The Cullman Tribune

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Friends ride to remember Wayne Mills

Christy Perry
Tribune Correspondent



CHRISTY PERRY/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Gary "Sarge" Sargeant, owner of Hawg Engineering, gets ready to ride in memory of his friend, slain country music star Wayne Mills.

CULLMAN – Hawg Engineering hosted the Wayne Mills Memorial Ride Saturday afternoon to celebrate the life of the late country music great. Mills was a native of Arab, played baseball at Wallace State, and played football at the University of Alabama under coach Gene Stallings. He sustained an injury that ended his football career but according to close friend and owner of Hawg Engineering, Gary "Sarge" Sargeant, "Wayne turned to his first love, music."

Mills did graduate from Alabama with a degree in education but his talent in singing and songwriting would be his true calling.

Mills went on to release five studio albums and two live albums with the Wayne Mills Band. He toured often with acts like Blake Shelton and Jamey Johnson opening for him. His star was rising when, after a show in November 2013, he was murdered in a bar in Nashville.

The news shocked fans and devastated family and friends. Mills left behind a wife and 7-year-old son Jack. In March 2015, Chris Ferrell was found guilty in Mills' murder and is in prison with no chance of parole.

The participants of Saturday's memorial ride took turns telling stories of Mills and remembering his love of music, family and friends.

Sarge spoke fondly and emotionally of his friend, "I delivered Wayne's eulogy. The service had to be held at Arab High School because of the more that 2,000 people that came. Those people weren't there because of his music but because of the size of his heart, the only thing larger than his talent."

Sarge said, "The two most important things to Wayne and what he would expect us do is: take care of family and take care of each other. He isn't here to help take care of Jack, so we will try to do it for him All the money we raise will be put in a trust for Jack's college expenses. Wayne signed every text with 'Roll Tide,' so we anticipate Jack going to Bama, but the money will be for whichever school he chooses."

Angel Cox remembers Mills as, "a wonderful man. He would do anything to help his friends and family. He would give you the shirt off of his back. His murder still leaves a bad taste in the mouths of us who knew him and love him. We miss him."

After listening to some of Mills' popular songs, "Last Honky Tonk" and "One of These Days," the riders prepared to depart.

His own words from "One of These Days" were particularly moving:

One of these days I'll fly to the moon
One of these days I'll have nothing to prove
One of these days I'll get out of this place
And I'll be somebody one of these days

The riders were escorted through town by the Cullman Police Department. They rode to Arab for a memorial service at Mills' gravesite. Two of the songs chosen to play at the memorial were Rowdy Johnson's "The Other Side (Wayne's Song)" and Trent Cobb's "King of Alabama." Both songs were written in Mills' honor.

The ride and service went great, according to the riders, with Sarge adding, "We did get rained on and pretty soaked, but the rain was the angels letting us know they feel our pain. It rained the day of his funeral too, so I think the rain today was perfect."

After the ride, Nashville artist Kara Clark took the stage at Hawgs Engineering. Clark was a good friend of Mills and she explained him as, "larger than life. We had talked about touring together and it was going to be great. He was killed two days later. He was a great friend. He was amazing, friendly and down to earth."

Clark has been described as this generation's Lucinda Williams. She played a powerful acoustic set of original songs. To hear more about Kara Clark, visit her Facebook page or www.karaclark.com

Sarge plans on making the memorial ride an annual event and will hold more events to help support Jack Mills and to celebrate the life of his late father.

Hawg Engineering will be celebrating its first-year anniversary near the end of November and info will be announced on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HawgEngineering.

Any questions about services or future events can also be emailed to sarge@hawgengineering.com.

HEALTH

American Heart Association recognizes Cullman Regional for workplace health achievement

Mary Beth Sellers
Cullman Regional

CULLMAN – The results of the American Heart Association 2018 Workplace Health Achievement Index were announced recently and Cullman Regional has achieved Silver level recognition for taking significant steps to build a culture of health in the workplace. Cullman Regional was scored on seven different pillars including leadership, policies and environment, communications, programs, engagement, partnerships and reporting outcomes.

The American Heart Association created the Index with its CEO Roundtable members, a leadership collaborative of more than 40 CEOs from some of America's largest companies who are committed to applying evidence-based approaches to improve their employees' overall health. The Index uses science-based best practices to evaluate the overall quality and comprehensiveness of their workplace health programs. A unique feature of the Index is that it calculates an average heart health score for employees of participating companies that securely submit aggregate health data.

More than 1000 companies completed the Index assessment this year and, of those companies, 75 percent received either Gold, Silver or Bronze recognition.

Companies receive benchmarking reports, which allow them to identify potential areas of improvement so that they can advance their annual performance and recognition in the Index and help their workforce move toward ideal heart health.

"Cullman Regional is proud to receive this recognition from the American Heart Association," Cullman Regional CEO James Clements said.

"We will continue to strive towards improving the overall health of our workplace, employees and the communities we serve."

Unlike other existing organizational scorecards, the Index also scores companies on the heart health of their employees based on Life's Simple 7 – the Association's scientifically validated definition of ideal heart health. The American Heart Association's Workplace Health Achievement Index assessment is grounded in data-driven science and a quality improvement framework.

According to the Nielsen 2016 Employee Health Survey, robust and comprehensive strategies for wellbeing are associated with positive impacts on employees' health.

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IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

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

AMENDED

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 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.

Shanna Schnittker
Personal Representative

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

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Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings.

Kim Tae D (Mimi) D Lee, **Unit #58,** 1724 2nd Avenue Southwest, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

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STATE

Ivey establishes statewide group to prepare Alabama for maximum participation in 2020 U.S. Census

Office of Gov. Kay Ivey
Contributor

MONTGOMERY – Gov. Kay Ivey on Monday signed an executive order establishing a state-level committee designed to prepare Alabama for maximum participation in the 2020 U.S. Census.

The Alabama Counts! 2020 Census Committee will serve as an advisory group made up of public and private statewide organizations to recommend and implement strategies for raising awareness of the 2020 census. As mandated by the Constitution, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a count of the United States population every 10 years. Starting April 1, 2020, each Alabama household should receive a postcard from the Census Bureau encouraging them to complete their census form online or by phone or to call a number to request a paper form.

A recent study by George Washington University indicates that the U.S. government returned more than $1,567 to the state in 2015 for every Alabamian counted in the census. More than 100 federal programs use data collected during census counts as part of their formulas to distribute billions of dollars in federal funding to the states. Those programs include Medicaid, Medicare Part B, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Highway Planning and Construction, and Title 1 Grants to Local Education Agencies. Census-derived data also is used to allocate seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and in legislative redistricting.

"The stakes are high for Alabama in the 2020 U.S. Census, and our success depends greatly on our ability to help Alabamians understand the importance of completing and submitting their census forms," Ivey said. "For that reason, I am forming this committee a full 20 months before the April 1, 2020 census count to bring leaders of many statewide public and private groups together to ensure every Alabamian knows the importance of doing their part and participating in the census. When we all do our duty, we ensure that the state gets our fair share of funding for dozens of critical programs and ensure we maintain fair representation in Congress."

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) serves as the state's liaison to the U.S. Census Bureau. Ivey named ADECA Director Kenneth Boswell as chair of the Alabama Counts! 2020 Census Committee. The committee will be divided into subcommittees designed to reach all areas of Alabama. Those subcommittees are: Government, Education, Faith-based Groups, Community-based Groups, Economic Development/ Industry, Health Care, Rural and Outreach.

Executive Order 715 tasks the committee with developing a Census Action Plan by Aug. 1, 2019 and taking steps to implement the plan leading up to April 2020.

"Gov. Ivey and I understand how critical it is that we do everything in our power to ensure Alabamians are ready to be counted in the 2020 Census," Director Boswell said. "This committee and its subcommittees will bring some of the best and brightest from all sectors of Alabama together to help the state over the next year and a half."

The subcommittee chairs will serve as the group's executive committee and will work with ADECA and the Governor's Office over the next several weeks to form membership of their subcommittees. The executive committee and its subcommittees will meet regularly in the coming months to develop and implement outreach and education plans targeted to all aspects of Alabama. The committee and ADECA also will work closely with Alabama's two partnership specialists from the Census Bureau.



OFFICE OF GOV. KAY IVEY

Gov. Kay Ivey, on Monday, Aug. 20, 2018, signs Executive Order 715, which establishes the Alabama Counts! 2020 Census Committee.

The following people will serve as subcommittee chairs:

- **Government** – U.S. Rep. Robert Aderholt/Paul Housel, district director for Rep. Aderholt
- **Education** – Eric Mackey, superintendent of Alabama State Department of Education and Jimmy Baker, chancellor of the Alabama Community College System
- **Faith-based Groups** – Bishop Kyle Searcy, lead pastor of Fresh Anointing House of Worship in Montgomery and Rev. Jay Wolf, senior pastor of First Baptist Church Montgomery
- **Community-based Groups** – Ron Gilbert, executive director of Community Action Association of Alabama
- **Economic Development/Industry** – Steve Spencer, president of Economic Development Partnership of Alabama
- **Health Care** – Dr. Scott Harris, state health officer at Alabama Department of Public Health
- **Rural** – Paul Pinyan, executive director of Alabama Farmers Federation
- **Outreach** – Kenneth Boswell, ADECA director and chair of the Alabama Counts 2020 Census Committee

ADECA has worked for the past year to help Alabama's counties and municipalities update the address lists that will be used by the Census Bureau in 2020 to account for new development and other changes. Participation in the process for 2020, known as the Local Update of Census Addresses, more than doubled from 2010. In total, 280 Alabama municipalities and 58 counties are registered to participate in the update process. That represents a 104 percent increase in municipalities and a 128 percent increase in counties over 2010 in which 137 municipalities and 25 counties registered to participate. ADECA has established a page on its website with information about the upcoming census that will be updated as the Alabama Counts 2020 Census Committee gets up and running. The page is available at www.adeca.alabama.gov/census.

Arrest report: Aug. 16-19

Wendy Sack
wendy@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – Below are the arrests reported for Aug. 16-19, 2018. All persons are innocent until proven guilty.

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

CULLMAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Thursday, Aug. 16

Aaron, Amos Moses, 32
- FTA- first-degree receiving stolen property
- FTA- first-degree theft of property (2 counts)

Dingler, Erica Lee, 32
- FTA- third-degree domestic violence-harassment

Eason, Alisa Esteen, 32
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Holcomb, Michael Ray, 39
- first-degree theft of property

Mardis, Kim Nunnelley, 54
- trafficking in illegal drugs

Moore, Christina Johnson, 41
- third-degree domestic violence- harassment

Reid, Kristofer Myles, 27
- failure to signal turn
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- proof of liability insurance required
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Scott, Jeffery Dewayne, 50
- FTA- first-degree sodomy

Speegle, Jesse Adam, 29
- public intoxication

Turner, Franklin Jason, 39
- judge's order- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Wilson, Nikolas Lee, 39
- first-degree theft of property

Wix, Amber Lashay, 31
- judge's order- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Friday-Sunday, Aug. 17-19, 2018

Collins, Chanda Easterwood, 29
- harassment

Gallagher, Jeffery Paul, 47
- GJ- first-degree burglary (2 counts)

Goodbred, Frank James, Jr., 35
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Graham, Kayla Nicole, 24
- third-degree burglary (3 counts)

Harvell, John Robert, 26
- driving on the wrong side of the road
- DUI- influence of alcohol

Holley, Jeffrey Scott, 46
- FTA- driving while revoked
- home repair fraud

Lauderdale, Lori, 35
- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Lomneck, Charles Whitt, 37
- judge's order- DUI

Middleton, Robert Jeffrey, 56
- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument

Moss, Bayli Nichole, 20
- distributing a private image with intent to harass, threaten, coerce

Pannell, Michael Blake, 31
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Parris, Randall Lee, 44
- FTA- chemical endangerment of a child

Pope, Erin Marie, 46
- FTA- illegal possession of prescription medicine

Raley, Darrell Scott, 49
- driving while suspended
- FTA- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument (2 counts)
- negotiating a worthless negotiable instrument
- possession of drug paraphernalia
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Ramirez, Abimael, 20
- public intoxication
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Ramirez, Eric Isai, 21
- FTA- driving without a license

Roberson, Stella Leann, 27
- DUI- influence of alcohol
- failure to yield- private road

Smith, John Bradley, 32
- FTA- DUI

Speegle, Daniel Eugene, 32
- FTA- third-degree burglary

Swindall, Emma Rena, 19
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

Swindoll, Sammi Lee, 24
- FTA- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- FTA- unlawful possession of a controlled substance (2 counts)

Thompson, Destiney Kiah, 20
- FTA- possession of drug paraphernalia
- FTA- first-degree unlawful possession of marijuana personal use

Weaver, Coty Lee, 28
- public intoxication

Wise, Justin Dale, 34
- unlawful possession of a controlled substance

CULLMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Friday-Sunday, Aug. 17-19

Boone, Bobby W. Jr., 35
- FTA- driving while revoked

Cofield, Kimberly P., 42
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Hale, Timothy L., 22
- unlawful distribution of a controlled substance (3 counts)

Middleton, Robert J., 56
- FTA- expired tag

Johnson Clydie M., 43
- giving false information to law enforcement

Pullium, Phillips M., 28
- public intoxication

Stevens, Leroy C., 36
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Combs, Bradley R., 34
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Golden, Kate M., 24
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Gioconda, Misty S., 44
- DUI

Sanders, Jeremy C., 46
- public intoxication

Lott, Ashley D., 31
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Boatright, Trey A., 21
- FTA- insurance violation

Garrison, Treasa L., 39
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana

Grimes, Jeffery T., 32
- public intoxication
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
- disorderly conduct

Hopkins, Melissa K., 49
- DUI

Badalucco, Tyler M., 22
- fourth-degree theft of property

Howard, Monica A., 40
- fourth-degree theft of property
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Doyle, Leonard R., 57
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Thompson, Destiney K., 20
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Hanners, Bobby L., 29
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
- second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Fox, Kevin S., 27
- third-degree criminal trespassing
- unlawful possession or receipt of a controlled substance
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Fox, Makinna S., 25
- fourth-degree theft of property
- possession of drug paraphernalia

Speegle, Marty H., 20
- minor in possession/ consumption of alcoholic beverages

HANCEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

No report provided.

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

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Cold Springs Eagles



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TEAM ROSTER

#1 Brodi Williams, 10, QB

#2 Izaiah Estell, 10, WR

#4 Mason Harris, 12, RB

#5 Ayden Alexander, 10, RB

#6 Lawson Burgess, 11, WR

#8 Clay Rollo, 12, RB

#10 Jordan Lacey, 11 QB

#11 Roberto Ayala, 10, WR

#14 Calvin McNabb, 12, RB

#20 Leighton Keller, 12, TE

#23 Kyle Sheer, 10, TE

#28 Francisco Ayala, 12, TE

#42 Leighton Keller, 12, TE

#48 Houston McCarn, 11, RB

#51 Gavin Parris, 9, OL

#52 Cole Garmon, 12, OL

#54 Caleb McClendon, 9, OL

#55 Trevor Reeder, 12, OL

#56 Jacob McClendon, 10, OL

#58 Zeke White, 9, OL

#63 Stephen Boyett, 11, OL

#65 Grant Lang, 12, OL

#70 Christian Perez, 12, OL

#71 Kenneth Stewart, 11, OL

#72 Brady Bailey, 10, OL

#75 Will Swann, 12, OL

#79 Grayson Phillips, 9, OL

#84 Caleb Busby, 11, WR

#85 Ethan Parker, 12, WR

SCHEDULE

Aug. 23 - v. Meek

Aug. 31 - v. Berry

Sept. 7 - at Southeastern

Sept. 14 - v. Sumiton Christian

Sept. 21 - at Aliceville

Sept. 28 - at Appalachian

Oct. 12 - v. Winston County

Oct. 19 - at Tarrant

Oct. 26 - v. Sulligent

Nov. 1 - at Vinemont

CHEERLEADERS: Back row: Emma McClendon, Brooklyn Swann, Livi Busby, Kailyn Manasco, Breanna Bell, Sadie McClendon, Billie Tucker and Heather Twilley; **Front row:** Callee Cross, Taylor Teems, Mallory Ballenger, Hadley Hinds, Katie Salley and Kyleigh Merring

COACHES: Rod Elliott – head; assistant coaches – Matt Negron, Justin Cornelius, Wesley McSwain, Hank Harrison, Jason White and Jason Thomas; managers – Aubrey Negron, Emily Williams, Morgan Harris and Emi Harbison

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GO FOOTBALL 2018!

Cold Springs Eagles

Cold Springs Eagles looking to bounce back in 2018

The 2017 season was one that the Cold Springs Eagles would like to forget and after spring training, summer workouts and fall camp, head coach Rod Elliott is confident that his team will bounce back this year. Elliott has seen his kids work hard this offseason in preparation for 2018 and is excited to see a core group of leaders step up.

"It's really gone well, we had great participation during our summer workouts and practices," Elliott said. "We've got a strong group of seniors this year and their leadership has been really good, so we're excited about that this year."

There was a lot of youth on the field last year for Cold Springs and the Eagles came up short in a lot of games, but Elliott is excited to see what this group can do with game experience under its belt. Elliott knew that experience would be critical for his team this fall.

"We've got a lot of kids back from last year. We played a lot of kids last season kind of preparing for this year. We took a step back last year and it's the first time I've had a team that didn't do better than the year before," Elliott said.

"Of course, we missed the playoffs last year for the first time in four years, but we got to play a lot of guys and started working toward this year. The inexperience on our team is going to be on the offensive line. Most all of the other spots have kids that played varsity football last year and played quite a bit, so that's good."

Cold Springs had a lot of young faces carrying the rock in 2017 and all of them will be returning to the Eagles' backfield this fall. Cold Springs' offense is built on the running game and after it averaged just seven points per game last season, Elliott expects his offense to improve in a big way this year.

"The backfield will be the strength of our team. They're a year older, most of them couldn't even drive last year, but this year they're driving and they're really good players," Elliott said.

"They were just young last year and put into a situation that we don't like to put kids in, to be honest with you. They had to play before they were ready to play, but they showed up. I think they're ready to play this time around and I'm real excited about this group."

Senior tight end Francisco Ayala said he and the Eagles have been working on strength and conditioning all offseason, but a more specific focus has been the passing game.

"We've been working more on passing and trying to get stronger in that area. We've also just been running, trying to get bigger and stronger so we can run it down the middle," he shared.

Even though the Eagles are coming off a down year, Ayala and his team's goals are still the same. "We want to try and make it to the playoffs this year," Ayala said. "We didn't have a good year last year, but our goal is still to make it to the playoffs."

As a senior on this Cold Springs team, Ayala has had to step up into more of a leadership role and mentor the younger players on the roster.

"We just try to show them what to do and how to get better and what to do on each play, just trying to teach them to be smarter about everything," he said.

Despite coming up short more than they wanted to last season, the Eagles look to be in good shape to turn things around in 2018, and their goals haven't changed. Elliott knows that numbers are a big factor at a smaller school and is excited to hit the field now that he has a lot of experienced players returning to the lineup.

"Every year our goal is to make the playoffs, and we've been pretty successful at that over the past several years. We had two graduating classes before last year that were really big, and at a small school you can feel the numbers crunch a little bit. Sometimes we can't overcome two graduating classes with 13 and 15 players in it in a two-year span," Elliott said.

"Last year we had to play some kids that, like I said, weren't quite ready to play yet, but they got a lot of valuable experience that should pay off this year and our goal this year is to make the playoffs, like every year."

By: Nick Griffin







THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE
AUGUST 21, 2018

Cullman DHR Foster Care Expo draws prospective parents

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

CULLMAN – On Saturday morning, around 100 current and prospective foster parents met in Christ Hall at St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church for the Cullman County Department of Human Resources' (DHR) first ever Foster Care Expo. While kids enjoyed inflatables, games and sidewalk chalk outside, families learned more about what it takes to be a foster parent.

Cullman County currently has 168 children and teens in foster care, with a total of only 47 foster homes. Many homes take in multiple children, but 39 percent of Cullman's foster kids have to be housed in other counties due to a lack of places in Cullman County.

At an awareness event this past spring, DHR Program Supervisor Amanda Buchanan told The Tribune, "Whenever kids have to come into care, we'd rather them be in a home that's close to where they were already living, ideally continuing to go to their same school, you know, change their environment as little as possible. But if the resource is not available, sometimes it's not possible."

From the inside

Maybe the most powerful statement to be made about the foster care system, and about the need for local placement, would come from a kid inside that system, and that is what The Tribune found. "Skye" (name withheld) entered the system when she was only 10 years old, a frightened and depressed child who bounced around homes in surrounding counties before finally getting the chance to be placed close to home. For her, that made a world of difference.

Note: this interview transcript has been redacted for specific information that could potentially be used for identification.

Skye entered DHR foster care after her mother disappeared for several days following a family member's birthday celebration. When her brother fell ill and slipped into a diabetic coma, neighbors heard the commotion of the children in the home trying to awaken their brother, and they contacted emergency services. DHR was called in at that time. Her mother was eventually located in another county and contacted, but still took several more days to come home. When she did, she was arrested.

On the first day of her ordeal, Skye related, "That night, we stayed at the house with our godmother; she came and stayed with us. And then, the next day during school, we were called up to the office, and we were told, 'This is (...)'--that was my first social worker--'and she's going to be taking y'all to the DHR office.' And so, that was the first day, when we were taken away.

"Since then, I have been in hospitals for my anger and suicidal thoughts, because I was so distressed. I wanted to be with my mom. I didn't know what was going on. And I've been in several foster homes because of trust issues and, you know, just hurt and pain. And I've been in group homes."

Buchanan told The Tribune that the kind of emotional turmoil Skye experienced isn't unusual, saying, "Every child that enters foster care has experienced some kind of trauma. And when they experience that trauma due to coming into foster care, they've also experienced loss. And therefore, when we see their response to that, it comes out in anger, inability to focus, other things like that. So it's very often."

For four years, Skye moved around from placement to placement in family and group homes in surrounding counties, away from family, friends and familiar surroundings. In 2015, though, she received a placement that allowed her to return to Cullman County to a setting that felt more like home and in which she was able to have more contact with her siblings.

After her return, said Skye, "I realized, like for me personally, it's like I became more anchored, because this is where my family was, my siblings . . . they're all around here. And so, for them to be here and me far away, that was very stressful, because I really don't get to see my siblings that much. And, since I've been here, I've been able to see them and talk to them a lot more.

"And so, it's like a main factor, because if you're from Cullman and your family's in Cullman, but you get placed somewhere else, you feel distance. You feel like the outcast, because you're not here, you're not being able to see them as much.

"That's a major need here in Cullman: families that are willing to take sibling groups, families that are willing at least to take someone that has a sibling group, but be able to meet with those (siblings) a lot more."

Since her return to Cullman County, Skye has been active in school and in community service projects. She has joined clubs and has received multiple awards and honors. She is entering her senior year in high school now and has already made plans for several years beyond.

"Being here has progressed me a lot," said Skye, "because I've done those community services and awards; I've done that ever since I've been in Cullman County. It's all because I got more support of the family, and also (I am) closer to my social worker, and she's able to help me out a lot more. It's a real need, to be here in Cullman County."

DHR Dream Council

Among her other achievements, Skye has become an ambassador for the foster system, representing DHR to other kids, and other kids to DHR. She is an Alabama DHR Dream Council Ambassador, traveling the state to meet with other foster kids between 14 and 20 years of age, to discuss what is working and not working for them. From those discussions, ambassadors present information to DHR that will hopefully make the system more helpful and less stressful for kids coming into the system.



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

In the kids' activity area outside, Circuit Judge Gregory Nicholas demonstrates his cotton candy skills.

Ambassadors also inform the older kids about DHR-funded grant programs that can pay for a college education, including tuition, fees, room and board. Additionally, they work to help kids develop the life skills they will need when they leave home and leave the system.

Skye said, "We try to get the word out that we're here for them. We'll try to change something if it's not really working, especially if it's several things that keep occurring. We'll try to talk to them and get the information out from them."

Success story

Said Skye, "So, going from losing your mother to not knowing where she's at, not even knowing if she's alive--no one even knew if she was alive--to becoming a senior. I was told by my mother, and by several other people, by the time I was a senior--which they didn't even believe I would even become a senior and even graduate--that I would end up dead, or I would end up pregnant or a dropout.

"And from hearing that to saying, 'I am an ambassador of the state of Alabama.' I am making a difference. I am going to graduate this year. I made it to my senior year without dying, without getting pregnant, without dropping out, to having DHR support--you know, making it.

"And being a part of first generation. My oldest brother (name omitted), he's a first generation: he was the first one to make it to 10th grade, the first one to make it to 11th, to 12th; to make it to a college--community college, graduate community college, go on to a four-year--and not just any four year, but (a major university). He has a 4.0 GPA. And, being a part of that family, and he started the trend of a new lifestyle, and I'm following in his footsteps and starting a new life for myself.

"And so, to be a part of that, from a little girl 10 years old that didn't know what was going on, to someone who's now helping other youths, to someone that is now going to be graduating high school, going to college, moving forward. It's just amazing, and it's all because of DHR.

"DHR saw a little girl, saw her and her siblings that were hurt and were in pain, and they saw that we need to help them. So they took us and they pushed us forward, and for them to do that is really amazing."

Though she could officially emancipate herself and leave the DHR foster system at age 18, Skye plans to remain until she is 21, so she can take advantage of a combination of Pell Grants and DHR scholarships that can pay for college up to age 26. That would allow her educational benefits for up to eight years, the same amount of time it will take for her to complete her intended undergraduate and graduate studies to become a veterinarian.

"It's like they want you to succeed," said Skye. "They will help you to succeed, if you're willing to put in the effort. And I put in the effort because--one, they kept pushing me: 'Skye, you've got to do this,' 'Skye, you've got to do this. You've got to move forward. You've got keep that trend in the family, you've got to keep that first generation going.'

"And so I just kept pushing forward, and look where I am. I am here at a foster parent recruitment event, and I am speaking. I am getting out there, getting out the word, the need, the want to help foster kids.

"In 2014, there was 4,789 children. As of now, since 2014, there's 7,851 students just in the state of Alabama. That number has risen. And the majority of that is foster youth (as opposed to those who have been adopted). And so, that's why I strongly like to be an ambassador, because I get to speak on their behalf. I get to go across the state of Alabama, I get to go to other states and speak to people about becoming foster parents, about helping other people. And it's just amazing that I got the opportunity."

After a recent rededication of her faith, Skye found even more reason to share her experience with others, saying, "I get to show them that there's a better way, a better life. Let DHR help you. I know where you've been. It's just amazing and I love it, and I just hope to continue and grow in it."

Social Worker Margaret Berman, who sat in on The Tribune's meeting with Skye and Buchanan, shared, "I just want to say, not only myself, but I think all of us at Cullman County DHR have been blessed enough to watch Skye grow into a beautiful young lady, very motivated, and we're just super proud of her. All of our kids, actually, we're very proud of."

What does it take to become a foster parent?

Said Buchanan, "The main requirement is to have the ability and desire to provide the type of care needed by the children served."

Foster families can take in one or more children, up to a maximum of six.

DHR requirements include:

- Foster parent must be at least 19 years of age.
- Foster home must have enough space for the child and his or her belongings.
- All members of foster family must be willing to share their home with a child who needs care.
- All members of foster family must be in good health.
- All adults in the home must be willing to undergo a thorough background check, including criminal history.

Foster care applicants must complete a 10-week, 30-hour preparation course, and their homes must conform to Alabama Minimum Standards for Foster Family Homes. The standards will be explained and reviewed during the applicant's training. If you apply, home visits will be scheduled to assure your home meets the requirements.

The only cost to the applicant is any improvements needed to make the home meet minimum standards and the cost of completion of any medical forms.

Children in foster care and foster families have social workers assigned to them to support the placement and to access necessary services. Children will receive Medicaid to cover healthcare expenses. Through DHR, foster parents can find additional training opportunities and access a local Foster Parent Association. Families receive a payment each month for room and board, and for foster parents who are employed or in school, daycare assistance is provided.

The final word

After the expo on Saturday, Buchanan said, "I feel like it was truly a success, and it was a community project. We had many community members, businesses. A special thanks to the Cullman Rotary Club and to Catherine Morgan with State Farm, and St. John's for the facility. Many vendors donated door prizes that helped with the turnout. So, I feel like it was a success, and it was not just a Cullman DHR event. It was a true community event."

A little later, Buchanan added, "Cullman DHR thanks the Link of Cullman County, Cullman Shopper's Guide and The Cullman Tribune for their part in assuring the people of Cullman knew about today's event."

Skye said, "From a child that was 10 years old, with her siblings to come into DHR and be super angry, to a child that is now advocating for other children, someone that's going to be graduating, and all because of DHR, I would strongly encourage being a part of that, being a part of the process of watching someone grow, especially the youth.

"And I really strongly encourage you to, if you can't take people into your home, become a mentor. Just find out any way that you can to be a part of something great, and let's just change the statistics of the numbers. Let's bring them down, let's bring more adoptive parents and more foster parents. Let's change the world!"

For interested families

Anyone interested in fostering, or just in getting more information about DHR fostering and adoption opportunities, call Amanda Buchanan at 256-737-5343, Callie Smith at 256-737-5387, Christy Webb at 256-737-5342 or Leah Miller at 256-737-5348. Anyone interested in mentoring can contact Gina Davis at 256-737-5305.

Southeast Gassers roar through Baileyton Dragstrip

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HAYDEN HYATT/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Cars line up for qualifying runs during the Southeast Gassers Association Return to 1967 Championship Drag Race at the Baileyton "Good Time" Dragstrip Saturday.

BAILEYTON – Hundreds of racers and race fans alike filled Baileyton "Good Time" Dragstrip for the Southeast Gassers Association (SEGA) Return to 1967 Championship Drag Race on Saturday.

Despite rain delays, the race drew a huge crowd with racers and fans from all over the U.S. and even a different country. This was the first race by the SEGA to be hosted at the strip and featured authentic 1967-style drag race cars.

Although Baileyton Dragstrip has regular races, gassers are not your average race car, said Todd Oden, a driver at the event.

"A gasser is just a race car from the '60s and it's all based on stance. In other words, it was a straight axle car, it was raised up in the front and the engine was a little bit higher in it," said Oden. "It was something they did in that period to get better traction and to create kind of a different class of race car."

Russ Easterwood, owner of Baileyton Dragstrip, emphasized the attention to detail the SEGA requires.

"They're (the cars) straight from 1967 according to the (National Hot Rod Association) rule book and (Quain Stott, owner and founder of SEGA) is strict," said Easterwood. "To give an example, we got the 'tater hauler' (one of Easterwood's cars), he looked at the tires and he told me I had to take the white walls off because in '67 they didn't have white walls, it was black. Everything you see on these cars is 1967 or before. This is what racing was back in the day."

Despite the rain, race fans managed to fill the parking area, said Easterwood.

"(The turnout was), I'd say, very good with the rain," Easterwood said. "We estimated about probably 1,500 to 2,500 people but with this weather, really couldn't have asked for worse weather. This is big. like I said, with no bad weather, we'd probably run out of parking."

Racers and race fans from all over the Southeast and even abroad were present at the event, according to Oden.

"Most people are going to be from South Carolina and North Carolina, I know there's (some from) Missouri, a few people from Alabama and lot of people from Georgia, and a few (from) Tennessee," Oden said.

"There's two people here who flew in from England today. Last race we had someone from Australia. It's a good turnout; it's a big contingency."

Oden believes Baileyton Dragstrip, which was built in 1966, is the perfect place for a gasser event.

"It really is (an important event), it's good to get gasser racing back to Alabama, especially to Baileyton," said Oden.

"This is a historic track. I'm 51, but I raced here in 1981. I know the track's been here since '66, but if there's ever going to be a crowd turn out for a race, this is the right place to have this race."

SEGA races, which are hosted throughout the Southeast by the group, can be great events for the family, said Oden.

"The best thing about it is it's a real family-friendly type of deal," Oden said. "You can bring your wife and your kids. Look out here, I mean we're standing in the rain and people are just smiling and happy, there's no bunch of rigamarole going on."

Jerry Birch, a driver at the event with Birch Brothers Racing, said the event was specifically appealing to older race fans.

"To give you an example, I talked to Quain (Stott) today, on the way coming in, and he said that he had received a call from a guy, I think he was 69 years old and said that he hadn't been to a race track since 1965," said Birch. "He heard that we were coming to race today and he was going to come out and watch it."

Joey Birch, mechanic, among other things, at Birch Brothers, chimed in.

"It's raining out here and look at all the people," he said. "That tells the story right there; people want to see it."

David Miller, who has been involved in racing all his life, came all the way from Winter Haven, Florida for the race.

"I drove up here just for this event," said Miller. "I've been involved with drag racing all my life; my mother drove stock cars in the '50s, when women didn't do that. These guys are a great group of people, even with the adversity, with the weather, they've dealt with it, gotten through it and helped each other out. They had an accident here earlier during qualifying. It was a brand-new car he built to come here, and everyone feels his pain and they're passing the hat, which is great. That just doesn't happen today, people helping people out."

Miller is in the process of building a car for SEGA events and really appreciates the SEGA concept.

"I'm in the process of building a car to compete in these events," Miller said. "This is old-school stuff, the way they did back in the day and I love it. Because there's no electronics, I mean it's a car and a driver, a mechanic that helps makes it work, it's all on driver skill and abilities, abilities of a human being and human error, it's what makes this happen. It's not running on a string. This is down home grassroots, the way it used to be."

Due to weather, the race continued on Sunday.

PET OF THE WEEK

Help Gus find a happy ending to a sad beginning

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com

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

Gus is a 5-year-old pit bull who was rescued by Cullman County Animal Control during an animal cruelty investigation.

He arrived at the shelter emaciated, severely malnourished and otherwise neglected.

Shelter staffers have nursed him back to health and have found that he does not fit the commonly accepted pit bull stereotype at all.

"Don't let the severely trimmed ears influence you," said Ruttkay, who described Gus as a "kind-hearted soul" with a "forgiving and resilient way about him."

Despite appearances, Gus is a laid-back, low-energy pet with a possible future as a companion, comfort or therapy dog.

He enjoys playing with his purple tennis ball and splashing in the kiddie pool. Once starved, he has developed a hearty appetite, and is learning his leash etiquette.

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.

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

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

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



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Meek Tigers



Nick Griffin/The Cullman Tribune

TEAM ROSTER

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#3 David Tidwell, 9
#4 Kevin Chino, 12
#6 Zac Baker, 12
#8 Caleb Aaron, 12
#9 Gavin Brock, 12
#10 Tommy Daniels, 9
#11 Bryson Hudson, 11
#12 Gabe Jones, 12
#15 David Lockhart, 12
#20 Chris Clark, 12
#23 Trint Ory, 9
#24 Stuart Waldrep, 11
#25 Ethan Grace, 9
#27 Aaron Cook, 12
#42 Matthew Clark, 9
#44 Dalton Guthrie, 10
#50 Bryar Gibson, 12
#51 Angel Chino, 11
#52 James Brown, 11
#53 Evan Grace, 12
#54 Colby Manasco, 11
#55 Shawn Harbison, 12
#61 Bradley Colley, 12
#63 Bradley Vickery, 12
#64 Aiden Thompson, 9
#65 Everett Pounds, 10
#68 Jacob Hutchinson, 10
#72 Johnathan Williams, 10
#73 Andrew Farmer, 12
#75 Jordan Norris, 10
#76 Zeke Dake, 12
#81 Bryant Key, 12
#88 Joseph Norris, 12

SCHEDULE

Aug. 23 - at Cold Springs
Aug.31 - v. Winston County
Sept. 7 - at South Lamar
Sept. 14 - v. Hubbertville
Sept.21 - at Berry
Sept.28 - v. Sumiton Christian
Oct. 5 - v. Brilliant
Oct. 12 - at Pickens County
Oct. 19 - at Marion County
Oct. 26 - v. Lynn

CHEERLEADERS: First row: Sherry Harbison, Jaycey Bowling, Chloe Martin, Brantley Ehlman and Lauren Henson; **Second row:** Esther Dake, Ashlyn Ackley, Paiton Ory, Brooke Cleghorn and Elana Williamson

COACHES: David Norwood – head; assistants – Devin Guthrie, Mark Ragsdale, Kevin Key, Chase Trotter, Tommy Daniel and Wes Brown

SALUTING THE MEEK 2018 FOOTBALL TEAM, COACHES, CHEERLEADERS!

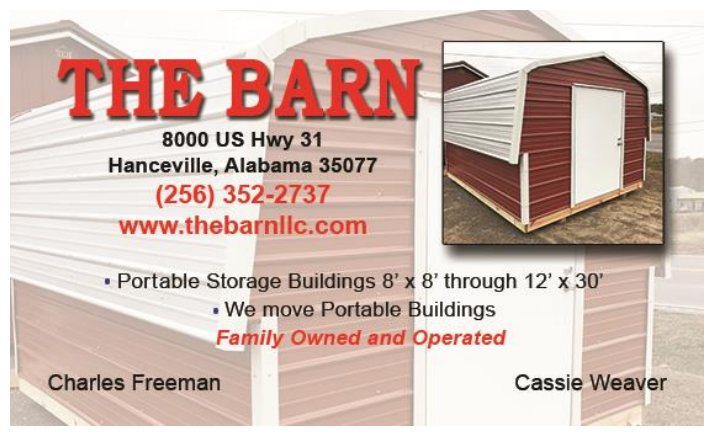
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GO 2018 FOOTBALL!



Good Luck To The Teams, Coaches, Cheerleaders!

Meek Tigers

Meek Tigers aiming for back-to-back playoff appearances

After posting a 7-4 record and making it to the postseason in 2017, the Meek Tigers have back-to-back playoff trips on their minds this time around. Head Coach David Norwood is entering his second season with the Tigers and after a solid year one, he wants to continue building a strong foundation. Norwood is pleased with how the offseason has gone for his team and talked about one of the focuses for him and his staff: the offensive line. Four senior linemen and a senior tight end on last year's roster graduated in May, so identifying several players for the offensive front was critical.

"I think we've had a very productive summer. We've had a couple of OTAs (organized team activities) and some seven-on-seven competitions that last week of June and some in July. Obviously one of our big goals in the spring and this offseason was to try and find three offensive linemen.

"This summer we've had some kids step up and then we've also had a couple of kids that haven't played before come out that we think are really going to help us," said Norwood.

"So, mainly for us it was about the offensive line because we lost everybody but one and we have a kid that played some snaps on offense, but he wasn't a full-time starter. So, we were looking at having to replace three or four offensive linemen and I feel good about what we got accomplished in the spring and like I said we also had a very productive summer."

One of the most obvious absences for the Tigers this season will be John Mark Abercrombie in the backfield. Abercrombie's stellar senior season earned him a spot on the All-State First Team and that kind of production isn't easily replaced. Fortunately, the Tigers will see a few injured players return to the field as well as several returning starters at the skill positions this season.

"My quarterback is back this season, but we'll have to replace three offensive linemen. Pretty much all of the receiving corps is back and there were some key spots on defense that we'll have to replace, but one of the biggest things last year is we lost our starting running back. Right at the beginning of the season he broke his leg, and that's Gabe Jones," Norwood said. "So, he'll be back this season and I think that's really going to help us. Last year we lost two starters right before the season ever started and on the third play from scrimmage one of our better offensive linemen, Bryar Gibson, broke his leg. So, we'll have both of those guys back for us this year and that'll help us."

One of the members of that receiving corps and defensive backfield for the Tigers, Caleb Aaron, and his team have been focused on strength and speed as a group, but Aaron is also working on his skills defensively.

"The biggest thing for our team has been strength and conditioning," Aaron shared. "We're young so we have to get stronger and faster, and just personally I've mainly been working on coverage on defense and getting my footwork right."

Aaron agrees with his coach's philosophy that you have to play one game at a time, but the big picture goal for him and the Tigers is to play a postseason game on Meek Field.



Bill Miller Photography

"We just have to take it game by game, but obviously making the playoffs and winning the region is a goal for us and getting to host a playoff game," said Aaron. "We haven't hosted one in a while so that would be cool."

As a senior on this year's team, Aaron understands his role as a mentor to the younger players and is optimistic that last year's playoff game was a valuable experience for everyone this year.

"The experience for the younger guys I think helped a lot. Since none of us had been there before I think it'll definitely help to know what we're going into," Aaron said. "You just have to talk to them and let them know you're there to help them out. You can't just get onto them, they're young and don't have the experience we do so you just have to help them."

The Tigers have some tough trips on the schedule this year, including a week one trip to Cold Springs on Aug. 23, but for Norwood and his team, the focus has been on themselves.

"Honestly, we're really been more concerned about us than the opponent," Norwood said. "We'll kind of start getting into that closer to the game, but we've just been trying to work on ourselves this summer, really concentrating on what we do and not trying to worry about what other people do."

As Norwood enters his second season on the sideline for the Tigers, he wants to keep the message simple and consistent for his team: "Just do your job."

Norwood is excited to see what this group can do on the field this season.

"This is a really great group of kids. It's been one of the best summers I've had in coaching," Norwood said. "Like I said, I think it's been a very productive summer for us and really the motto we had last year is the same motto we have this year. We're trying to get the kids to buy into: 'Do your job, just do your job.'"

By: Nick Griffin

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HAVE AN OUTSTANDING SEASON!

'Mighty Warrior' Marching Band preparing upbeat show with new director

Hayden Hyatt
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WEST POINT – The West Point High School Mighty Warrior Marching Band, as with two other bands in the Cullman County area (Good Hope and Hanceville), has a new director this year. Director Bobby Patrick and his students are preparing an upbeat show for this year's season, which kicks off this week.

The band is doing an Elvis Presley-themed show this year, inspired by one of the staff members at the school.

"It was basically chosen because there's a worker here at the school that runs the snack bar and she's going to retire at the end of this year," Patrick explained. "She loves Elvis and that was how the show came about."

Viewers can expect a cheerful show.

"It's definitely upbeat; it's Elvis." said Patrick. "We're going to start off with 'Also Sprach Zarathustra,' also known as the '2001' ('A Space Odyssey') theme, also known as what Elvis came out on stage to, then we're going into 'Burning Love,' one of his hits, then we've got our features for our auxiliaries that's got everything from 'Heartbreak Hotel' to 'Soul Bossa Nova.' (We're) probably going to close out the show with a love song, 'Can't Help Falling in Love.'"

The show will even feature an appearance by Elvis himself.

"The beginning will be really big and flashy, that's about the best way to put it," Patrick said. "Of course, we're looking at adding all the fun stuff, props and everything else. Elvis is probably going to make a showing himself. He will be on the field."

The halftime performance is sure to be a crowd pleaser, which Patrick says is what it's all about.

"We want to be interactive with the crowd; we want the crowd to get into what we're doing," said Patrick. "That's really what marching band is about."

"I've been able to get to know the kids, the kids are getting to know me and it's going really well," shared Patrick. "The parent support here is just awesome. That's the only way I can put it. I can't count how many parents have said 'If you need anything, call me' and what they don't know is, I've got their phone numbers, I will," he joked.

In addition to the support from family members, "A couple of different members of the administration came out to our first rehearsal night and it was really cool to see the administration taking such an active interest in what's going on with the band program," said Patrick.

"It shows that they're behind what the band program is doing, and it shows that they're interested in not just in the band program, but they're interested in the kids that are involved in it."

Patrick continued, "But that's what it takes. If you're going to have a successful program, of any kind, whether it's band or anything else, you have to have not just your students and not just a director or staff, you also have to have that administrative support and you have to have the parental support," Patrick said. "From what the parents have told me, the public has supported the band program, especially over the last few years. It's been great and I'm excited to see and hear what that's like and experience that for myself."



HAYDEN HYATT/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Members of the West Point High School Mighty Warrior Marching Band practice music as a helper leads during band camp at West Point High School.

Although the WPHS band has a big marching season ahead, Patrick is also looking into the future.

"In 23 years of teaching, I have never come into a band program where I felt instantly that I was at home. You can tell it's a family," said Patrick. "That comfort level has put me at ease personally. I'm not a short-term person; I'm looking at this as a long-term project. This is my last stop. I'm looking at what could be with the community support, with the parental support. We have a lot of needs, but I can tell that the parents are ready to do whatever it takes to get whatever these kids need."

Obituary Announcements: Aug. 21 - 23

Betty Sue Baldy, 80, of Phil Campbell, entered into rest on August 18, 2018 at Russellville Hospital. Betty was born on June 26, 1938 in Nauvoo, Alabama. She was a 1956 graduate of Winston County High School. Betty enjoyed sewing, quilting, reading and gardening in her free time, and she was always busy doing something. Funeral services to be held at Nichols Funeral Home in Haleyville, on Tuesday, August 21, 2018, at 1 p.m. Dr. Ron Horton will officiate. Burial will follow in Winston Memorial Cemetery. Betty is survived by her son, Gregory "Greg" A. Baldy; daughter, Regina C. Keplinger and her husband Jessie; brothers, Shirley (Edith) Daniel, Quinton (Nancy) Daniel; sisters, Vonda Townsend, Wanda (Bob) Emerson; sister in law, Louise Baldy, brothers and sisters in law, Bonnie and jim Kurzendoerfer, Jackie and Caroyln Baldy, Johnny and Betty Baldy; and a host of neices and nephews and friends. She was "MaMaw" to 3 grandchildren, Savanah Swinney, Amber Beasley, Jeffery Keplinger; and 4 great grandchildren, Maddison Wade, Kaylee Swinney, Kenzie Beasley, and Easton Beasley. She was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Bobby C. Baldy; son, Jeffery Baldy, great grandson, Krystian Alan Baldy; parents, Seabern and Della Daniel; brothers, Junior Daniel, Bob Daniel, Jim Daniel and Dan Daniel.

Funeral services for Ival Lee Skinner, 80, are Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at 11 a.m. at Cullman Funeral Home Chapel; Rev. Steve Bryan and Rev. Larry Duke officiating; with interment in Blair Methodist Cemetery. Visitation on Tuesday from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Cullman Funeral Home directing. Mrs. Skinner passed away on Sunday, August 19, 2018 at Huntsville Hospital. She was preceded in death by her parents, Jeffey Luke McCrary and Lily James McCrary; son, Paul Roberts; brothers, Levoyd McCrary, Billy McCrary and J.L. McCrary; sister, Betty Moore; grandson, Patrick Holloway and great grandchildren, Brady and Connor Hill and Abby Speegle. She is survived by her husband, Jerry Skinner; son, Randy (Cynde) Roberts; daughters, Linda Roat and Glenda (Hal) Lockhart; daughter-in-law, Jayne Roberts; sisters, Katie Moore and Kay Anderson; sisters-in-law, Vonda Lee Fincher and Nell O'Connell; brother-in-law, Johnny (Barbara) Skinner; ten grandchildren; twenty great grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, other family and friends. Pallbearers are Jason Holloway, Wesley Yarbrough, Junior McCrary, Bruce Harris, Jeremy Hill and Frankie Fincher.

Loretta A. Shaddix, 77, of Brimfield, OH went home to be with the Lord on August 14, 2018 after a lengthy illness. She was devoted to her family and her faith. She especially enjoyed her grandchildren and her church. During her employment, she enjoyed her coworkers at SGS Hand Tool Co. Loretta volunteered at several church events and Good Neighbors. She was preceded in death by her parents, Francis and Cora Day; five brothers; and two sisters. She leaves to cherish her memory, loving of husband of 52 years, Thomas Lee; daughters, Sheila Ballway, Sherri (Dennis) McGuinness, Cindy (Steve 2) Scott, and Candee (Steve 1) Brown; grandchildren, Jeremy (Becky), Daniel (Alison), Kristen, Cara, Nicholas, Cody, Kayla, Brady, Courtney, Tommy and Abby; great-grandchildren, Gabriella, Maggie and Robert; brother, Doug; and sister, Rosemary. She also leaves behind many neighbors and friends that she considered family. Her home was always opened to anyone that needed her. Family will receive friends on Wednesday, August 22, 2018 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home, 255 County Rd. 1435, Cullman, AL 35058. Funeral Service will follow at Bethel United Methodist Church, 369 Bethel Church Rd., Eva, AL 35621. Burial will be at the adjoining cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to New Hope Church of God, 20990 Oak St. Alliance, OH 44601.

Mary Sue Hosmer, 74, passed away Sunday August 19, 2018. Services will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Hanceville Funeral Home chapel, with interment following at Bangor Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Tuesday evening at 5:30 p.m. She was born December 28, 1943 to Joe Wheeler Cook and Edna Bradley Cook. Survivors include her husband, Charles, four children, Susan (Oneal) Cobb, of Duluth GA., Dewayne Hosmer, of Hanceville, Joyce Sears, of Roswell GA., and Randall (Kristine) Hosmer, of Cullman, 9 Grandchildren, 4 Great Grandchildren, and two brothers, Joe and Gene Cook.

Funeral services for Ruthie Burrows, 98, of Walter will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at Hanceville Funeral Home chapel. Interment following at Duck River Cemetery. Family will receive friends Tuesday evening beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the funeral home. Born July 29, 1920 to Robert Lee Glenn and Banie Tankersley, she is survived by two daughters, Evelyn Nichols, of Walter, Al., and Clois Cocke, of Hanceville, two grandchildren, Scott Nichols, and Melissa (Rex) Graves, one Great Grandchild, Peyton Nichols, five sisters, Eva Phillips, Tressie "Tiny" Wright, Obera Mckinney, Jean Wright, and Patricia Abercrombie, and sister-in-law, Ruby Glenn.

Funeral services for Fay Green Tucker, 81, of Hanceville will be held at 11a.m. (in state from 10 a.m.) Thursday, August 23, 2018 at Center Hill Baptist Church with burial in the adjoining cemetery. Hanceville Funeral Home directing. Her family will receive friends Wednesday evening from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the funeral home. The daughter of the late Luke and Una Fullerton Green passed away Saurday, August 18, 2018 in Hanceville. is survived by daughters; Renee King, Michelle (Glenn) Morton and Monica (Joe) Blalock; stepdaughter, Tina Noonan; grandchildren; Derek, Seth, Justin, Cody, Clayton, Cameron, Alee and David; step grandchildren; Kathleen, Tyler, Kimberlee and Kalleeann; seven great grandchildren; brother, Cleve (Marci) Green; Sister, Imogene (Jerry) Thompson; brother-in-law, Albert Absher. She was preceded in death by her husband, Fred Tucker; stepson, Fred Allen Tucker; sisters, Barbara Absher and Felcie Hansard; brothers, James (J.M.) and Steve Green.

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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IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE:)
G.M.,)
A Minor Child, 01/19/2009)
CASE NO. JU 2017-540.02

ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

The Petitioner having made a Motion for Service by Publication in the above styled action, it is

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Father of the child born on or about 01/19/2009 to Heather Sebert, respond to the Petition of the Alabama Department of Human Resources for the Termination of Parental Rights by the 11th day of September, 2018 or thereafter a judgment may be rendered in favor of the Petitioner.

It is further **ORDERED** that this Order and notice be published once a week for four successive weeks in *The Cullman Tribune*, a newspaper of general circulation in Cullman County, Alabama.

DONE this the 31st day of July, 2018.

WELLS R. TURNER, III
JUVENILE JUDGE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE:)
G.M.,)
A Minor Child, 01/19/2009)
CASE NO. JU 2017-540.02

NOTICE

The Petitioner having made a Motion for Service by Publication in the above styled action, it is

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the Father of G.M., born on or about 01/19/2009 to Heather Sebert, respond to the Petition by the 11th day of September, 2018, or thereafter a judgment may be rendered in favor of the Petitioner.

Contact may be made: Attorney for Petitioner: J. Bradley Wilson, P.O. Box 561, Cullman, AL 35056-0561, (256) 739-9300 or Clerk of Court: Lisa McSwain, 500 2nd Ave SW Cullman, AL 35055.

DONE this the 31st day of July, 2018

WELLS R. TURNER, III
JUVENILE JUDGE
CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

STATE OF ALABAMA, CULLMAN COUNTY
I, Lisa McSwain, Clerk of Circuit Court in and for said County and State, hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy as the same appears of record in this office.

Witness my hand and official seal, this 31 day of July, 2018.

Lisa McSwain
Clerk of Circuit Court

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF CULLMAN COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF AUBREY WAYNE TOLBERT, Deceased.)
CASE NO.: PC2018-247

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION

Letters Testamentary having been granted to **Linda Gail Marquette,** as Personal Representative of the Estate of **Aubrey Wayne Tolbert,** deceased, on the 3rd day of August, 2018, by the Honorable Tammy Brown, Probate Judge of said County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against the estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law, or the same will be barred.

DONE this 3rd day of August, 2018.

Linda Gail Marquette
Personal Representative

J. Bradley Wilson
Attorney for the Petitioner
206 Ninth Street Southwest
Cullman, AL 35055
256-737-0740

TO THE PUBLISHER OF: **THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE**

Please publish the above notice for three (3) consecutive weeks and provide a proof of publication affidavit to the Probate Judge of Cullman County, Alabama.

Tammy Brown
TAMMY BROWN, JUDGE OF PROBATE

CULTURE / ARTS

Cullman Community Theatre returns with 'The Music Man'

W.C. Mann
craig@cullmantribune.com



W.C. MANN/THE CULLMAN TRIBUNE

Tyler Skinner (as Harold Hill) and Sarah Jane Skinner (as Marian Paroo), center, during Saturday's matinee performance of the Cullman Community Theatre's production of "The Music Man"

CULLMAN – After a hiatus of many years, the Cullman Community Theatre (CCT) returned to town Saturday with a production well known to fans of the group's previous run. CCT put on "The Music Man" in the 1980s, and members of that cast were present for the opening of the revival at an afternoon matinee of the same show at Cullman High School's auditorium.

CCT and production director Wayne Cook, well-known to Cullman audiences as the head of Cullman High School's Theatre Department, spoke to The Tribune Saturday afternoon:

"It's been kind of something we discussed for a long time, about establishing community theater in Cullman again. It existed in the '80s in a really strong way. We felt like it was a real important need in the community, so we got together back in May, with the effort of doing a summer show.

"Parks and Rec (Cullman Parks, Recreation, & Sports Tourism, CCT's sponsoring organization) has been instrumental in that, helping us, kind of being the base organization to help us get this going, get this off the ground. And so, that's been a helpful thing. And then, Cullman City Schools has been instrumental in helping us, as well. They don't sponsor it--it's not their event, but they are working with us about facilities and working with the auditorium and everything, so it's been good.

"We had auditions in June, and then we started working immediately. We worked all summer. And we had about 70 people that were cast in the show, anywhere from 4 to 70-something years old, and so it's all different ages. It's been a great cast: a lot of really wonderful people. I've really gotten to know a lot of people that I had not known before this. And I think most of them would tell you that it's a great experience to get to know people that you would never know otherwise, because you get involved in something like this.

"Great work from Cindy Pass, who is the music coordinator for the show; and Melva Jackson, who's helped me with directing and assisted me, and then also has done a lot of other things. She has a real strong theater background, and she knows costuming, she knows acting really well, so she has helped me a tremendous amount in this. So we've just worked as a team. Noah Carpenter has been our tech guy, and he's helped us establish tech crews and establish the direction of the technical aspects of the show. And so, we've had a great team and it's been a great experience."

Cast

Principal cast

- Tyler Skinner as Harold Hill
- Sarah Jane Skinner as Marian Paroo
- Justin Weygand as Marcellus Washburn
- Jay Jones as Mayor George Shinn
- Robin Cook as Eulalie Mackechnie Shinn
- Linda Foley as Mrs. Paroo
- Brandon Pipes as Winthrop Paroo
- Tiffany Dotson as Zaneeta Shinn
- Clay Brown as Tommy Djilas
- Graffin Shaddrix as Charlie Cowell
- Mark Bennett, Scott Campbell, Robby Culver, and Justin Helms as The School Board
- Tom Jackson as Constable Locke
- Alice Apel as Mrs. Squires
- Kristen Phillips as Ethel Toffelmier
- Melissa Betts as Mrs. Maud Dunlop
- Kim Trelles as Alma Hix
- Sarah Baughn as Amaryllis
- Alan Pass as Train Conductor
- Grant Holland, Devon Campbell, Dawson Culver, Adam Cooner, and Sam Jones as Salesmen on Train
- Madison Moody as Gracie Shinn

Other cast - Luette Benefield, Sam Bingaman, Jennifer Branham, Dayton Brunetti, Domenico Brunetti, Donna Brunetti, Tyler Campbell, Lauren Chapin, Meg Glover, Chandler Greer, Davis Hackbarth, Lily Helms, Anna Belle Howze, Kathryn Jones, Kathy Kinnison, Gigi Metrock, Lacy New, Olivia Noblett, Mary Claire Page, Alexa Park, Jennifer Parker, Isabella Pipes, Jenna Pipes, Alyssa Sandlin, Anna Sandlin, Nancy Scott, Lona Shelby, Mary Grace Smith, Willa Smith, Elianna Stewart, Kirsten Turner, Mandy Wilson, Molly Wilson

Technical team

Technical Director Noah Carpenter said of his team, "We've got all the kids backstage, and my job is the easy job. I just stand up there with my headset on, and I tell them what do, but the team is what's really putting it together and making it happen. The whole show could not run without them."

Tech crew - Chris Van Dyke, Katherine Segars, Matthew Smith, Blake Harbison, Mason Felps

Stage crew - Emma Mansour, Olivia Wood, David Goymer, Jake Wachter, Claudio Ramirez, Morgan Schultz, Shayla Kolaski, Dakota Brunetti, Peyton Burgess, Ashley Clowers

Looking ahead

"It's been fun for us, you know," said Cook, "and it's the beginning of what I hope will be continued community productions, because it gives opportunities to everybody in the community, all ages. A lot of people who are in this show have reminisced about their high school years or years when they were kids and they were in theater. They talked about they brought it back, and they never thought they'd get to do it again. That's what community theater does: it gives people an opportunity to continue something that they love.

"People love to play a sport, and they get to do it the rest of their life, like golf or tennis. Well, people love theater; they want to do it when they get older. And so it gives an opportunity for those people. And one of the things I'm really proud of is that it gives an opportunity to our teenagers who are in my program at the high school, to have another performance opportunity. They don't have to go to Birmingham or Huntsville or Decatur, something like that, to do that. They can do it right here in their own hometown, and it makes it a whole lot more convenient.

"It was just needed in this community. And there's still a lot to do to get it really going and to make it established and funded, but we've made a great start. And I think there'll be additional steps made after this. I know Parks and Rec seems to be in it for the long haul at this point, for now, until it can spread its wings. So it looks like they're not running off on us after the first show. I know we probably scared some of those people to death with some of the things we've done to get ready for this, you know, but it's been good to work with them. And (Principal) Kim Hall at the high school has been very supportive and encouraging to us. I'm very happy with how it's turned out."

Cook said he will concentrate on theater programs at Cullman High School during the school year, but that we might still see CCT at work with some of its other staff leading productions.

EDUCATION / ARTS

WSCC Theatre: 'Mary Poppins' auditions Aug. 27 for kids ages 9-14

Gail Crutchfield
WSCC

HANCEVILLE – The Wallace State Community College Theatre program will host auditions for the roles of Jane and Michael Banks for its upcoming production of "Mary Poppins."

Auditions for children ages 9 to 14 will be held on Monday, Aug. 27 at 2:30 p.m.

Actors should prepare a familiar song that they like to sing, with either sheet music or an accompaniment track.

There will be readings from the script, as well as a brief dance audition.

For more information, contact Lauren Salerno at 256-352-8422 or lauren.salerno@wallacestate.edu.

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given to all owners, secured parties and lienholders of the following described motor vehicles, which I have a right to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in accordance with the State of Alabama abandoned motor vehicle law, Statues, Chapter 13, Section 1-8, Title 32 and Alabama Law Act Number 83-494-S-80, as per Legislative Act 2015-470:

2012 Dodge Ram, VIN#3C63DRML2CG258425

This vehicle will be sold on September 26, 2018, at 12:00 p.m., at Just GM Auto and Truck Repair, LLC, 105 3rd Avenue, Southwest, Cullman, Alabama 35055.

City of Cullman

NOTICE OF EXAMINATION FOR DISPATCHER

The **City of Cullman** is accepting applications for the **Dispatcher** exam. Employees in this class are responsible for receiving varied calls for police, fire and emergency services by radio or telephone, for transmitting calls to the proper party and for dispatching proper equipment and personnel as directed. Employees work under general supervision on routine phases of the work but receive specific instructions and assistance on difficult or unusual problems. Employees operate a two-way radio, computer, and related equipment in receiving and transmitting calls. Knowledge and skills required include: Considerable knowledge of the geography of the city, location of streets and important buildings, and the location of police personnel and equipment, good diction, clear voice, and skill in operating telephone and radio equipment along with receiving and transmitting calls, proficient skill in the operation of a keyboard, ability to think clearly and act quickly in emergency situations, ability to understand and follow moderately complex oral and written instructions, ability to keep simple clerical records and basic skills in operation of computer. Previous work experience indicating the ability to perform all required tasks is also preferred. Other requirements include: ability to pass 80 hour APCO certification and qualify for E-9-1-1 Board certification.

Applications must be submitted **by August 30, 2018, at 4:00 P.M**. to Cullman City Hall Personnel Department to be eligible for the exam. All applicants will be mailed a letter with test time and date. Applicants must score a 70 or above on the exam to be eligible for an interview. Employment is contingent upon successfully passing a drug test and physical. Benefits include health, dental, and life insurances, vacation and sick leave. Visit www.cullmanAL.gov for more information.

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 Tuesday, September 4, 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. Request to vacate alley on 8th Street NW

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



ST. BERNARD

L-R: Deacon Rhodes Bolster, Bishop Robert Baker, Father Bernard Denson, Abbot Cletus Meagher, Deacon Justin Ward

FAITH

Father Bernard Denson, O.S.B., ordained to the priesthood

Joyce Nix
St. Bernard

CULLMAN – On Saturday, July 21, the monastic community of St. Bernard Abbey was joined by the sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery; monks of St. Benedict's Abbey (Atchison, Kansas), St. John's Abbey (Collegeville, Minnesota), St. Meinrad Archabbey (St. Meinrad, Indiana), and St. Louis Abbey (Saint Louis, Missouri); priests, deacons and seminarians of the Diocese of Birmingham and the Diocese of Nashville; and several hundred friends, oblates and benefactors as Bishop Robert J. Baker, S.T.D., ordained Brother Bernard J. Denson, O.S.B., to the sacred priesthood of Jesus Christ in the abbey church in the presence of his family members and friends.

Brother Bernard invited Sister Marian Davis, O.S.B., his high school English teacher and a mentor in his studies of British literature, as well as his brother, Nathan Denson, to serve as lectors at the Mass. He was clothed in the priestly vestments by Abbot Cletus.

His parents, Loren McGhinnis and Steve Denson presented his chalice and paten, holding wine and bread. In his homily, Bishop Baker spoke about the importance of Brother Bernard's commitment to Catholic education and expressed his hopes that Brother Bernard's priestly ministry would continue to include this venerable tradition of the Church's role in the world. After the Mass, Father Bernard gave his first priestly blessings at the reception, where Chef Thomas Maddux and his team served an exquisite luncheon showcasing the South's culinary repertoire.

The following day, Father Bernard celebrated his first Mass of thanksgiving in the abbey church. Sandra Ashley, a dear friend who greatly encouraged Father Bernard in his priestly vocation as a child, and Diana Urbina, a high school classmate and longtime friend, served as lectors at the Mass.

The gifts of bread and wine that Father Bernard would consecrate for the first time were presented by his very close friends Niño and Catie Yu Tiamco along with their infant son—Father Bernard's godson—Oliver.

Father John McDonald, a priest of the Diocese of Birmingham and chair of homiletics at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, delivered the fitting homily for the occasion, preaching on the disposition of the priest as a pastor and "good shepherd" of God's flock. In a moving moment at the end of the Mass, Father Bernard presented his parents with special gifts: to his mother he gave the traditional manitergium, the chrism-soaked cloth used to bind his just-anointed hands by the bishop the day before, and to his father he gave the stole worn while hearing his first confession.

Father Bernard is a native of Gadsden and St. James Church. He graduated from Saint Bernard Preparatory School in 2009 and entered the monastery that same year. He professed simple monastic vows in 2010 and solemn monastic vows in 2013. He completed his undergraduate studies in philosophy and English literature at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas in 2014. He finished his studies for the priesthood, magna cum laude, at the Pontifical University of Sant'Anselmo in Rome, Italy in June 2018.

This fall, he will spend about six weeks studying German at the Archabbey of Sankt Ottilien in Bavaria, Germany, before starting work on his license in sacred theology, specializing in the historical development of dogmatic theology, at Sant'Anselmo in Rome, as well as a part-time master's degree in English literature through the University of Oxford, which requires occasional residential modules on campus in England.









