognizes a retailer that provides an outstanding shopping experience for visitors and was presented to Werner's Trading Company.

The Extraordinary Everyday Eatery recognizes a restaurant offering an atmosphere that provides an outstanding experience for visitors; this year's award went to Rumor's Deli.

Moving on to individual awards, The White Glove Award recognizes exceptional service from an individual hotel housekeeping staff member. La Quinta Inn and Suites' Tonia Duke took the prize.

The Silver Spoon Award recognizes consistent superior service by a restaurant or food service employee. Mae's Food Hall's Strada di Napoli's Zach Chanin was the winner.

The Savvy Retail Sales Associate Award recognizes excellent customer service from a retail sales associate who has first contact with the public; this year's winner was Phillip Hicks of Mr. Hicks Mens Wear.

The final award of this year's ceremony, The Tourism Professional of the Year Award, recognizes a person who has made a significant contribution to the tourism industry through more than five years or more of innovation, inspiration and industry leadership. This year's award went to Stone Bridge's own Ron Foust.

Chamber President and CEO Leah Bolin made a special presentation to Cullman County Museum Curator and member of the chamber's tourism board, Elaine Fuller.

"I would like to honor one specific individual who has meant so much, not only to promoting tourism in our area, but also just promoting our community around the state.

"Elaine Fuller, the longtime director of the Cullman County Museum and also a current member of our tourism board will be retiring from her position very soon," Bolin said. "In honor of her service, we would like to present her with a token of our appreciation with this original brick-paver from the streets of Cullman. We felt this was a most appropriate gift because through the years Elaine has built a solid foundation for tourism in our area and built a foundation for others to follow in her footsteps."

Bolin concluded, "The tourism industry is a hard industry, you work long hours and sometimes you work with ungrateful people. I know you're not used to that in the hospitality industry, but we just want you to know that you are appreciated, that you mean a lot to the Cullman area and we know how much you bring in as far as economic impact. You have exceeded our expectations for tourism in Cullman County this year and we look forward to an even better year going forward."

ADPH: Do not enter bodies of water if you have cuts or abrasions; if injured, clean wound at once to reduce risk of infection

Karen M. Landers
ADPH

MONTGOMERY – Many harmful organisms are found in lakes, rivers, along the coast, and in other bodies of water. Some bacteria may lead to destructive soft-tissue infections and other illnesses, the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) cautions.

Most soft-tissue infections occur with either injury or with conditions such as poorly controlled diabetes or low immunity. However, sometimes otherwise healthy people can develop a skin infection after skin injury and being exposed to natural bodies of water. Some bacteria can cause more severe infections than others.

In brackish and warm sea water such as bay or gulf waters, Vibrio bacteria occur naturally. These bacteria can cause disease in people who eat contaminated seafood and in those with open wounds that are exposed to seawater. While there are numerous infections every year, a small number of people develop serious or sometimes fatal infections.

If a person has open wounds, cuts, abrasions and sores, stay out of the water. Persons with low immune systems, cancer, diabetes, liver disease, and other chronic conditions should avoid eating raw or undercooked seafood, especially oysters.

Vibrio bacteria can enter the body through a break in the skin or by consuming contaminated seafood. If a person gets a cut while in the water, immediately wash the wound with soap and fresh water. If the wound shows any signs of infection (redness, pain or swelling) or if the cut is deep, get medical attention immediately.

Vibrio illness symptoms may include diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, chills, fever, shock, skin lesions and wound infections. In someone with a compromised immune system, the bacteria can infect the bloodstream and may result in death. With Vibrio skin infections, surgery may be necessary. For all cases of Vibrio, it is important to begin treatment immediately because early medical care and antibiotics improve survival.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that each year in the United States 80,000 people become sick with vibriosis, and 100 people die from their infection. As of June 15, there have been 4 cases of vibriosis reviewed and verified statewide and 6 other vibriosis investigations are either open or awaiting review.

Learn more about vibrio illness at www.cdc.gov/vibrio and www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/assets/Vibrio_Flyer.pdf.



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DEALER OF THE YEAR
BILL'S DEALS JUST KEEP GETTING SWEETER!
Bill Smith
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SALE $48,035


STK#87120
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FWD SLT-2
MSRP ~~$47,720~~
SALE $37,295

2018 BUICK REGAL
Sportback Preferred FWD
MSRP ~~$30,350~~

STK#84037
SALE $24,795


STK#77421
2017 GMC CANYON CREW CAB
Short Box 4-Wheel Drive SLT
MSRP ~~$47,255~~
SALE $35,295

2017 BUICK REGAL
GS FWD
MSRP ~~$40,105~~

STK#74145
SALE $28,195


STK#87009
2018 GMC SIERRA 1500
Regular Cab Standard Box 4-Wheel Drive
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